



Discovery Zone Gazette

Preschool 11 Is Out of This World

November has come and gone and the holidays are upon us. As the saying goes, "time flies when your having fun!" and Preschool 11 has discovered the truth in that. The month of November was filled with several first time themes for the class and they sure were a blast. Preschool 11 began November with a one week theme on Space. The children constellations using stickers and chalk on black paper then they connected the stickers by drawing lines with white chalk and then named their constellation. Preschool 11 also created "blob aliens" using creative art materials such as buttons, yarn and ribbon and gluing them on to a blob of green paint that was spread

on the paper using the "spilt milk" method of painting. The children were introduced to the planets and worked on their math skills by ordering them 1 through 9. This theme is definitely going to be a

keeper.

Preschool 11 continued the month with a one week theme on Nursery Rhymes. The children learned a new classic nursery tale everyday. They worked on strengthening their problem solving skills while putting Humpty Dumpty back together again and practiced their sequencing skills by ordering the events that occurred when Humpty fell. Preschool 11 also worked on their gross motor skills by jumping over the moon like the cow in Hey Diddle Diddle.

The class also worked for a week on being kind and using manners. It is very important that the children learn use please and thank you and excuse me when talking to friends and adults. The children discussed a variety of feelings then were encouraged to illustrate how they were feeling at that particular moment. To finish the week, the children worked on their fine motor skills by stringing fruit

loops onto yarn and creating friendship necklaces. The children had a great time snacking and stringing!

Finally, Preschoolers wrapped up November with a three day theme on Thanksgiving. The children had the opportunity to work on their fine motor skills while also writing with a non-traditional writing tool. The children wrote their names with a feather. They dipped the tip of the feather into paint and wrote their first names on the paper. Children who are still working on mastering the skill of their name worked diligently on the letters that are in their names. They also discussed and illustrated things they are thankful for. During this holiday week the children got to participate in a special in the gym: "Birds of Prey." The children saw endangered birds from the Connecticut area. They read several books on Thanksgiving and learned all about the origin of the holiday.

Discovery Zone Learning Center

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Special points of interest:

- 12/11 Free Holiday Shopping Care
- 12/16-Special at 9:30 Ventriloquist
- CLOSED- 12/24, 12/27, 12/30 & 12/31 for the Holidays.

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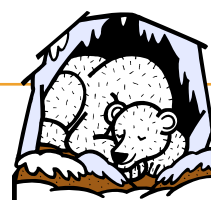
Learning Never Hibernates in Toddler 1

Toddler One started November off with a unit on Spiders. The children were able to sort the spiders by color by grouping all the red spiders on one web, blue spiders on another web and yellow spiders on still another web. The children enjoyed singing The Itsy Bitsy

Spider and reading Miss Spider's Tea Party while building language and literacy skills.

The theme on hibernation was a big hit with the toddlers. They enjoyed wearing their pajamas one day as if they were getting ready to hiber-

nate. They brought their favorite teddy bears and we discussed how bears eat a lot in the fall and then sleep through most of winter, waking up in spring when food is easier to find. Dramatic play was encouraged as the children



Learning "Falls" Into Place for Preschool 10

The month of November was full of fun in Preschool 10. This month, throughout the month the class learned about fall, feelings, Pilgrims and Native Americans, Thanksgiving and Gingerbread Men.

Fall was a fun topic for Preschool 10. The class enjoyed doing a variety of hand-on activities with leaves such as leaf rubbings, a leaf collage and leaves in the sensory table. The class also used their fine motor skills to sponge paint a leaf and then cut it out. Preschool 10 enjoyed playing in the leaves outside, also. Fall was a fun hands on week!

Next, Preschool 10 talked about different feelings. The class learned about the different feelings



that they all feel and when they feel the certain feelings. Preschool 10 used their gross motor skills to dance in library to slow music and fast music to see how they felt. Also, they painted to both slow music and fast music talking about how they felt while painting and why they felt that way. The class really got to express their emotions and learn that it is OK to feel all the different emotions.

