



Discovery Zone Gazette

September 2011

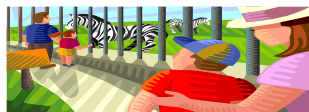
Preschool 11 Loves Their Family

Preschool 11 started off the beginning of the school year with a theme on, "All About Me." Through this theme the classroom discussed the aspects of each child that made them all unique. Fine motor skills were increased through a project in which they stated their favorite color and made pictures with that color. Cognitive thinking was enhanced when the preschoolers had to think about what it was that made them each special. They all filled out an, "All About Me" page in which they discussed some of the things they liked and disliked. Some examples being: favorite foods, least favorite foods, favorite toys and what they liked most about school. Their responses were all special and our currently displayed on our bulletin board in the classroom. Vocabulary was improved upon when each child brought in a baby picture of themselves to share with the class at circle time. During this time, the classroom discussed the characteristics of themselves that were the same now as when they were a baby and the characteristics that had changed since they were a baby.

Next, Preschool 11 learned about, "Apples." The class started off the week by working on their cutting skills when they made their own apple

pies out of paper and tried to cut out a circle when they were done. Cooking skills were worked on when the preschoolers made yummy apple pizzas. This was a cooking project which all the children seemed to enjoy and everyone ate right up! The preschoolers enjoyed a sensory project and were able to get their hands messy when they made apple prints with different color paint and real apples. Creative art was enhanced when each child practiced drawing their own apple and worked on creating circles with markers or crayons. To end out the week, Preschool 11 enjoyed a taste test of different apples and graphed which ones they liked the best.

For the third week in September, preschoolers started a theme on, "Families." Family recognition was increased when the children brought in a picture of their families and identified the



different members in them. Fine motor was improved upon when the class created their own family tree. The class also enjoyed a sensory experience with babies in the water table and different items that could be found in the

bathroom to use with them. During circle time preschoolers learned a new song and enhanced color recognition with our, "Homes" song. Preschool 11 also enjoyed a fun "Shoe Match" game in which they had to use their matching skills to identify whose show belonged to whom. To end out the month of September, Preschool 11 learned about, "Shapes." Shape recognition was enhanced throughout this week with different activities that were done at circle time such as: shape flash cards, a shape matching game and an activity called, "What Shape is This?" Fine motor skills were enhanced when the class made a pizza with different shape toppings and sponge painted with various shapes. The preschoolers worked on following directions with an activity called, "Shapes in Motions" in which they had to listen for the shape they were holding to be called and do the action associated with it. The children also got to be shape detectives and locate different objects around the room that they found looked like certain shapes and shared them with the class. During this week, the preschoolers also worked on writing out their names to improve their writing skills.

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Discovery Zone Learning Center

Original Works due back-10/14/11
Special- 10/20/11
Halloween Parade- 10/28/11
Early dismissal- 10/12 and 10/26



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Preschool 10 Is Out Of Space

As all the classes get back into the fall routine Preschool 10 explored many areas of learning. First we jumped into "Space". Creative art was enhanced as the children created blob aliens and the constellation. Social and emotional skills were encouraged as the children discussed the different planets and what they looked like.



The children were able to work on their cognitive skills as they worked on recognizing

Next we started "Back to School" for two weeks.

ing their shapes, colors, and letters. Pre-writing skills were enhanced as the class wrote their names. As the week came to an end, scientific Inquiry was the main focus in the class as colored ice-cubes were used to mix and discover primary colors.

The following week was focused on, "All About Me"! The children discussed the importance of family and how different each one is. Social and emotional skills were developed as the class looked at pictures of their families. Creative art and language were enhanced as preschool 10 created a family collage and learned a new song about them.

For the last week in September

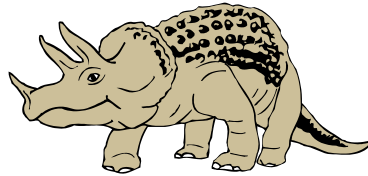
week the class learned about "Apples". The class enjoyed using their creativity as they painted with apples to make apple prints. Math skills were acquired as they followed the recipe to make applesauce and apple pizzas, which they loved. They used their fine motor skills by lacing string through an apple and by cutting out their own stained glass apples made from contact paper. The children discuss the different kinds of apples and compared and contrasted them. Preschool 10 welcomes Gracie C. to our class. We would like to wish Happy Birthday to Brady M. and Madison S. In the next month we will learn about pumpkins, fall, and much more!

Stomping Into Fall With Preschool 13

Preschool 13 was excited to begin the new school year. September was started by celebrating with a theme on "All About Me" Week! During this week the children discussed their favorite things to do with their families. The children enjoyed making an "All about me book", talking about how old they were, their favorite color, and food! The children worked on their spatial awareness by creating self portrait where they identified their hair and eye color. We also created a dramatic play center where the children were able to practice their silly faces in mirrors; what fun it was to show each other the faces they could make!

