



Nature Immersion

Weekly Recap

Week of:	January 14–18
Quote of the week	“When a flower doesn’t bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.” –Alexander Den Heijer
Conscious connection	The power of perception. BIG IDEA: No one can make you angry without your permission. GOAL: To teach adults and children to take responsibility for our own upset.
Birthdays 	<p><u>Happy Birthday to our School Family Members!</u></p> <p>Porter 1/4</p> <p>Hasan 1/23</p>
NI News 	The first week back at school was a definite success! Selina, Natalia, and I found ourselves flowing very well together throughout the week, remembering our schedule with the kiddos (using follow the leader, visuals, chants, and rituals), our school routine, and how we keep it safe in our space. We are happy to announce that we brought back nature walk on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Our nature exploration provokes children to become observers, explorers, scientists in our own backyard. Inspiration ranges from ladybugs to super tall palm trees, honeybees to cacti. We have so many amazing things in our backyard, we can’t wait to explore and interact with them!
The More You KNow...	The students participated in creating a bar graph that analyzed what we should learn about next week. When given the options (sand, water, bugs, tree, plants), more students wanted to learn about bugs. Please bring in recycled or natural materials (toilet paper rolls, bottle caps, pinecones, cardboard) as we will be creating our own bugs and bug houses!
NI	This week, our focus was on our backyard. We talked about observations; things we can hear, see, touch, taste, and smell in our own backyard. As a group, we spoke about what we observed in our backyard. We saw mulch, sand, trees, rope swing, bugs, and people. We heard leaves blowing in the wind, cars, trains, helicopters, dogs, birds, and people. We touched so

many natural materials from our backyard; sticks, leaves, rocks, sand, moss, twigs, and pine cones. We also found a type of poison berry called rosary peas growing on a tree near our garden. We have spotted rosary peas on the ground and have been instructed to tell a safekeeper if we see them! Rosary peas are in fact poisonous and we instruct children not to touch them. We have safe keepers in place to monitor the space when students choose to explore the garden. We talked in detail about our observations and how we felt when finding our materials (happy, excited, curious, calm, want to look for more, want to play).

Our outdoor provocations consisted of sand and leaf samples from our backyard vs. other backyards in Florida. For the sand samples, our experiment was to find out which sand built the best sand castle. The backyard sand was hard to build with because of the mulch sticking out. The river and beach sand was the most effective in building sandcastles when the sand was wet. We tested which leaves were the strongest. Surprisingly, our backyard leaves could withstand just as much as the mangrove leaves with the materials we used! Students found themselves heavily involved in dramatic play throughout the day. They wear many hats (should I say capes) in their playspace; student, child, mommy, baby, grandpa, ghosts, dragons, monsters, superheroes, and enemies coming together to play.

Indoors at our writing station, students wrote letters to friends and family members and put them in our mailbox. Be sure to check the mailbox for any letters that may be for you! At our math station, students sorted and categorized our loose parts by colors and size. We also measured sticks with rulers and unit cubes! We re-introduced building blocks to the students at centers, the outcome was more than imagined. Students teamed together to build houses, farms, and balancing towers. We spoke about the materials in our backyard and made a replica of a tree using sticks and leaves! We also used sticks to make wands and letters such as V, A, W, and Z. Some of our friends were quick to pick up sticks that looked like a V, add a stick, and make the letter Y!

We Care
Center



“A child, more than anyone
else, is a spontaneous
observer of nature”
- Maria Montessori



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I noticed our kiddos getting more efficient at turning on and off the hose, climbing the bamboo tunnel (with the help of a bucket), and swinging on the rope with their feet up, sometimes even upside down!! Fine motor and gross motor skills in action through play :)