The third week, the class started preparing for Thanksgiving by learning about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. The class talked about where they came from and what they did. Preschool 10 got to use their imaginations in dramatic play and use their pilgrim hats and Native American clothing to re-enact the first Thanksgiving. They had so much fun! The children used their fine motor skills to pick up corn kernels from one buckets and

transfer them to the next. They also painted with feathers and see the different designs they could make. That got us ready for the next week, focusing on Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was a short week but Preschool 10 made the most of it. The children reflected on what they were thankful for and wrote it on turkeys that they had made. The class made Thanksgiving cards with handprint turkeys and a special poem. Discovery Zone also had a special treat when "Birds of Prey" came to show the children some endangered animals. Preschool 10 is thankful for our families and all they do for us. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

In the month of December Preschool 10 will learn about gingerbread men, winter animals, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas. Preschool 10 wishes everyone one safe and happy holidays!

Toddler 1 Continued

pretended to be squirrels and chipmunks and gathered many acorns on the playground. They glued bears in a cave and built math skills as they counted the correct number of bears.

The following week, Toddler 1 focused on Turkeys. The children enjoyed the creative and sensory experiences painting with

feathers and also creating their own turkeys. The finger puppet glove was used while singing Five Little Turkeys. A classroom favorite this week was the "Turkey Pokey" in which Toddlers built both language and gross motor skills.

Next, Toddler 1 had fun with Food. They made their own pizzas,

matched shapes on a pizza and did a topping toss. The children enjoyed the book Jamerry and doing a song about five little cupcakes.

Toddler will focus on five themes for December: Gingerbread, Kings and Queens, Reindeer, December Holidays, and Trees.

Preschool 12 Is "Farm"tastic

Preschool 12 children started the month of November with a theme on Farm Animals. Language and literacy skills were enhanced as the Preschoolers identified farm animals while singing their favorite song, "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."

Preschoolers practiced their social relations and sharing experiences while they were engaged in manipulating farm animal stick puppets during their pretend dramatic play farm. The children enhanced



their knowledge of science and their vocabulary when they learned all about cows and where milk and dairy products come from. Gross motor skills and the sense of touch was stimulated as Preschoolers made real butter by taking turns shaking a jar of heavy cream until it turned into a thick consistency. More science skills were enhanced as the children used their senses of smell and taste to sample it with Saltine crackers....yummy! Next, fine motor skills were practiced while the children were engaged in creating a fabulous fowl. Their sense of touch was again en-

hanced as the children created mud out of oatmeal and brown paint. Then the children finger painted with it to create a muddy pig.

For the second week of November, Preschoolers enjoyed learning all about shapes. During circle time, the children were engaged in a visual discrimination experience as they scampered around the classroom locating and identifying shapes in their environment. Tactile discrimination was enhanced as the children were engaged in putting their hands inside several bags filled with shapes to locate

Toddler 2

The Toddler 2 class started off the month of November with a theme on numbers. Each day at circle, the children sang a familiar song that involved numbers. Five Little Monkeys is one of the children's favorite songs that they always enjoy singing. They used math for a majority of the projects this week as they counted bowling pins they knocked over, made number prints, played a musical numbers game, made a number collage, and found hidden numbers. Using those games, they also enhanced their skills on following directions and recognizing numbers. The class enjoyed books about numbers several times throughout the week and the children really liked counting as a group. To enhance on gross motor skills, the children were asked to find a certain number located on the floor and jump to it. During outside play, the children used plenty of energy as they played the chasing game. The children's number projects this week were sent home in their folders for parents to enjoy.

During the second week of November, Toddler 2 learned all about friendship. The children learned new songs throughout the week about how to be a good friend. They also sang different songs that involved acting it out as a group. The children loved the "Ring Around the Rosie" song! Some projects this week involved working together and

listening to directions. The sensory table was filled with ABC cards and plastic tools. The children practiced sharing throughout their free play time. The class also practiced some sign language while singing "The More We Get Together." The children are really getting the hang of how to use sign language for certain words. They enjoyed hearing several books about sharing and other things that friends do for each other. To enhance their fine motor skills, they made a friend collage with pictures from magazines. To engage them in active group play outside, the children played catch, walked, ran, jumped and skipped on the playground. You can find the projects from this week around the room as well as in your child's folder.

