

Chebeague Pre-K News – September 7, 2012

Our Pre-K program is off to a great start. The children are learning to take care of their classroom. Each child has one of the following classroom jobs each week: Calendar and line leader, Fish feeder and botanist, Attendance and lunch count, Meteorologist.

They are learning responsibility by bringing their B.E.A.R. books to school everyday and by putting their work choices away so that they are ready for another friend. They are getting better at rolling up their work rugs.

There are a lot of works out on the shelves for them to explore. As they work through them they will be added to or exchanged for other works. Following are some of the works your child may have chosen.

Practical Life/Art - these works help develop hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and concentration:

- Latches puzzle
- Scooping beans
- Pouring beans
- Spooning transfer of beans
- Twisting- matching lids to containers
- Lacing - lacing shapes on a dowel and a stitching block
- Squeezing transfer of plastic apples by the stem with tweezers
- Squeezing colored water onto paper towels
- Playdough
- Gardening - harvesting onions

Sensorial - using the senses to discriminate:

- Rough/Smooth boards
- Knobless cylinders or pink cubes for size
- Grading red rods for length
- Feely bags matching objects to their base
- Sound/No Sound sorting

Cultural - science, history, geography:

- sorting living/nonliving objects
- sorting small plastic animals to land, air, or water trays.

Language:

- Felt board story telling
- Matching pictures of themselves
- Matching their name strips
- Rhyming sorts
- Beginning sound sorts
- Current author study - Eric Carle
- Story retelling - Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
- Exploring big lines - one of our first Handwriting Without Tears lessons

Math:

- Various works that involve counting and matching objects to the matching number.
- Daily jobs that involve graphing the weather, counting how many days of school so far, and putting up the monthly calendar day.
- Estimating jar - guess how many inside

Music:

- I greet them at the door with our Hello song (the green rectangle stamped on their right hand was part of this). We sing our good morning song at morning circle and circles usually include a movement song. Some songs this week have included *Tap Big Lines* from Handwriting Without Tears, *ABC's*, *The Beanie Bag Dance*, *The Freeze*, and *Bop till You Drop*.

Peace:

- At Friday's peace circle we read part of *Our Peaceful Classroom*.
- At our peace circles I share "Acts of Kindness" from our Kindness Jar. These are recorded observations from the past week.
- Silence game. We watched a big one-minute timer drain while keeping our entire bodies silent.

Calendar updates

Sept. 13 - Pre-K Island Commons field trip

Sept. 20: Field trip to Bennett's Cove to collect specimens for our saltwater tank.



The peace corner- finger labyrinth and music. Photos of their families are on the wall.



Rock painting - a favorite activity that promotes fine motor, concentration and independence



Practical Life - fine motor squeezing to strengthen hand, coordination, and concentration



Geography - sorting animals by land, air, or water



On Friday cutting was very popular



Sorting sound and no-sound containers

*Thank you for sharing your children
Miss Nancy*