



# News You Can Use

November 1, 2019

## Large Group:

Tuesday/Thursday: This week we continued to sing our pumpkin songs. We also played “spin a jack-o-lantern”. Symbols of the pieces of a jack-o-lantern were taped on an adapted spinner (one that can be activated with a button) such as eyes, nose, mouth, hat, and ears. The children took turns spinning for the jack-o-lantern part and then placed the corresponding part onto a pumpkin creating a jack-o-lantern. We also read a Noisy Story, called “Halloween”. These stories are repetitive and target speech sound in isolation and simple consonant vowel combinations using the meaningful context of a story. For example the repeating line “We all say boo” was repeated on every other page. In addition the halloween characters said sounds in isolation such as: the bat said “e-e-e”, the witch said “sssss”, the ghost said “uuuu”, and the spider said “zzzz” In addition to verbally participating in the story, the children identified the targeted vocabulary words on a felt board and matched the pieces in the book.

Wednesday/Friday: This week we worked on greeting staff and peers using a variety of ways- verbal, gesture and/or talker and other devices. The children work on book handling skills daily. We are focusing on correct position (not upside down) turning the pages one at a time and turning from front to back without adult assistance. We also worked on color identification. Each child helped sort by color using color ‘ Boards. During this time we are also working on singing some of the seasonal songs.

## Music and Movement:

Tuesday/Thursday: This week we did one of my (Nicole) favorite songs using scarves as ghosts. The children move their scarves around in the air pretending they are ghosts. Then we say “uuuuu” and place the scarf over our heads pretending we are ghosts. When someone says “boo” we pull the scarf off of our head. The children LOVE this song. At the start of the activity, we used our large core vocabulary poster to create a sentence requesting the color scarf each child wanted using the carrier phrase sentence “I want \_\_\_\_ (color word)”. At the end of the activity the children needed to listen for the color scarf they had and then place it in the bin.

Wednesday/Friday:

Ms. Dawn created an obstacle course for us during our Wednesday movement time. We had such a great time walking on a balance beam, crawling through the tunnel and walking/crawling through hula hoops.

On Friday we sang and danced to one of our favorite music and movement songs, Listen and Move by Greg and Steve.

## **Literacy:**

This week we read “The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything” by Linda Williams. This is a great story that has many opportunities to respond to “wh” questions, targets sequential skills and vocabulary development for clothing. The text of the story is repetitive and provides many opportunities for the children to retell parts of the story. While reading the story, we modeled vocabulary on the TapIt using a 60 location interactive vocabulary board-the same vocabulary set that many of the children have on their 1:1 communication devices.

## **Small Groups:**

Cassi Small Group 1: This week we worked on sensory skills. We had the children shake the shaving cream cans until ready. Then with some adult assistance, we sprayed some in front of each child. Then we worked our way into getting the children to touch the shaving cream. By the end of the activity all of the students were touching the cream. For some, touching the shaving cream was a success!! For others they worked on drawing straight lines, circles and letters in his/her name.

Cassi Small Group 2: In this group we explored using playdough. Children had to find his/her container of playdough from a field of 4. They then needed to open the container with or without help. If needed help they had to request help. Children then were given the playdough with spiders or other bugs buried into the playdough. They had to use their fingers to pull out the insect or spiders.

OT Small Group 1: This week, we learned all about the properties of paint as we decorated paper plate pumpkins using small lego pieces to add orange and green colors to our pumpkins (some of you may have noticed some washable paint on our shirts!). Students trialed holding onto a pom pon with their ring and pink fingers while dunking a lego in paint to press onto paper plate, facilitating a functional more mature grasping pattern. Students also practiced their scissor skills focusing on thumbs-up grasp on scissors, great job everyone! We will continue to explore paint and progress our sensory experiences during this group.

OT Small Group 2: This week students used their tactile systems to explore playdoh and incorporated classroom themes and discussions around Fall. We used leaf and pumpkin cookie cutters to press into playdoh to strengthen our hands and used tupperware lids to learn about the shape "circle". Students demonstrated good attention and following directions during group this week and seemed to enjoy squeezing and manipulating the playdoh. Great job!

Speech Small Group: We had such fun with science! The children filled their own plastic mini jack-o-lantern pumpkin with baking soda. Then the children helped make a potion using orange food coloring mixed with vinegar in a squirt bottle. We shook of the potion and then took turns squirting the solution in our jack-o-lanterns. What fun we had watching the orange fizzy reaction bubble over! During this activity we targeted the communicative functions of asking questions and making requests and comments. We

also targeted waiting our turn, following directions, expressive vocabulary, and combining words into simple sentences.

## **Choice Time Activities:**

**Kitchen/Dramatic play:** Apple pie making.

**Blocks and Cars:** We measured using non-standard measuring tools (mini pumpkins and gourds and we made a class scarecrow using newspaper as the stuffing.

**On Friday we added a tent and other items that Veterans and Soldiers need.** We have a tent, sleeping bag, binoculars, cooking supplies and clothing.

**Feeling Table:** In this area we explored floating items and non floating items. Children used scoops and strainers to gather floating apples and pumpkins.

**Table Toy Activities:** As always, the children are drawn to the Manga Tile pieces. Lincoln Logs, bristle blocks, magnetic 'paper dolls', apple sorting activities and lacing cards.

## **Important Dates:**

**Veteran's Day celebration is on Thursday November 7th.**

**AM is at 10:45 and PM is at 2:45**

**NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8th**

**Thanksgiving Break will be November 25-29.**

Your Team:

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