

Creative Arts

Children will initiate new musical activities with voices or instruments. The collection of rhythm instruments in our classroom are a favorite choice for many children in this group. They often select the drums, maracas and small autoharp during playtime. They experiment with the sounds produced; sometimes trying to make the loudest sound and at others being more deliberate about how they make sound. They also enjoy playing the instruments together and are growing in their ability to play different ways such as fast, slow loud and quiet.

Early Mathematical Discovery

Children will sort on the basis of one attribute. The children engage in this activity during playtime, both spontaneously as they choose which color peg they place in the board or which ball they want to roll down the tube. In addition, they are supported in this work when we ask questions like “Can you find me a green car or a square block?” There are also materials that call for this kind of work, including games like teddy bear bingo.

Early Scientific Inquiry

Children will manipulate materials and comment on the impact of own actions. This work takes place as the children explore the range of materials and manipulatives in the classroom. When working with the playdough they acknowledge what happens when they press down hard. When rolling things through the tube they recognize what things roll quickly on their own and which ones need more help to get through. As they explore the sand in the sandbox, they notice how the sand responds to their digging, how the trucks push the sand as they roll and how heavy the shovels can feel.

Social Studies

Children will participate in jobs and responsibilities in the classroom. The two most significant responsibilities at school are cleaning up the toys and clearing their dishes after snack. While it can feel like an overwhelming task to clean up the classroom in preparation for snack, we make sure that each child has indeed put at least a few things away before we move to the table. We feel it is important to respect the developmental stage of each child and to set expectations that we believe are achievable and reasonable.

Upcoming Events

During the next month or so we will be using this group’s interest in music as the focus of our class investigation. We will start by experimenting with the concept of “beat”. The children will have the opportunity to listen to music and to feel the beat of a song in their bodies as we move to it. They will spend time clapping out the beat with their hands. We will use the rhythm instruments to add another layer of this concept. We will also be creating individual rhythm instruments with the children. These will stay at school for a while and then will be able to go home.

Group activities will continue to be flexible and responsive to the group’s interest in the activity. In order to provide the opportunity for deep investigation for those children interested and able, some of our work in music will happen during playtime. We are also going to be adjusting the classroom environment for group time. We will begin meeting in the back room and will section off this space from the rest of the classroom for those few minutes. The attraction of all the materials throughout the room is distracting for the children. We are hopeful that this new arrangement will help all the children grow in their ability to and interest in participating in the group activity.

If/when the weather grows colder, please remember that we will continue to go outside each day. The children will need clothing appropriate for the weather. This may include a change of shoes as well as outer wear. I know this fall has been a challenge as the weather changes, sometimes drastically from early morning to noon time. Thanks for your help with this.

I will be holding parent conferences at the start of December. There will be a sign up posted soon. If you have any questions or concerns beforehand, please let me know.