

WEEKLY RECAP

NATURE IMMERSION

1/20/20 - 1/24/20



FREE EXPLORATION:

This week students experienced and embraced the cold weather. They recognized it was winter weather and enjoyed wearing sweaters, long sleeve shirts, and jackets to keep warm.. Some of our friends pretended to play in the snow and create snowmen out of playdough. Students are using the atelier for creating and pretend play. We had a lot of costume play this week as the students transformed into hats, caterpillars, vampires, and race car drivers.

We played in the rain catching raindrops on our tongues and danced on the porch as if no one was watching!

INDOOR EXPLORATION:

Due to the cold and inclement weather this week, we spent more time inside than we usually do, but this allowed us the opportunity to engage in some special group activities. In keeping with our theme of sharing, we passed soft felted balls to each other as we sat in a circle and recited this lovely verse: "When we give, we learn to live, when we share, we learn to care, we give - we live, we share - we care. When we give our love it grows, around and around and around it goes".

We also got very silly and pretended the balls were hot potatoes! Students practiced passing the felt balls and using materials safely. Students were engaged with the gnome garden and reenacting the puppet show. Fort building has brought students together in a whole new way, students love to sit and work together to build forts!

MORNING MEETING:

This week we played games with beanbags; practicing catching them and passing them from one hand to another, and then passing them gently around the circle to our friends. This improves our eye-hand coordination and spatial awareness. Students used the beanbags as we recited different nursery rhymes; for "Hickory Dickory Dock" we rhythmically moved the beanbags up our arms and balanced them on our heads (our "clocks"). Students dropped the bean bags from their heads and caught them in their hands. For "Hey Diddle Diddle" we moved the bean bags **around** our bodies, **over** our heads as "the cow jumped **over** the moon", and **between** our legs as "the dish ran **away** with the spoon". For "Jack be Nimble, Jack be Quick" students had the opportunity to throw their beanbags up in the air and try to catch them while they turned around. This was a challenge!

When we were passing the beanbags to each other, some of our friends really wanted to throw the beanbags. We are practicing self control and learning how to play safely in group activities.

PROJECTS/GROUP ACTIVITIES:

The students are getting much more adept at chopping and filling up their bowls with apples on cornbread/applesauce day and colorful vegetables on soup day. Chopping strengthens their will as it requires effort and perseverance, which will help them throughout their lives, especially when they encounter challenges.

STORYTELLING:

This week we read the book **It's Mine!** by Leo Lionni, about 3 selfish frogs who discover they are much happier when they share things together and replace "mine" with "ours". We also enjoyed the story **Stone Soup**, and one of our friends was happily surprised when she found the stone in her soup on soup day! Hearing the story gave the students a better understanding of how we can make soup from a stone when we all contribute something to add to the soup.

FOOD PREPARATION:

The students **really** enjoyed bread day this week -- there was barely a crumb left! Soup day was also really fun this week as we had pasta letters in our soup and our special stone. When one of our friends found the stone in her soup, she made a wish, and then the stone was passed around the table so each friend could make a wish.

GARDENING:

Some of our students planted beans last week that are starting to sprout. Our paper white bulbs are starting to sprout as well! Students can see the white roots growing from the bottom and the stems growing from the top. We noticed two of our trees are losing their leaves and talked about how they will grow again during spring.