Towards the end of November, Toddler 2 spent the week exploring science. Throughout circle time this week, the children learned something new each day that involved science. For example, they now know that they are learning about science when we do 'Weather Watcher' every day. The children also did a science project each day. They made colored water in the beginning of the week to put into ice cube trays. Once the ice cubes froze, they used them to create water color paintings. They all enjoyed painting with the ice cubes. They also enjoyed taking a trip around the building to find dark rooms to use our flashlights in. Jane and

Mallory introduced magnets to the children and gave them the opportunity to go around the room and find things that were magnetic. To get an early start on Thanksgiving, each child created a number of hand prints to add onto our Thanksgiving Kindness Basket. The basket was filled with treats (some that the children made). When they finished making the basket, the children picked a name out of a cup for one family to win the basket. Congratulations to the Desautels Family for winning the basket! The Toddler 2 class hopes you enjoyed it!

The month of November ended with a very short week, and a theme on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving songs were introduced to the children to sing during each circle time. The three-day week was filled with different Thanksgiving activities and stories. DZ had a special this week called "Birds of Prey." The children seemed to enjoy seeing the different kinds of birds you might find in the wild. The children also did a couple cooking projects this week to add a last minute touch to our Thanksgiving Kindness Basket. We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Infant 6

The children in Infant 6 had a non stop November. Though out the month, the children worked on interaction with each other and social skills. The older children are beginning to truly interact with one another. Together they will follow each other under the cribs and around the room, this is a great way for them to work on their gross motor skills. Some of the younger infants have started to come a long way, also by rolling over, holding their heads up and starting to reach for toys.

All the children in the class enjoyed the "Exploring Balls" activity. The infants were introduced to different

types of balls. They were able to touch, feel, throw and even taste them. The infants were able to experience the principle of cause and effect. Another great cognitive activity the class tried was "Where did it go?" By doing this activity the infants were again developing the cause and effect skills. By hiding a toy under a blanket and asking, "Where is it?" Then finding it by moving the blanket, is so exciting to an infant.

As the Holidays approach Infant 6 will do many sensory projects using their hands and feet. The children will be making hand print Christmas trees, snowmen and making a special gift for

parents to open Christmas morning. Along with all this fun Holiday excitement, the children will also do their everyday planned activities

A reminder to parents, please make sure all of your child's belongings are labeled including blankets and clothing. Also, please make sure that your child has weather appropriate extra clothing in cubby. I would like to wish everyone a wonderful fun filled Holiday and I am so excited to be celebrating the first Holidays with you and your children in Infant 6.

We're So Thankful for Toddler 3

Toddler 3 began the month of November with a theme on "Fall." Through this theme the children learned new songs at circle time pertaining to the season. Children were exposed to new vocabulary when they sang the "Cornucopia Song." Toddlers also worked on their hand and eye coordination when they participated in a corn and basket game. Fine motor was improved upon when the children sponged painted with fall colors, painted leaves and made crinkly tissue paper corn. Cooking and math were enhanced when the children made apple cider. The children had several helpings of their treat at snack time and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy their creation! Lastly, the children embarked on a nature walk in which the class discussed some of the signs of fall that they saw along the way.

For the second week of November, the children were introduced to the world of "Science." The children were exposed to a variety of science experiments throughout this week. At circle time, the children identified different animal pictures and enjoyed making shadows with a flashlight. Toddlers also learned all about their

tongues and the different areas of their tongues that affected whether something tasted sweet, salty, bitter or sour to them. Through this activity the children chose different pictures of food and placed them on the appropriate area of the tongue. Toddler 3 enhanced their sensory awareness when they took off their shoes and enjoyed walking on all different kinds of textures. The children also used a magnifying glass during this week to examine all sorts of different items and were able to see them up close. Toddlers experienced a water station during this week in which they enhanced their fine motor skills by using eye droppers, straws and turkey basters in various liquids such as water, juice and molasses. Air and wind were explored when the children observed a fan and had to use their cognitive thinking to determine whether an object would be blown away because it was light or stay in its spot because it was heavy.