During the second week of September the children were ecstatic to learn about "Dinosaurs". The children practiced their sing and recite skills with a song called "I'm Being Eaten by a Tyrannosaurs Rex". Preschool 13 enjoyed the sensory table being transformed into a dinosaur

habitat, complete with sand, dirt, and small trees. The children had fun recalling the names of their favorite dinosaurs during our dinosaur puppet art project. At the end of the week the children discovered that there were different eating habits of the dinosaurs including the differences between herbivore, carnivore, and omnivore.



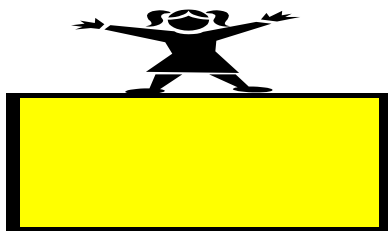
The third week of September focused on "Shapes". The children were able to identify different shapes as well as draw them. The class spent time focusing on their fine motor skills by drawing different shapes in shaving cream as well as practicing cutting shapes in sensory table. During this week we created hearts with our hand

prints and finger painted different shapes that created letters. At the end of the week Preschool 13 enjoyed working on their coordination and movement in a game of shape Hokey-Pokey where the children identified the shapes to put in the middle.

Preschool 13 was very excited to have Ms Kathy join us in the last week of September. She was very excited to start new themes with the children starting off with Apples! We look forward to learning with Ms Kathy and best wishes goes to Miss Kelly and her new baby. Next month we can look forward to exciting Fall themes and getting ready for the colder weather!



To end out the month of September, Preschool 11 learned about, "Shapes." Shape recognition was



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Preschool 11 Continues

different activities that were done at circle time such as: shape flash cards, a shape matching game and an activity called, "What Shape is This?" Fine motor skills were enhanced when the class made a pizza with different shape toppings and sponge painted with various shapes. The preschoolers worked on following directions with an activity called, "Shapes in Motions" in which they had to listen for the

shape they were holding to be called and do the action associated with it. The children also got to be shape detectives and locate different objects around the room that they found looked like certain shapes and shared them with the class. During this week, the preschoolers also worked on writing out their names to improve their writing skills.

Apple Picking With Toddler 3

September was a very eventful month. Toddler 3 started the month with a theme on "Getting to know you". Sensory was explored as the class played in clean mud (tissue paper and soap); this activity was enjoyed by all. Cognitive development was the main focus as the children played a picture matching game. Toddler 3 ended the week by making mirrors out of tissue paper and manila folders.

The following week, Toddler 3 explored a favorite September theme, "Apples". Creative art was enhanced as the children painted with apple slices. The children worked on language development by singing along to "The Apple Way Up High" and "See the Apples".

Apples were explored further, as the children had a taste test of sour and sweet apples. The class was exposed to different textures and colors as they played in the sensory table with the apples.



Toddler 3 said goodbye to summer and hello to fall!!! The class celebrated the coming season with a new song "Leaves are Falling". A fine motor skill was improved while the class ripped tissue paper to glue on leaf cutouts. Peer interac-

tion and cooperation was learned as the children took turns while playing "Pin The Stem On The Pumpkin". Classification was worked on as the children sorted different color leaves.

To end the month of September Toddler 3 enjoyed a week on "Bears". To enhance vocabulary the children were encouraged to vote on their favorite teddy bears. A new song was introduced at circle that was enjoyed by all the children. To explore sensory the class used chocolate pudding to color brown bears. Toddler 3 improved their math skills by counting and sorting gummy bears in the sensory table.

Center News

- **Original Works** - Due back October 5th
- **Fun day**- October 10th
- **School agers Early dismissal**— October 12th and the 26th.
- **Special**— Trash to Tunes with Dennis Waring, October 20th.
- We will be having our annual spooky Halloween Parade on October 28th. Costume, Special Treats, and the Halloween Parade will be enjoyed by all. **Come and join the festivity**



The Wheels Are Turning In Infant 5

The infant room started off the month of September learning about transportation. Language and vocabulary was the main focus as the children listen to books such as "Ben's First Ride," and the "Wheels on the Bus." Peer interaction was encouraged as the babies shared toy vehicles and helped each other finger paint a big school bus.

Next for transportation, the infant room had a week on "Bulldozers". The children listened to



books such as "Billy the Bulldozer," and sang "The bulldozer Song." They played with big trucks and bulldozer toys and helped glue dirt to a trucks. Creative art was explored as the infants made a safari scene with giraffes for the original works projects.

Lastly, the theme for the infant room was apples. Language and literacy were enhanced as the children listen to books such as "First Works," and sang songs like "The Apple Song." The babies

played with applesauce as a sensory project and made apple prints by dipping apple slices into paint.

The infant room would like to welcome Addam and Raegan! We also want to wish Chloe and her family good luck.

For the month of October, the infant room will focus on Halloween! We will sing all sorts of Halloween songs and read many books. The babies will do projects involving pumpkins, ghosts and bats.

Exploring With Science In Toddler 1

Toddler 1 began the month of September with a theme on "Dinosaurs". During this week the children participated in several fine motor and creative art projects. The children stomped dinosaurs in "mud" and made 'dino' prints. Toddler 1 enhanced vocabulary skills while enjoying books and games about dinosaurs. The teachers and children had so much fun using their gross motor skills and acting like dinosaurs inside and out.

