

JANUARY (ENERO) 2015

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and Christmas break. December's Thematic Unit was Christmas and the joyous season it brings.

We began the month with our "Elf on the Shelf" book. I am pleased to say, our elf Cookie gave Santa a good report. The children enjoyed our "Advent Books". Everyday we would unwrap a numbered book to count down the days until Christmas. We learned about Advent and the story of Jesus. The children retold the story using figurines and a manger.

This month we covered the letters "K" -Kings, "J" - Jesus, and "B" -Bethlehem, and "C" - Christmas. We played many games to help the children identify letters and their sounds. We continue to review the letters we learned so far by playing ABC Freeze Frame.

Using the laminate trees, the children counted, added, and subtracted. They began by selecting a "numbered star" and placed it on top of their tree. The next step, they counted out the decorations (pom-poms) to match the number on the star and decorated their trees with the pom-poms. We went one step further by adding or subtracting one or more of the decorations to the tree, and replaced the star with the new correct number.

We sorted and counted Christmas bows into groups (small, medium, large, and extra large). We reviewed by completing a Christmas Gift Box ditto by coloring and gluing the packages in order from the smallest to the largest. The children also sorted the bows according to color and counted them.

Using a Santa Sack or Santa Hat, the children played a game "Numbers vs. Letters". After placing the numbers and letters in the sacks, the children would pick one out and identify it either as a letter (and sound) or a number (Spanish) and place it on the correct letter or number card.

Our Spanish is progressing. The children should know the numbers 1-31 (the numbers of the calendar), the primary colors, shapes, and the months September through December. Also, every month there is a new target word: tree/árbol, apple/manzana, pumpkin/calabaza, leaf/hoja, turkey/pavo, and snow/nieve.

The children practiced their patterning skills by stringing colored Christmas lights using a variety of patterns.

The children worked diligently on the Christmas gifts. I hope they brought many smiles to everyone as you hung them on your trees.

January's thematic unit is Winter/Snow. Hopefully we will continue to get snow so we can bring it indoors to play and do science experiments.

*Barbara Cook*