



JANUARY (ENERO) 2017

December's Thematic Unit was Christmas and the joyous season it brings. The children were excited to share their ornaments with you. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and Christmas break.

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 The Little People Nativity.

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 placed a "numbered star" on top of their tree and counted out the decorations (pom-poms) to match.

We sorted and counted Christmas bows into groups (small, medium, large, and extra large). We reviewed by completing a Christmas Gift Box worksheet. They colored and glued the packages in order from the smallest to the largest. The children also sorted the bows into groups of colors naming them in Spanish after tossing them off the parachute. We patterned by stringing colored Christmas lights.

Using a Santa sack, the children played a game "Numbers vs. Letters". After placing the numbers and letters in the sack, the children would pick one out and identify it either as a letter (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.

Beginning this month the children in the four years old program will be setting up their own lunches. This is to help them prepare for Kindergarten and to become more independent. We will encourage them to unpack, open, dispose, and repack any remaining items that can be saved. Please know we are there to help them if needed.

January's Thematic Unit is winter/snow.

Barbara Conti