In the third week of November, children learned all about the world of "Eric Carle." Science was explored when the children re-enacted the life cycle of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. Math

and counting were enhanced through a ladybug matching game and feelings were explored through a sign language activity. Fine motor was increased when the Toddlers made chameleon paintings, coffee filter butterflies and a grouchy ladybug. Gross motor was enhanced when the children danced with scarves. To end out the week, the children enjoyed a sensory experience in the water table with various animals that had been seen in some of the Eric Carle books.

To end out the month of November, the class had a short theme on, "Thanksgiving." Counting was worked on when the Toddlers learned a new song "Five Little Turkeys." The children enjoyed a sensory experience when they made handprint turkeys and enhanced their fine motor skills when they made corn on the cob paintings. Toddler 3 hopes everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and we look forward to the Holiday season!



Preschool 12 Continued

the corresponding shape in front of each bag. Fine motor skills were enhanced as the children created rectangle sponge robots, shape characters and shapely snakes. Math skills were challenged as the Preschoolers were engaged in a patterning activity by manipulating foam shapes in the correct order. Problem solving and spatial awareness skills were developed as the children arranged their blocks to create different kinds of shapes. To end this week, the Preschoolers took delight in their favorite fine motor activity...Play Dough...and manipulated several cookie cutters to create an assortment of different sized shapes.

During the third week (and half of the fourth) of November, Preschoolers learned all about the Thanksgiving Holiday. During circle time, great listening skills were improved as the children listened to their favorite story, The Thanksgiving Story. Next, critical thinking skills were enhanced as the Preschoolers compared and contrasted the Pilgrims from the Na-

tive Americans. Then the children expressed what they were thankful for and attached a turkey feather to the turkey on the flannel board. Math skills were exercised as Preschoolers participated in the "Five Little Turkeys" finger play song activity. During project time, creative expression was enhanced as the children illustrated a drawing of what they were thankful for. Next, the children stimulated their sense of smell as they sprinkled cinnamon and cloves on their pumpkin pie craft. The children enhanced their fine motor skills as they created hand-shaped gobbling place mats, and their creative art was expressed by drawing fruits on a cornucopia project.

Preschoolers next enhanced their spatial awareness and creativity as they created a cabin, just like the Pilgrims, out of wood chips. For the last (short) week in November, Preschool 12 continued to express an interest in the Thanksgiving feast.

Language and literacy skills were en-

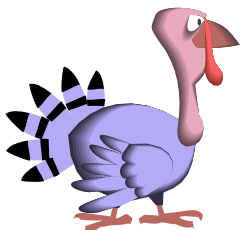
hanced as the children learned the different kinds of foods served during a Thanksgiving meal. Preschoolers enhanced their fine motor skills and creativity as they manipulated Play Dough to create their own Thanksgiving feast. Then the children practiced good listening skills as they learned about the Mayflower. They created their own Mayflower scenery using critical thinking skills as to what might have been there while traveling to America.

Lastly, Happy Birthday wishes go out to Hunter B., 10/1, Alexa B., 10/5 and Samuel A., 11/8.

This month Preschool 12 friends have been introduced to letters G-I and number 5. Show and Share days have been very entertaining to the children. Thank you for allowing your child to bring something in each week. Please note that items can pertain to either the letter of the week or the theme of the week.

Infant 5 Is Full of Turkeys

During the month of November, the Infants focused on Thanksgiving. They made Native Americans using their footprints. They also made turkeys using different color handprints as feathers. As for language and communication development the babies focused on



patty cake, reading nursery rhymes, making sounds, and expressing gestures. For cognitive development the Infants practiced coping with stranger anxiety, shaking the rattle, locating a toy, and grouping similar objects. As for social and emotional development, the babies were encouraged to express interest in a new toy, rolling a ball, stacking rings, and peekaboo. The Infants practiced pulling themselves up to sit, practiced sitting in the upright position, the walking motion, and moving

towards a desired object as they worked on physical development.

For the month of December, the Infant Room is going to focus on Christmas. The babies are using shaving cream and their footprints to make snowmen. The children will also work hard on surprises for Moms and Dads!

Center News

Please remember to change out your child's extra clothes in their cubbies- the weather is changing!

- Please remember to label your children's items.
- Thank you for your Pie/Cookie orders!

• 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.

• Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy holiday season.

