

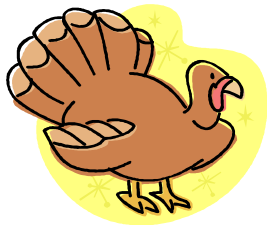


Discovery Zone Gazette

November 2011

Healthy Eating With Preschool 11

Preschool 11 kicked off the month of November with a theme on, "Fire Safety." During this week the children discussed the importance of the number 911 and in what situations someone would need to use it. They were then able to practice dialing it on a play phone. Preschoolers learned the importance of the technique "Stop, drop and roll" and were each able to practice that as well. The children discussed safety and what to do if there was ever a real fire when they enacted a fire drill. Fine motor skills were enhanced through a fire truck painting and fireman hats.



Next, preschoolers learned about, "Turkeys." The children worked together this week on creating a turkey for our bulletin board and discussed the things that they were thankful for during circle time. These were placed onto feathers that they decorated. In addition, they

learned a new finger-play at circle time called, "Five Little Turkeys." Sensory was explored when the children were able to create their own turkeys out of play dough. Preschool 11 also improved upon their sequencing skills when they practiced putting different picture stories in the correct order of events.

For the third week of November, Preschool 11 was introduced to the importance of, "Nutrition." Science skills were enhanced through a discussion on what foods were healthy choices and what foods should be eaten as special treats. Vocabulary was improved through a kitchen game in which the children identified various kitchen utensils and explained their uses. Fine motor and cutting skills were enhanced when the children made their own vegetable soups by cutting out different vegetables. They also made a healthy food collage from various foods they found and cut out of magazines. Science was improved again through a discussion on the food pyramid and the different food groups. The children placed foods in the correct area of the food pyramid. Preschoolers also had follow direc-

tions when they played a game of, "Pass the Egg" and later were able to taste test the hard-boiled egg. Most of the children surprisingly enjoyed the egg!



To end out the month, the children did a short theme on, "Thanksgiving." Vocabulary and science was increased through the, "Cornucopia Song." The children discussed the uses of a cornucopia and the different foods that could be in it. Fine motor was worked on when the preschoolers made necklaces. They enjoyed a sensory experience when they created their own handprint turkeys from colors of paint they chose themselves. Lastly, gross motor skills were improved upon when Preschool 11 did a, "Turkey strut."

Preschool 11 hopes everyone had a safe Thanksgiving holiday and is looking forward to the Christmas season!

Discovery Zone Learning Center

Free shopping day - 12/10/11

Fun day -12/14/11

Hat and mitten Drive 12/16/11

Fun days -12/28th and 29th

Closed for the holidays - December 26,27, 30 and 2

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Preschool 10 Drops, Stops And Rolls

November has come and gone and the holidays are upon us. To begin the month of December Preschool 10 learned about "Fire Safety". Gross motor was worked on as the class practiced stop, drop and roll. Listening and following direction was the main focus as the children prepared to have a pretend fire-drill. Each child was able to practice dialing 911; they also had an opportunity to pretend to report an incident. The children used their fine motor skills when writing the word, "fire safety". Preschool 10 strengthened their



math skills by making their own fire dogs and counting the number of spots they put on them.

The "Five Senses" was the focus for the second week in November. Sensory exploration was introduced throughout the week as the children used their senses to explore with different smells and taste. The children enjoyed getting to use their sense of smell as they guessed what different scents were in the jars. Creative art was explored as the class used different material such as, corn kernels, sugar and coconut to create a picture. The children loved making goop and feeling it between

their fingers. To end the week the children made rain sticks with rice and beans to make musical instruments.

As the class gets ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, "Pilgrims and Native Americans" was the theme for the third week. The class discussed the different roles that the Pilgrims and Native Americans had in the first Thanksgiving Day. Each child was encouraged to talk about what contributions each group had such as the discovery of corn. Gross motor was worked on as the children danced to the rhythm of Native American music. Creative expression was explored as the children used feathers to paint a collage.

Out Of This World With Toddler 1

Toddler 1 kicked their way into the month of November enjoying the theme of "Sports". During this week the main focus was on gross motor and social skills. Each day Toddler 1 exercised and learned about a new sport. To enhance large motor development the children kicked a soccer ball while running and used a bat to hit a ball. During circle time the children enhanced their cognitive skills, by finding different shapes in photos of sport activities and matching different colored bats with each other.

During the second week in November Toddler 1 blasted off into the theme on "Space". The children explored with creative art to finger paint their own planets. Gross motor skills were worked on as the children pretended to walk on the moon, by walking in large slow steps and hop-

ping around the room.

For the third week of November, Toddler 1 enjoyed a theme on "Favorites". During circle the children focused on communication and language skills, they were encouraged to talk about some of their favorite things including, food, toys and animals. Literacy was introduced as the children listened to their favorite songs and stories; "No David" was the most popular book. Reintroduction to previously explored activities was the focus throughout the week, as the children were able recreate project that they enjoyed from the pass year. These projects included crunchy star fish and making English muffin pizzas.

