



Discovery Zone Gazette

Leaves Fell Upon the Infants

The infants were very busy in the month of October. The class started off the month learning about the season of Autumn. The children enjoyed books and sang songs like, Welcome Fall and It is Autumn. The children had sensory play when painting leaves that are now hung from the ceiling in the classroom.

The children also love admiring them blow in the wind when they enjoy the fresh air. Most of the infants got to enjoy the lovely fall foliage while on a walk in the buggy.

For the next theme, the Infants enjoyed pumpkins. They had more sensory play by getting help to make pumpkins prints. The infants practiced a lot of gross motor development while rolling a pumpkin around the classroom, reaching for it, picking it up and observing it. The

children enjoyed more sensory play while playing with the pumpkin guts. Some of the children were really enjoying it and some weren't too sure what it was all about. During this theme we also sang more songs and read more books such as, One Little Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Pumpkin on a Vine and I'm a little Pumpkin.

After pumpkins the children had a theme about ghosts. They used their cognitive development to create ghost footprints and used their social/emotional skills to hide under sheets and jump out and say, "Boo!" The infants also practiced their body awareness by "walking like a ghost" while singing The Haunted House.

The final theme for the month of October was Halloween. The children practiced their language/communication skills by

singing songs and reading books like, Ten Little Spiders and T.Rex Trick or Treat. They also practiced motor skills when using black and orange to finger paint. Lastly, we got to enjoy dressing up in our Halloween costumes and having older friends stop in during the parade. This really helped to benefit their social skills while waving and smiling at everyone. Thank you to everyone for dressing up!

In the month of November the Infant Class will learn about Family, Cornucopias, Turkeys and Thanksgiving. Please bring in a family picture.

Congratulations to Brennan and Layla who have graduated to the Toddler Room. We would also like to welcome Hunter and his family to our class.

Toddlers Trick or Treat

The Toddler Room would like to welcome Layla, Brennan, and their families to our room and wish Casey luck in his journey to the Preschool room.

The first week of October, the children jumped into

"leaves." The children used their sorting skills to sort leaves by color and shape. They used their fine motor skills to make leaf rubbings and leaf people.

The second week of October the Toddlers practiced

counting skills in "count the kernels." They also used their large motor skills to "pop the corn." The children also enjoyed matching candy corn.

Discovery Zone Learning Center

October 2010

Important Dates:

- Monday 11/15- Original Art Work is due
- Monday 11/29-cookie & pie order due
- December 3-5 CT Convention Center-Kids Lego Fest!

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Toddler Continued

The third week of October the children learned about pumpkins. They enjoyed matching different pump-



kin faces in matching pumpkin games. They also played with pumpkin seeds and pulp (guts)! For a delicious snack

the kids made pumpkin muffins and learned science and math skills as they prepared them.

The last week in October, the children are learning about orange and black. They decorated trick or treat bags, played pin the nose on

the jack-o-lantern and made a pumpkin face snack.



For the month of November the children will learn about scarecrows & owls, hibernation, Thanksgiving, turkeys and winter animals.

Stop, Drop & Roll to Preschool B

Preschool B has had some changes over the past few weeks. We would like to welcome Alex, Casey and their families to the classroom, along with Ms. Jamie.

Ms. Jamie was the afternoon Infant teacher for a few months, but joins us from MA. Ms. Jamie has plenty of experience working with children and is happy to be a part of DZLC.

The first week of October, Preschoolers learned about Fire Safety. They made fire dogs and fire trucks to work on their fine motor skills. They also got to explore a real fire truck, which they were all excited



about.

The second week of October, the children worked on an Apple theme where they made apple prints and used math skills to make applesauce.

The third week, the children learned about scarecrows. They worked on their social and communication skills when learning a new song, *Shoo Crows Shoo* and *Crows in the Cornfield*. The children got to work together to build their own scarecrow who hung out in the room for a few weeks. The children used fine motor skills to cut and glitter crows and worked on their cognitive skills with a leaf memory game.

The last week of October, Halloween was the theme. The children worked on fine motor skills while making cats, bats and spiders. The children also enjoyed our costume parade, they all looked great!



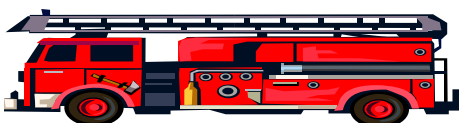
During the month, the children went on a field trip to Hurst Farm and had a blast when they fed the animals, went on a hayride and picked pumpkins.

