



News You Can Use

October 4, 2019

Large Group: In large group we worked on phonics awareness, number concepts. Children are helping to fill in the calendar by telling me what number comes next, we graphed how many red/yellow and orange leaves we had and we allow worked on tallying as the children voted on his/her favorite color leaf. We also have a number box in our room. This week each child was given a turn to pull out a number. Once they identified the number they had to add that many leaves to our tree. It was great seeing the children work on 1-1 correspondence and number identification.

We also learned the song Gray Squirrel Gray Squirrel. If you are not familiar with this song, you can google the title to see one of the many versions. The children are learning the actions to this song and will continue to do so next week. (Very sweet)

Unfortunately we experienced some technical difficulties as we were completing our work on Why do leaves change colors? We were unable to watch the instructional video on the changing process, but plan on finishing this next week---with a little tech

help. The children came up with: it is fall, fall, leaves are falling, it is getting cold outside and then listed the colors of the changing leaves (red, orange, black, brown and yellow).

We also changed our greeting song and sang the Wake Up Warm Up Song. It allows for the children to get some of the extra energy out before we begin the lesson.

Literacy: This week we read We're Going On A Leaf Hunt by Steve Metzger and Leaf Jumpers by Carole Gerber.

Art: This week the children could choose to paint fall pictures and/or paint a leaf or acorn with friend using the marble process. Each child was able to choose his/her shape and colors. Together they had to move the box with the paper and paint as the marble moved through the paint.

Speech Corner:

We are continuing to have fun with the mystery box and practicing using complete sentences with describing words. This week a "round" "hard" pumpkin was hidden in the box. In addition we are working on building the children's phonemic awareness skills. The children enjoyed participating in a movement song to the tune of "If Your Happy and You Know It" by listening for the initial sound in their name. For example, "If your name begins with /m/ clap your hands" and "If your name begins with /l/ rub your tummy". We also played a game called "No zoo for you". Three animal pictures were placed on the felt board. Two animals began with the same initial sound and one was

different. They needed to identify the animal beginning with the different sound that did not belong in the set. We had fun telling the animal “No zoo for you!”. (example: pig, penguin, goat = goat does not belong).

Choice Time Activities:

Kitchen/Dramatic play: This week we enjoyed playing with the food/baby dolls.

Blocks and Cars: In this area we worked on building trees with blocks (wooden, Legos, cardboard blocks) to top the trees off we added crumpled green tissue paper for the leaves.

Feeling Table: In this area we explored popcorn kernels and plastic fall manipulatives. We had cups, scoops and other fun things to transfer the corn and objects from one container to another.

Writing Center: In this area we added letter stamps for the children to explore. Many continue to enjoy coloring and just writing letters (they may not be legible, but they are trying).

Quiet reading: New fall/tree books were added to this area. Children are always welcome to go to the reading area during choice time.

Table Toy Activities: As always, the children are drawn to the Manga Tile pieces (if you are looking for a holiday or birthday present for your child---I would recommend getting a set of tiles). They also played a matching game with animals that live in trees,

SEL: This week we worked on the 1-5 scale. We discussed that we need to be at a three (green) in order to be ready to learn. If we are at a 4 (orange) we are a bit too excited or a little angry. If we are at a 5 (red) we are way out of control.

Important Dates:

Parent Teacher conferences are on Thursday of next week. Reminders will be sent home on Tuesday.

Your Team:

Cassi Williston, Classroom Teacher

Cassi.Williston@cusd200.org

Nicole MacKinnon, Classroom Speech Language Pathologist

Nicole.MacKinnon@cusd200.org

Dawn Kraus, Classroom Occupational Therapist

dawn.kraus@cusd200.org

Susan Simnick, Classroom Physical Therapist

Susan.Simnick@cusd200.org

Sarah Yusif, Teaching Assistant

Courtney Twilley, Teaching Assistant