

Summer is wrapping up and the back-to-school feel is creeping into our days. Kinskids report a desire to get back together with friends they don't see over the summer but not ready to give up the freedom of loads of playtime. Parents and guardians, however, report a sincere readiness for routine! I personally am excited about the shift in our programming and thrilled that we will have a van at our disposal to transport the kiddos. I truly believe that the van will be a game changer for our families and their ability to have the kids attend regularly.

We are wrapping up some of our projects that have been ongoing at KinsKlub. If you've come in through the back door, I'm sure you've noticed the changing table. It indeed is a changing table as we are changing it over into an outdoor stand to be our washing and project station center for outside activities. The kids have been working on painting it but the short rain spells we've had have delayed our finishing it a bit. They do have the tiles that we colored and burned off ready to go. They were amazed at the effects of rubbing alcohol on permanent marker, especially when you add fire. Keep an eye on that for further progress.

Sylvester has been a huge hit in our community and continues to grow. He's launched discussions on how rocks (being mean) can hurt. Kind words and working together can bring joy and fun. He's a sneaky snake!

Our pallet blooms have been an impressive hit. We were even asked if we could make one to sell next summer. Not bad for a scrap project! Speaking of blooms, our save the seeds project from last year is turning into beautiful blooms as well. We have lovely pots of geraniums by both entryways and the rabbits have finally left the sunflowers alone long enough for them to grow. Hopefully, they will get a chance to bloom before the growing season ends!

Our garden is flourishing and is providing a bountiful harvest. The Kinskids love harvesting produce and have eaten a lot of veggies this summer. They put their listening and safe knife handling skills to work to make their very own fresh salsa. This was definitely a good project to do outdoors with the amount of mess that was created. The rain chased us inside to enjoy feasting on the tasty treat that day.

Of course, with all the heat of summer we've also had to find ways to cool off. They have been making homemade ice cream a couple of different ways. Individual servings in Ziplock bags and in an ice cream maker. There have been water games that require teamwork as well as just plain fun water balls. They've also encountered a few accidental sprinkler showers in the back yard.

Hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. We sure had a fun summer at the Kinship house. Feel free to stop in and join in the fun and chaos anytime!