For the month of November the themes will be Fall, Harvest, Native Americans and Pilgrims and Thanksgiving with turkeys.

Preschool A is not so Spooky

During the month of October Preschool A learned about fire safety, pumpkins, family and Halloween.

While learning about fire safety the children practiced dialing the number 911 and learned that its only for emergencies. Fine motor skills were practiced as the children cut out Dalmatians. They even learned how to stop, drop and roll. The most exciting thing that happened this week was the fire truck and firemen coming to visit. Everyone had an opportunity to sit in the



fire truck and spray the hose, too.

During the second week, Preschool A did a variety things with pumpkins. Pumpkins on a vine were made by hand and finger prints. To practice shape recognition, the children created jack-o-lanterns. Each one of the children also painted their own pumpkins. Math skills were also used as the children measured to make some yummy pumpkin fluff. To add some sensory to the week, the children were encouraged to play with the insides of a pumpkin.

During the theme on family, the children discussed ways to help family members. A lot of drawing was also

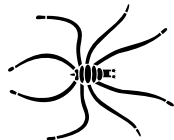
done this week to encourage fine motor skills as they drew pictures of their pets or pets they would like to have. Preschool A talked about the things they like to do with their family and how many people are in their families.



For the last week of October, it was time for some Halloween fun! Preschoolers made not so spooky spiders, displayed on our bulletin boards. To practice memory skills, the children played a Halloween memory game. The class also enjoyed our annual Halloween Parade.

Preschool A cont.

The children made monster mash for snack, which included oatmeal and M&M's.



They also did a sensory activity with spiders and water, the day was a blast!

Next month Preschool A will learn

about space, turkeys, Pilgrims and Native Americans and Thanksgiving. We would also like to wish Lauren a very happy birthday!

Kindergarteners Go Batty!

The kindergarten classroom was on fire, learning about fire safety! The class read many books that showed fire trucks, fire fighters and even fire dogs. The kindergarteners worked on their creativity and writing skills when asked,

"What do you know about fire?" The children got to be a fire fighters friend, while making a Dalmatian headband. They also used fine motor skills to stamp the Dalmatian with black



ink spots. They enjoyed a sensory experience while making "fire," in which they took paint and glitter and squished it between contact paper to blend the colors. Knowing numbers is very important, the kindergarteners reinforced number recognition while dialing 9-1-1 on a paper phone. Lastly, they worked gross motor skills while practicing to stop, drop and roll.

The second week in October was filled with Earth Science. The kindergarteners started by going on a

walk to collect different rocks. Kindergarteners worked on social and comparing skills by talking about what were the same and different with the rocks that were found. Next, the children worked with partners to build a volcano out of paint, dish soap, and baking soda. Lastly, they got down and dirty with dirt to see what kind of creatures we could find deep underground.

For the third week, the children learned about pumpkins. To start off the week the class carved and explored the insides of a pumpkin; using smell, sight and touch. To practice math skills, they got to match pumpkins with hats and count candy corn "teeth" for the mouth. Together the class read The Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steven Kroll and then made text-to-world connections by writing and illustrating how they would grow the biggest pumpkin ever. Kindergarteners enjoyed making Jolly Jack-O-Lanterns and practicing

their fine motor skills by cutting out the shapes for the face. To express creativity everyone got to paint their own small pumpkins!!

During the last week of October the kindergarten classroom focused on Halloween. They carved orange pumpkins using real oranges. While working on number and letter recognition, they got to play a game called "nagging bats" and had to find the bat with the matching number or letter.

Taking in a sensory experience, the children played with homemade play dough that smelled and looked like pumpkin pie, yummy! To wrap up the week Kindergarteners got to make grave house treats and go on a black cat scavenger hunt to find a special surprise!



For the month of November the Kindergarten class will learn about scarecrows, family, The Little Red Hen and Thanksgiving.

Center News

- Please remember to change out your child's extra clothes in their cubbies- the weather is changing!
- Plastic Grocery bags: all classrooms could always use some for messy clothes that have to go home!
- Please remember to label your children's items.
- Remember to sign your children in/out everyday.
- Original Art Work due Monday 15th
- Pies/Cookies Orders are due November 29th.
- **Reminder - close all gates and doors behind you so that the children can stay safe!**
- Please make the center aware when your child will be out or late for the day!
- Reminder- tuition is due by Wednesday 8 am of the week of care to avoid a \$20 late fee.

