



News You Can Use

September 13, 2019

Large Group:

Tuesday/Thursday: This week we continued to see our construction theme songs. We also completed a sorting activity on the TapIt. The children had the opportunity to take turns and sort symbols into 2 categories: tools/materials vs construction trucks. We also practiced listening and following directions using a hammer and a decorated box. The child were instructed to “bang” the hammer on various items on the box such as colors, shapes, and letters.

Wednesday/Friday: This week we continued to work on greeting our teachers and peers. We sang our phonics and number song and had a great time with one of the construction songs in particular. In the ‘Truck Wash Song’ we acted out. We used a light mist from a spray bottle for the water, a bubble machine for the suds and a fan for the dryer. We had lots of laughs and giggles.

Music and Movement:

Tuesday/Thursday: The children continued to participate in the construction movement activity. This week everyone enjoyed giving directions to their friends that had been programmed into a sequential communicator. We also played with egg shakers with the Tuned Into Learning Song: Preposition Rock. While listening to the song, the children shook their eggs and followed the prepositional directions such as: play your

instrument under your chin, behind your back, between your feet, high in the air, next to your leg, etc.

Wednesday/Friday: We continued to enjoy singing and dancing to the Freeze Song and then dancing to the La La song. We practice the freeze throughout the day. We want the children to know that when they hear freeze they should stop what they are doing, look toward the teacher and wait for directions. We are still in the very early stages, but know it will come with time.

Literacy:

This week we read the book "Dig, Dump, Roll" by Sally Sutton. This is a great book that reviews the many trucks found on the construction site. It gives clues on each page with a little glimpse of the actual truck for the children to guess which truck comes next. At the end, the children were excited to see that all of the trucks were building a new school for the children just like we have been watching our very own Jefferson construction site!

Small Groups:

Cassi Small Group 1: In this group we constructed our own slime. We worked just like the construction workers. We added our supplies and just like the cement mixer, we mixed and mixed until we had slime. We then explored the way it felt (cold, wet, sticky) and then drove our truck through it just for fun.

Cassi Small Group 2: In this group we made construction vehicles. Some of the kiddos helped to cut out the shapes while others worked to position the pieces to look like vehicles.

OT Small Group:

OT Small Group 1: This week we worked on fine motor skills of snipping with scissors and coloring with small handwriting without tears crayons to improve grasp. We made dump trucks with moving wheels. We had fun and the students worked hard on their projects and are very interested in using scissors. We have been most successful with "loop scissors" and continue to trial various types of self opening scissors.

OT Small Group 2: This week we worked on using our tactile sensory system to explore construction vehicles inside of water. The kids loved to play in the water and we enjoyed lots of giggles!

Speech Small Group: This week the children enjoyed making blueprints using duplo legos dipped in white paint and then pressing them onto blue paper. We build our activity each week around a consistent language routine in which the items necessary for the project are hidden in a box. We use the following vocabulary words within questions, comments, and requests each week: what, in, open, it, look/see, take, out, I, want, turn, and do. In addition we have other vocabulary words depending on what is in the box. This week we also focused on the color words white and blue and the core words put, on, and push.

Choice Time Activities:

Kitchen/Dramatic play: in this area the children continued to play with the workbench, tools and goggles. Children could be heard hammering as they pretended to make things and it was great to see them trying to use the pliers to remove the pegs and also the screwdriver.

Blocks and Cars: this week we added rocks to the area for the children to haul their loads from one area to another. We counted how many rocks could fit in the different dump trucks, we lined them up to compare length and we even had to figure out how to raise the dumptrucks so we could unload the rocks in the plastic container. We finally came up with the idea that if we taped the wedge blocks together we could use them as ramps. We had lots of fun!!!

Feeling Table: this too continues to be a big hit with the children. This week we added numbers to the pretend dirt, scoops and buckets. Children were encouraged to count the number of scoops put into the buckets.

Table Toy Activities: we had a great time using the blocks and blueprint mats as the children worked to create “the same”. We had construction puzzles, Lego puzzles and pattern pieces for the children to explore.

Important Dates:

Tomorrow is the Fall Fest at St.James Farm. Our classroom time to pick a pumpkin is at 4:00. I hope that everyone will be able to attend. This is just another fantastic activity sponsored by the Jefferson PTA.

Reminder: No School on Friday September 20th. It is a teacher in-service.

Your Team:

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