

OCTOBER (OCTUBRE) 2016 ENRICHMENT NEWS

Our first weeks together have gone by so quickly. The children have made many new friends, and have become comfortable with our daily routine. Here are a few things we did this month.

September's (Septiembre) Thematic Unit was "Farm and Farm Animals". We talked about many farm animals and learned animal facts and their food products. We learned the names of both the mother animals and their babies. We played many games such as Animal Matching, Animals Sounds, and Animal Colors. The children loved the sensory bins filled with beans, rocks, corn, and sand. This is a fun way to learn letters, numbers, colors, and shapes.

In language arts, the letters "P", "C", "G", "R", "T", "D", "W", "H" were introduced. We identified items with the same beginning sounds of each letter. The children matched the items to the correct letter cards. We enjoyed many stories about farmers and farm animals. We created our own story using farm themed flannel pieces and a flannel board. We are such great storytellers!

In math, farm animals were placed in the corn table. The children rolled the dice, determined the number, selected the corresponding number card, and picked the correct number of animals. We sorted the animals by color and counted them. The children counted and placed black spots on cows and wheels on tractors. We estimated how many pigs (children) could fit on a mud puddle.

In science, we examined a corn stalk with corn and named the parts. We learned how farmers grow the corn and what animals eat it. The children grew corn from a dry cob, kernels and cotton balls, and kernels and dirt which they monitored the progress. We studied a variety of seeds and wheat that farmers grow. The children grew garden gloves with lettuce and charted their growth. We compared many different colors of eggs. We even turned an ordinary egg into a bouncy, rubbery egg (placed in white vinegar). We made "clucking hens" (vibration/ sound experiment). Elliot Simpson's grandmother brought one of her chickens to share with our class. We would especially like to thank both of them. It was a great experience!





In the kitchen we cooked wagon wheel pasta, made pigs in the blanket (hotdogs and crescent rolls), and chicken feed (cereal, marshmallows, chocolate chips).

We have been working daily on the English/Spanish book "What is in the Barn?" The children cut the animals and glued them into their barns. We read them daily. This was a fun way to learn the Spanish names for the farm animals. Please have your child read their books to you. You will be amazed! The Spanish words this month were Septiembre, cerdo, rosado, verde, tractor, pollo, oveja, rojo, blanco, pato, cabra, amarillo, gris, caballo, café, vaca, negro. I also introduced numbers in Spanish using the daily calendar. We are blessed to have Senora Ruby in the afternoon on Wednesday to help us with our Spanish.

The children are welcomed to bring in a movie for our "quiet time". Please make sure it is a "G" rated selection. Also as the weather becomes cooler (especially in the mornings) please keep a sweat shirt or jacket in their book bag. We will go outside to enjoy the playground as much as possible.

October's Thematic Unit is fall (Otono). Feel free to stop by if there are any questions or concerns. It has been a great beginning.

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