Welcome to the Spring newsletter of the PEERS Project. We are so appreciative to you for all of your help! Your participation allows us to learn more about what helps students to do well in school. We study children’s emotional responses, how well children can control these emotions, and how children make friends in elementary school. Knowledge from studies like this will be used to assist parents and teachers in understanding how to help children get a head start in school.

We have enjoyed meeting and working with your child and the staff at your child’s school. We could not do this type of research without such willing and supportive families, principals, and teachers!

What We’ve Done So Far...

We have received an outstanding initial response from schools and families to participate in this important project. This first group of kindergarten children consists of 180 students from 15 classrooms across 5 schools in the Gilbert, Kyrene, and Roosevelt Districts. Children answered questions about school, played computer and Simon-says games, and told us about their new friends. We also observed the children, completing over 150 observations per child in only 6 weeks (that works out to over 27,000 observations)! We can’t wait to see how much they’ve grown and changed when we work with them again this Spring. Next year, we are going to be really busy! We will be working with your children in first grade, and we will also be observing a new group of kindergartners who will start the PEERS project next fall. By the end of next year, we expect to have over 300 children in the project!

REMINDER: We still need a few more Parent Packets to complete the data set. Please send in your Parent Packet as soon as possible. If you have misplaced yours, please call (480-965-6779) or email the PEERS project director: Jody Southworth (jody.southworth@asu.edu): we will happily send you another and your payment as soon as we receive it!

Thank You!
Jody Southworth

Jody was an elementary school teacher in the Gilbert school district for twelve years and is now the project director for PEERS. Jody serves as the contact person for staff, schools and parents involved in the project. She makes sure that schedules are coordinated and that the research progress is on track.

Why does she love her job?

• When speaking with Jody, it is easy to see her enthusiasm for children. She is passionate about this research because she believes that high quality research with the goal of helping children become more successful is worthwhile. She predicts that this research will help develop programs to promote children’s school success and emotional wellbeing.

• Jody would like to sincerely thank the parents and teachers for participating in this research. She appreciates your cooperation and help in making our work possible. Her door is always open, and she welcomes your questions and feedback.

Sarah VanSchyndel

Sarah is a graduate student who studies child psychology at Arizona State University. She is interested in how children develop their personalities.

What is her main job and why does she love it?

• Sarah supervises the college students who work at the schools and helps them record the correct information for the study.

• Sarah loves that she is working in the field and community with students rather than just working in a lab at the University. Working with teachers and children makes her work meaningful.

Fun times with kids!

Jell-O play dough

Materials:

- 1 Cup Flour
- ½ Cup Salt
- 1 Cup Water
- 1 TBS Oil
- 1 Package Jell-O
- 1 tsp Cream of Tartar.

How to make...

Using a pan stir together all of the ingredients over medium heat. Be sure you mix the ingredients until they have a smooth consistency. Allow the mixture to cool until you can easily handle it. Then you will knead it using flour on your hands and allow it to dry. Store it in a Rubbermaid container and it can be used for about 4-5 months!

😊

Riddle me this: for kids!

Did you and your child figure out the answer?

---

Throw the ball straight up in the air!