

Chebeague Pre-K- Transitional K News – October 23, 2009

A favorite activity for all this week was painting paper Eric Carle style. When we read his books the children comment on the colorful end pages and at the same time they notice which ones are library books.

The children were very patient taking turns for picture day on Tuesday.

On Thursday Denise Sullivan the school OT and counselor led us through an in class butterfly hunt which involved brainstorming what to bring and reenactment of the hiking and creatures encountered along the way. Because a flashlight was included I put out assembling a flashlight on Friday and they made connections to the story.

Following are some of the lessons, which were presented to all either at circle or individually. Other lessons are given individually based on the child's interest and/or readiness.

Practical Life/Art

- Squeezing - placing sticks into the holes on a cheese shaker (concentration and coordination)
- Squeezing - extracting sunflower seeds with tweezers
- Twisting - assembling a flashlight
- Painting with a tool - small pieces of sponge clipped into a clothes pin
- Crayon rubbings - texture plates
- Lacing - shape cards
- Button frame - practicing buttoning
- Feeling puppets - they colored happy faces on one side and sad on the other. This work was related to our peace circle.

Sensorial

- Triangle box - Colored triangles to align to make equilateral triangles
- Sense of touch - matching fabric samples eyes closed or blindfolded

Math

- Number sense work was swapped out to be counting with pumpkin seeds

Science

- Parts of a plant book (roots, stem/trunk, branches, leaves)
- Fridays recess had some looking at the chart of leaf shapes and searching for some that matched. Their goal with the feely box in our nature classroom was to feel the leaf margin and think about which shape the leaf inside would match. We talked about how just like people, plants come in many different shapes, sizes and colors.

Language

- Handwriting #3 and #4

Music/Movement

- Copy Kitten song - this is a regular at music circle - they sing the refrain then copy the sound made. Sometimes I have them choose a sound for classmates to copy
- Scale step ladder - This is a very cool 9 bar xylophone that clearly demonstrates that the bottom step is a low note and goes up as one "steps" up the scale. Each chose a note to play and we match that note with our singing voices.
- I pulled up a U-Tube stream of Beethoven's fifth symphony and Fur Elise for them to watch/listen to during lunch on Friday.

Peace

- Our peace circle involved sharing some information about the flag of the United Nations and how that organization works for peace between nations just like how we work for peace amongst our peers in the classroom. I also read Making Friends by Fred Rogers.

Calendar updates:

Oct. 30 - Pre-K may wear costume to school

Oct. 30 - Island Common's field trip

Nov. 12,13 - Sam Birkett to sub

Nov. 18 - Parent teacher conferences

Classroom message:

As boots become needed you are welcome to send a pair of slippers or extra shoes that can stay at school. Labeling your child's outerwear will help them find their owners.



Squeezing tweezers - extracting seeds from a sunflower. Aids in coordination and helps eyes learn to focus and follow movement in preparation for handwriting



Triangle box - making triangle out of triangles



Pumpkin seed counting -one to one counting and associating the correct amount of seeds to the numeral



Geometric cabinet polygon drawer. One sorts cards into solid, thick and thin piles and then matches them to the geometric insets. Visual discrimination in preparation for reading. Also provides an opportunity to learn the names of the polygons



Exploring letters with the moveable alphabet. This can grow to form words and make sentences.

*Thank you for sharing your children
Miss Nancy*