

MAY (MAYO) 2017 ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of our school year. The children have grown in many ways. Here are a few things we did for the April's Thematic Unit, spring.

Weather: Letter "W". We learned about weather and discussed why it rains. We read the story "Raindrop-Plop". After we played math games. The first was raindrop numbers. A number was introduced and written. Using the laminate clouds, the children placed the correct number of raindrops (blue foam) under the cloud. In the second game, the numbers 10-20 were reviewed in Spanish. The children placed the numbered raindrops (in order) in the clouds. The children estimated how many children can fit on rain puddles (small, medium, large). We reviewed the alphabet by matching the upper case raindrops to the lower case. We continued the theme by playing raindrop toss and danced a rain dance. In art, we read the story "Little Cloud" and made a cloud windsock and painted cloud images. We did a "blowing in the wind" experiment using various objects (heavy-blocks, medium-pencil, light-feather) and moved them with air by blowing into a straw.

Plants: Letter "P". We began this section by taking a spring walk and observing and enjoying God's beauty. We noted all the spring blooms and their individuality. We discovered that we not only plant seeds, we also eat them! The children tasted foods with seeds such as berries, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, and bananas. We explored a variety of dried seeds using a magnifying glass. We learned that plants need sun, water, and food to grow. We also learned about the parts of plants and their functions. We counted flower blooms on the laminate trees. In art, they made shape and pop-up flowers.

Insects, Caterpillars, Butterflies: Letters "I", "C", "B". We learned about the cycle of the butterfly (egg-caterpillar-cocoon-butterfly). The children enjoyed many stories including a favorite "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". We retold the story by using a caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly puppet along with the corresponding food visuals. After, the children created caterpillars by patterning with colored circles. We took the concept one step further. The children spelled their names using alphabet circles, and formed them into caterpillars. We brainstormed for vocabulary words from the book and searched for letters (upper and lower case). In art, the children made beautiful symmetrical butterflies. The children fluttered many butterflies on the parachute. Once all of the butterflies took flight, the children counted them. We also counted, sorted, and identified many species of bugs after digging for them in the corn table. We played bug catch using a bug net to reinforce eye/hand coordination. We learned that ladybugs are really called ladybird beetles and are many different colors.

Earth Day: Letter "E". We observed the day by exploring various strategies to help preserve our earth. We learned that the earth is made of land, water, and air. We painted the letter "E" "e" using blue and green paint.