



WEEKLY RECAP

NATURE IMMERSION
1/27/20 - 1/31/20



FREE EXPLORATION:

This week students continued expanding on their pretend play and strengthening the plot of their play. Students found a chair that was perfect for their Doctor and patient game. Other friends continued playing pirates, using the whole space as a playing field. We are learning that weapons make people feel unsafe at school and we can find different ways to play with sticks and props. Students came up with the idea to make their own treasure, they cut beads and without a doubt accidentally dropped some for the pirates to find.

Some of our friends made little sailboats out of walnut shells and learned that if we put too much play dough in them they will sink.

INDOOR EXPLORATION:

This week the students continued to work on building forts together. They worked together to problem-solve and find fabrics long enough to cover the sides of their fort. They were really interested in drawing this week and we used tracing boards to create animals and buildings out of ordinary shapes. They created mountains out of triangles and butterflies out of the number three. We worked together to have pride in our space by putting things away as we finished and before moving to the next activity. Our friends enjoyed continuing their play with the gnome garden and helping create new living spaces for them. They enjoyed using wooden blocks to build a mountain for the sheep to climb. We practiced using gentle hands to keep our materials safe and discussed how some materials we use are delicate and we have to be mindful when using them.

MORNING MEETING:

We continued working with our beanbags adding another nursery rhyme - Deedle, Deedle, Dumpling, My Son John. The students are getting better at controlling their beanbags and resisting the urge to throw them.

PROJECTS/GROUP ACTIVITIES:

We made lavender sachets this week, gathering lavender from our lovely gardens. Then we used scissors to cut the lavender flowers into small pieces to release the scent and carefully placed the tiny pieces into pretty little bags, pulling the drawstrings on each side to close them and keep the flowers safe inside. They smelled wonderful!

We celebrated Remi's 3rd birthday this week with our yummy applesauce cake and fruit salad and all the children colored pictures for his special birthday book.

STORYTELLING:

The children really enjoyed the puppet show based on the Russian folktale, **The Turnip**. Grandpa plants a turnip seed and it grows, and grows and grows until it's so gigantic that he alone cannot pull it out of the ground. With the help of grandma, granddaughter, their dog, cat, and finally, a little field mouse, they are able to pull the turnip out of the ground and cook it up for supper!

We also heard a "telling" story called **Treasure Chests** about a little boy who wakes up in a bad mood, disobeys his mother and runs off into the woods "with mischief on his mind". He chases a bunny and disturbs the wood fairies, but the gnomes teach him how to appreciate all the wonders of the forest by telling him he has to find 3 treasure chests before he can return home. Eventually he gains the wisdom he needs to identify the 3 treasure chests; a seed containing a beautiful flower, an egg containing a baby bird, and a cocoon containing a butterfly whose wings look like colorful jewels.

We finished the week with **Grumpy Monkey**, a book about a monkey who is grumpy but doesn't realize that he's grumpy or why he would even be grumpy as "it's such a wonderful day!" All his jungle friends try to cheer him up by making lots of silly suggestions, but that just makes him even grumpier. Eventually he admits and accepts his grumpiness, but talking with his gorilla friend makes him feel a little bit better and he says that he will feel better soon.

FOOD PREPARATION:

We continued with our weekly snack preparation. We were excited to use the spiral apple peeler on Wednesday to make our applesauce. Most of our friends had the chance to turn the handle and watch the apple get peeled and cored like magic!

GARDENING:

This week we continued connecting with our garden. We are learning that when flowers die and dry out, we can open the middle of the flower and find seeds. We replanted seeds in the garden beds and sensory garden. Some of our other friends wanted to plant their own seeds as well. Students gathered soil, dug holes, and planted lentils and beans. Our friends are enjoying the garden and reaping the rewards. This week students picked flowers and herbs for their soup. Some of our friends tried chives and noticed it tasted spicy. Other friends enjoyed the lemon balm and orange mint for smelling and using for pretend soup!