Toddler 1 finished the month learning about "Turkeys and Thanksgiving". Dramatic play skills were in-

troduced as the children play with dress up clothes and play food. At project the children worked on their math skills and counted feathers on a turkey. Fine motor was improved while the children rolled corn on the cob into paint to make "corn prints". The children listened to stories about thanksgiving and were so exciting to talk about some of their favorite food to eat with their families. Lisandra and I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend!

As always, parents please make sure you child has the appropriate clothing for going outside. The center goes outside if the temperature is above 32 degrees. Also Toddler 1 would like to welcome Seyge and her family to our class. For the month of December, Toddler 1 will be celebrating all the upcoming holidays

Preschool 10 Continues

To further emphasize the importance of working together the class celebrated "Thanksgiving". The children were encouraged to discuss what they were thankful for and their favorite things to eat on Thanksgiving Day. Creative art was worked on as the class painted a giant turkey; each child was able to add a feather with what they were thankful for to the collage. Creativity and sensory was worked on as the children made turkeys with their hand prints.

November ended on a friendly note as the children focused on "Friendship and Manners". The children made a list of good manners and practiced them all week. To enhance social skills each child contributed their own patch that would be added to a friendship quilt. Sharing was reinforced as the children made friendship bracelets and traded them with each other. Preschool 10 discussed what makes each one of them special and how to be a good friend.

Christmas is just around the corner! In the month of December we will talk about winter animals, Hanukka, and Kwanzah, Christmas and New Year's. Preschool 10 wants to wish Kalyani and Madeleine a Happy Birthday.



Going On a Bear Hunt With Toddler 3

Toddler 3 started the month of November with a week on "Bears". During bear week the children learned all about bear habits, hibernation and their eating habits. Sensory was explored as the children played with plastic bears and shaving cream in the sensory table. The children followed the directions of a recipe to make bear shaped biscuits and later decorated them with chocolate sprinkles. Gross motor was enhanced as the children participated in the *Teddy Bear, Teddy*



Bear song.

The following week Toddler 3 learned all about "Turkeys". Creative art was explored by the children as they used feathers to paint a turkey; the feathers were later reintroduced in the sensory table. The class enjoyed making beautiful hand print and rubber glove turkeys. To end the week language development was the focus as the children followed along with the Turkey song.

Thanksgiving was the theme for the third week in Toddler 3. Dramatic play was enjoyed by all the children while playing with pretend food. The children were encouraged to work on their fine motor skills by rolling corn on the cob into paint and then on construction paper to create beautiful imprint's and patterns. Also the

children enjoyed making their very own thanks giving collage, using magazine cut outs.

During the last week of November the children worked on their "Five Senses". The children explored their sense of taste as they tried multiple sweet and sour treats such as, honey, lemon, pickles and sweet caramel. Sensory was enhanced as the children were allowed to put their hands in a bag and feel different material's such as cotton, aluminum foil and twigs. Creative art was the focus as the children added kool aid, vinegar and vanilla into different color paint, to create smelly art. The class ended the week by creating a volcano; the children especially liked the explosive outcome.

Center News

- Free Christmas Shopping- 12/10/11 9am-5pm
- Trampoline Place (Fun Day)- 12/14/11
 - Food drive-12/16/11
- Hat and mitten Drive -12/16/11
- Fun Days- 12/28 and the 29
- Closed for the Holidays- 12/26, 27.30 and 1/2.



Snowman Fun In Infant 5

During the month of November the Infants learned about Thanksgiving and winter. They started off the month with a week on "Pilgrims". Creativity was worked on as the children create pilgrim with their footprints. Language was enhanced as the children listened to a new song about Thanksgiving. Throughout the week the class did many activities on the floor as



they worked on strengthening their gross motor skills.

The following week the infants went Goble, Goble over "Turkeys". Sensory and peer interaction was introduced as the infants used their feet to make footprint turkeys and shared a stuff turkey toy. Language and literacy was enhanced as they listened to the five little turkeys and read a turkey book.

Lastly the infant slipped in to a week on "Snowmen". With help from their teachers the babies made a

snowman with their palm prints and were read the book *Baby Donald Makes a Snow-friend*. Frosty the Snowman was a favorite song in the room.



For the month of December the infant room will finish up winter and learn about Christmas and Chanukah.

Preschool 13 Flying With the Birds

Preschool 13 began the month of November learning about animals. Creative art was displayed as the children create "Monet" type of dot pictures of different animals. Gross motor was developed with music and movement after reading "Going on a Bear Hunt" and "building nests" outside on the playground. Speaking of nests, Canadian geese flew overhead which sparked talks about birds migrating south for the winter.



Entering the second week of November, with a spell of warm weather the group found a perfect, sunny day to have lunch with the Canadian Geese. Spatial awareness was enhanced by creating a stop light; the children were encouraged to place the lights in the appropriate order. Scientific thinking was explored as the children mixed blue & yellow paint to create shades of green; this project was

enjoyed by all. Movement and listening games were also enjoyed by the children; Red Light, Green Light quickly became the favorite.

