

Mrs. Veitenthal's April Class Notes

Dear Families,

Our classroom is a flurry of activity and your children are all into very different aspects of our environment that speak to their individual interests. It makes for a very busy and active morning :) We are quickly refilling glue, paint, wood polish, soaps, and snack bowls throughout the morning as the children connect deeply with their inner teacher and honor their developmental needs. It is so fun to observe the children feel so comfortable in the environment and move towards what they find interesting, challenging, or fun!

The children are really enjoying our new language work and puzzles that are present on the shelf. We have a beautiful 1:1 butterfly/ moth puzzle that encourages environmental language development. We are learning about the Monarch, Postman, Swallowtail, Cairns Birdwing butterflies and the Tiger, Luna, and Owl Moths. We also have a basket with flower replicas and their similarly correlating language cards. The children have loved learning the names of and matching the Sunflower, Tulip, Rose, Orchid, and Iris Flowers. There are also more challenging puzzles on our shelf that teach the child how to use separate pieces to create one image and enhance language development by exhibiting the parts of a grasshopper, flower, and butterfly.

Cooking has really become a daily favorite recently and the children are slicing cantaloupe, cucumbers, strawberries, and apples without assistance. Many of the children are making whole pizzas completely independently... This week we decorated our pizza with mushrooms and olives! While the children are working hard to consistently use their spoon or fork at the table, we do need some support from you at home. If you notice your little one digging into their bowl with their fingers, please remind them to use their spoon or fork. It not only promotes grace and courtesy, but will strengthen their hand for

holding a pencil and prepares them for handwriting. If you notice your child really digging in, squeezing, or playing with their food, it is time to set boundaries and consequences for this type of action. The children will receive enough sensory input by simply eating the food (the nerves in the mouth provide the brain a huge amount of sensory impressions). If your child is playing with their food, they most likely are sending a message that they need more multi-sensory hand work at home such as clay, play-doh, making mud pies, or kneading pizza dough!

As the weather continues to warm, we will be spending more and more time outdoors. We are looking forward to using our outdoor classroom, picnicking outdoors, and taking hikes in the woods. Please make sure you are sending your child to school in sturdy/ waterproof shoes as we navigate all of our outdoor areas. It may also be a good idea to apply bug spray or sunscreen on your child before school as we move closer to the month of May.

I hope everyone has a wonderful evening!

Sarah

Circle Time Action Poem:

Clap your hands, touch your toes.
Turn around and put a finger on your nose.
Flap your arms, jump up high.
Wiggle your fingers and reach for the sky!
