

# Nicky's Nest Newsletter



A newsletter for the kids of the  
CCMC Med 4 Pediatric Oncology & Hematology Division

GENEROUSLY GIFTED BY THE NICHOLAS PEDONE FOUNDATION

Summer 2019

## What's New in Nicky's Nest

Welcome to Nicky's Nest! After over a year of planning and construction, Nicky's Nest, the playroom on Med 4, opened for business on February 14, 2018.

Generously donated by the Nicholas Pedone Foundation, the playroom has become the center of fun for the patients on the unit. Children can come any time of day or night to engage in games and activities that allow them to just be kids. In June, the Child Life team welcomed a Nicky's Nest Child Life Assistant who took the playroom fun to a whole new level. Brandi DuCasse brings specially planned activities, arts and crafts, special events and games to the playroom on a daily basis. The kids' creations decorate the playroom and give the children an opportunity to showcase their creativity. Even the children who aren't able to leave their rooms are able to participate with the help of the Child Life Team. To keep you informed about the great things going on in Nicky's Nest, we will be publishing the Nicky's Nest Newsletter four times a year.



Meet the Med 4 Child Life Team

Nicky's Nest Child Life Assistant Brandi DuCasse  
Certified Child Life Specialist Jedidah Harris  
Certified Child Life Specialist Christina Mustakis



### What the kids have to say about Nicky's Nest

I Love Nicky's Nest because...

- I love going on the computer.
- I get to play on the xbox.
- I love printing out coloring pages to color.



- I Love nicky's nest because...
- I get to play with Brandi!
- I Love playing well you rather!
- Birthday cards for little kids!
- do Art and craft with Brandi!
- Learn to music and have fun!
- making friends with new!

# Theme Day Thursdays

## Pirate Day

### SAILING THROUGH NICKY'S NEST

In preparation for pirate day, the kids used the computer in the playroom to print pirate coloring pages to do with their friends. With the help of Brandi, the kids prepared pirate ships and parrot crafts and decorated the playroom. They came out fantastic and the playroom was transformed into a swashbuckler's paradise.

The kids took turns drawing on the windows. They drew pictures of the ocean, islands for the pirate ships to sail to and a sky that was perfect for the parrots to fly across. The parents and caregivers also got involved. A dad decided to get creative and draw captain hook on the window! Nicky's Nest loves to have not only the kids but also the staff, volunteers and caregivers get involved in making our days as fun as possible.



# Disney Day

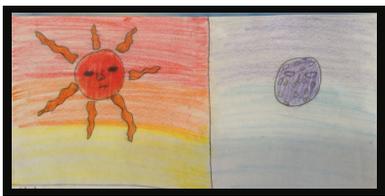
## MAKING THE PLAYROOM MAGICAL

The kids spend all week looking forward to Theme Day Thursdays! Nicky's Nest provides a space for everyone to make their own decorations for the special day. For Disney Day, the kids made paper links of many colors to match different Disney movies. What's Disney Day without a magic castle? The kids used their imagination to create a castle using construction paper, cardboard and popsicle sticks.

Disney songs played in the background as the kids colored pictures of their favorite characters and hung them around the playroom. Pictures of Disney princesses were also drawn on the windows and the kids helped color them in. The day ended with kids and caregivers cuddled together in beanbag chairs watching Disney movies.



# LET YOUR CREATIVITY SHINE

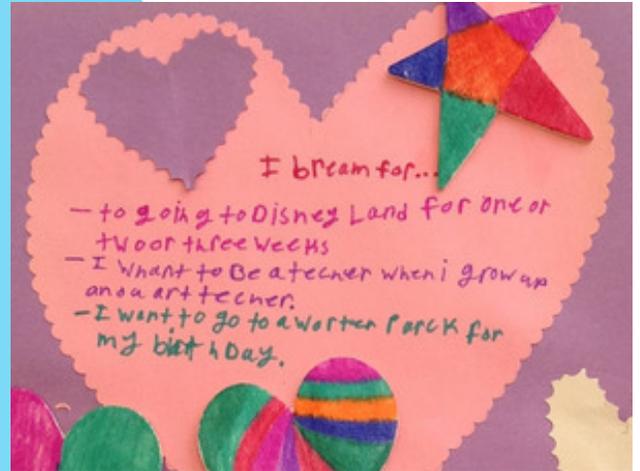


**If you would like to have your artwork featured in the gallery, please contact the Child Life Specialists Jedidah, Christina or the Nicky's Nest Child Life Assistant Brandi !**

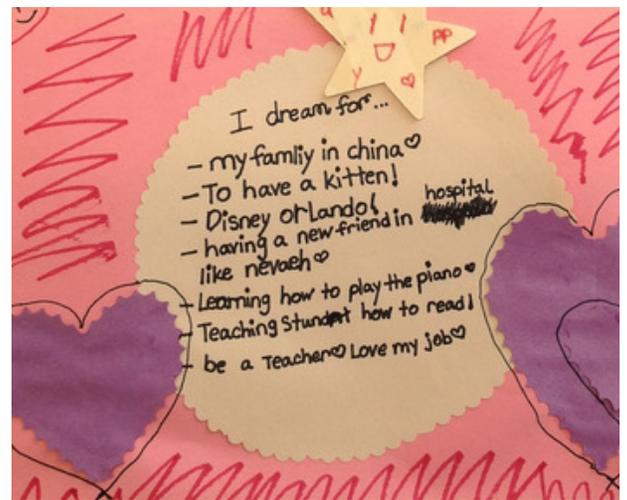


# Tell Me Your Dreams!

In Nicky's Nest, all dreams matter, big and small! This dream catcher craft was a great way to use colors and fun materials to show that we can catch our dreams and hold onto them. After creating their beautiful dream catchers, the kids brainstormed about what their dreams are. They answered questions like, Where would you like to go? Who would you love to spend time with? If you could have something for yourself, what would it be? What are new things you would love to learn? What would you love to do? The kids enjoyed sharing their dreams with each other. By sharing their dreams, the kids can encourage and support each other. Maybe, we can make some of those dreams come true in creative ways!



**Sometimes, kids aren't able to join us in Nicky's Nest so we bring the fun to their rooms! Everyone can experience the joy of being included in the fun.**



# POSITIVE CORNER

Fight hard, smile big

SHOW OTHERS

**YOU CARE**

Nicky's Nest gives us the space to celebrate others and show them how much we appreciate them. The kids love to draw pictures for their friends, family and staff. It is important to spend time with those we care about but also to make new friends. The playroom is a space where the kids on Med 4 have been able to meet other kids going through some of the same things. Some have even become close friends. The kids create "feel better notes" for each other and write and talk about their experiences.