The following week the children learned about "Turkeys". Using hand-eye coordination along with the pincer grasp the class was able to create a tiger in cage using Q-tips for painting and Kleenex boxes for the cage. To further emphasize fine motor the children were given string to lace the tiger into the cage. The entire class celebrated a "un-birthday" on November 16th with birthday crowns, dancing, games, special snacks... Twizzlers... YUM!

The next week brought the class closer to Thanksgiving which led into talking about what we are thankful for...

Rohan: my mommy, daddy, Lilli & my cats. Grama & Granpa
Kamal: daddy, mommy, brother & auntie
Hunter: my cats!
Karina: my daddy!
Colby: my mommy, daddy, Kelsey, Zachary & Skippy and Marshmallow
Kaylee: my cat, my Granma, my Granpa,

my mommy, my daddy & my cici.
Ava: my mommy, deedot and my daddy
Zachary: my mommy, my daddy, gama, Taylor, Lilly my dog & memmay.
Natasia: my mommy, my daddy, me, my granma, my granpa, Allison & Emma, myself and God.
Miss Kathy: my boys Antonio & Vinny, my family, my close friends, and I am grateful for my new job here at DZLC and my new preschool friends!



The last week of the month the class kept busy with new silly stories and projects to get ready for the holidays like making ornaments and singing songs such as BINGO & Farmer in the Dell.

Toddler 2 Enjoys Their Cookies

Toddler 2 started the month off with one of the children's favorite themes "Farm". Gross motor skills were worked on when the children played a game of animal musical chairs. Austin enjoyed himself so much he would get up and do a little walking. Then he sat down and got up again to try jumping to the music. Every day for circle the children would request to sing the flannel board song "Old McDonald". The children learned the names of many animals on the farm and their babies. Language and literacy was the main focus as the children enjoyed all the wonderful farm animal books that Nickie shared with the class. Science was explored when the children had to listen very quietly to the sounds of farm animals on a "CD." The week ended with a taste tasting of different kinds of food that grows on a farm such as, cucumbers, carrots potatoes and celery.



The second week flew by as Toddler 2 did Owls for their theme. The children enjoyed a new circle song- Owl in the tree says, "who, who, who" as they identified their names. Sorting skills were enhanced by the children as they matched owls that were cut out of wrapping and wallpaper. Toddler 2 explored with creative art as they used feathers to paint owls on an easel. The children made their own owl snacks and then helped a stuffed owl toy find his snack of mice that were hidden around our room. Literacy was heightened as the children listen to "Good- Night Owl".

During the third week of November the children did a theme on "Cookies" Throughout the week, the children learned new songs and heard different stories about cookies. The class practiced fast and slow passing skills with their friends at circle time. All the children were able to go on a cookie hunt around the room to find as many cookies as they could. Afterwards the children were encouraged to use their math skills to count how many cookies they each had. During creative art each child had an opportu-



nity to create their own cookie with sprinkles. Well you know we all had to do a little taste test of the sprinkles. Yum,yum. To enhance our gross motor skills we played a game of "Cookie Monster's Cookies" The children each had a chance to toss plastic cookies through Cookie Monster's mouth. This game was enjoyed by all. We ended the week by making a treat called "Cookie Crumble" - each child crumbled up cookies and put it into pudding and mixed it up.

Thanksgiving was our next theme. The children enjoyed finger painting on a cookie tray and then pressing a turkey body onto it which added texture. The toddlers follow along to the Five Little Turkeys and the Mr. Turkey song. They made coffee filter turkeys and added feathers to a big turkey cutout. Everyone tried on a turkey hat and then spoke turkey- Gobble Gobble Gobble!

Literacy; Food For The Brain

Early Literacy Behaviors

- **Book Handling Behaviors**

Behaviors related to a child's physical manipulation or handling of books, such as page turning and chewing.

- **Looking and Recognizing**

Behaviors related to how children pay attention to and interact with pictures in books, such as gazing at pictures or laughing at a favorite picture. Behaviors that show recognition of and a beginning understanding of pictures in books, such as pointing to pictures of familiar objects.

- **Picture and Story Comprehension**

Behaviors that show a

child's understand of pictures and events in a book, such as imitating an action seen in a picture or talking about the events in a story.

- **Story-Reading Behaviors**

Behaviors that include children's verbal interactions with books and their increasing understanding of print in books, such as babbling in imitation of reading or running fingers along printed words.

Early Literacy Does Not Mean Early Reading

Our current understand of early language and literacy development has provided new ways of helping children learn to talk, read, and write. But it does not advocate "the teaching of reading" to younger and young children. Formal instruc-

tion which pushes infants and toddler to achieve adult models of literacy (i.e., the actual reading and writing of words) is not developmentally appropriate. Early literacy theory emphasizes the more natural unfolding of skills through the enjoyment of books, the importance of positive interactions between young children and adults, and the critical role of literacy-rich experiences. Formal instruction to require young children who are not developmentally ready to read is counter productive and potentially damaging to children who may begin to associate reading and books with failure.

—Brian Wonders—

