

Dear Families,

Amidst all of the colds and pink eye going around, it has been a wonderful couple of weeks for learning! We are currently immersed in a science and mathematical unit filled with curiosity that sparks the absorbent mind. I have given the children a lesson on how magnets attract and repel, the difference between rough rocks and smooth stones, and how a lock and key works. We have been comparing opposite ideas such as biggest/ smallest, loud/ quiet, light/ dark, high note/ low note, and fast/ slow. We have a fraction puzzle available on the shelf for the children to explore that shows how a square can be built with various sized pieces. Now that the children are all affluent with preparing snack, we have been counting the segments within the orange and how many pieces of banana we can slice from the whole part. All of this work is encouraging the development of their mathematical mind and will build a lifelong foundation of positive learning.

The children are quickly expanding their vocabulary and we are talking about animals that live in warm climates such as a tiger, gorilla, rattlesnake, elephant, and lion. In comparison, we have discussed cold climate animals such as the arctic hare, harp seal, husky, caribou, and polar bear. We have also had lots of lessons on various emotions such as surprised, proud, angry, sad, and happy. Children of this age are working hard to recognize and regulate their emotions, so I encourage lots of language work to help them develop a positive internal dialogue.

The children have been enjoying their friendship with one another and are using their grace and courtesy skills every day. I have watched little ones pour each other water and say thank you to one another with a proud smile. Many children are working hard to say complete phrases such as, "please excuse me", "please don't do that", or "may I have a hug?". They are helping each other put on mittens, shoes, and pitching in to pick up dropped work. When it is time to clean up the classroom for circle, all of the children are helping to put away work and make our classroom beautiful again! It is truly amazing to watch these young children contribute to their environment so passionately.

We are in need of more plastic bags for sending home clothes and more Clorox wipes to keep our classroom clean! Thank you for your help :)

Warmly,
Sarah Veitenthal