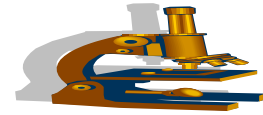
For the second week of September Toddler 1 learned all about "Shapes". At circle each day the children were asked to find different shapes around the class room. Cognitive thinking was improved when the children were able to match different

shapes with each other. Fine motor was incorporated at project; shaving cream shapes, cookie cutter play dough and glue shapes were all done.

Next Toddler 1 explored "Apples". The children used their five senses to explore the different types of apples, taste was their favorite sense to use!. Cognitive skills were used when the children matched apples at circle. Also this week the whole center enjoyed a special on music. All the children used their gross motor skills while dancing to the wonderful music.

September came to an end with a week on "Science". Scientific exploration was enhanced as the children predicted what different objects would float or sink when put into a

bucket full of water. The older toddlers really enjoyed choosing different items. Sensory and cognitive skills were used throughout the week during the following projects; stormy clouds, kool-aid painting and flying bugs.



Next month Toddler 1 will have a "frightful" month with the following themes: Fall, Pumpkins, Monsters and Halloween! Reminder to parents please label of your child's belongings. also please make sure your child's cubbies has the weather appropriate clothing. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather.

Toddler 2 Is Very Colorful

Toddler 2 started off the month with a theme on "All About Me" To enhance vocabulary the children were introduced to several new songs pertaining to our theme. Science was explored when the children did finger painting with smelly shampoo on a mirror. The children enjoyed seeing themselves in the mirror after the teacher wiped away the shampoo. To enhance their spatial awareness skills all the children participated in making a face collage. Please take time to look at the bulletin board to see what a great job the children did. At circle time each child had a chance to look in the mirror to see what color eyes they had. The Toddlers ended the week with learning a new game called "Who's Knocking At My Door?" Each child had a turn to knock on a paper house and then open the flap to see whose picture was underneath. They enjoyed guessing whose picture was there.

The second week of September was all about "Colors". One song they enjoyed was the "Colored Cats".

Everybody picked a different colored cat and then the toddlers sang about



each cat. The children used squares of colored tissue paper to create their own rainbow pictures. Scientific observation was used as the class mixed two colors together to discover a new color.

For the third week, the children explored with a theme on "Science". At the beginning of the week all the children made their own colored water to put into ice cube trays. When the ice cubes were frozen, they used them to design water color paintings. The Ice cubes were later used in the sensory

table. Social and emotional skills were introduced as the children used flashlights to investigate the different rooms. .

Towards the end of September, Toddler 2 did a week on Literature. Pre-literacy skills were reinforced as the class listened to the story "Who Stole The Cookie, From The Cookie Jar". Math skills were worked on as the children used a finger puppet with cookies to do "Five Little Cookies". Fine motor was explored as cookies with shapes inside were passed around to see if they could take them apart and put them back together. Flour was put in the sensory table along with cups for the children to play with.



October will have themes pertaining to Fall.

Preschool (3-5years)

Developmental Milestones

Skills such as naming colors, showing affection, and hopping on one foot are called developmental milestones. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age. Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, behave, and move (like crawling, walking, or jumping).

As children grow into early childhood, their world will begin to open up. They will become more independent and begin to focus more on adults and children outside of the family. They will want to explore and ask about the things around them even more. Their interactions with family and those around them will help to shape their personality and their own ways of thinking and moving. During this stage, children should be able to ride a tricycle, use safety scissors, notice a difference between girls and boys, help to dress and undress themselves, play with other children, recall part of a story, and sing a song.

Positive Parenting Following are some of the things you, as a parent, can do to help your preschooler during this time:

- Continue to read to your child.



Nurture her love for books by taking her to the library or bookstore.

- Let your child help with simple chores.
- Encourage your child to play with other children. This helps him to learn the value of sharing and friendship.
- Be clear and consistent when disciplining your child. Explain and show the behavior that you expect from her. Whenever you tell her no, follow up with what he should be doing instead.
- Help your child develop good language skills by speaking to him in complete sentences and using "grown up" words. Help him to use the correct words and phrases.
- Help your child through the steps to solve problems when she is upset.
- Give your child a limited number of simple choices (for example, deciding what to wear, when to play, and what to eat for snack).

Child Safety First As your child becomes more independent and spends more time in the outside world, it is important that you and your child are aware of ways to stay safe. Here are a few tips to protect your child:

- Tell your child why it is important to stay out of traffic. Tell him not to play in the street or run after stray balls.
- Be cautious when letting your child ride her tricycle. Keep her on the sidewalk and away from the street and always have her wear a helmet.
- Check outdoor playground equipment. Make sure there are no loose parts or sharp edges.
- Watch your child at all times, especially when he is playing outside.
- Be safe in the water. Teach your child to swim, but watch her at all times when she is in or around any body of water (this includes kiddie pools).
- Teach your child how to be safe around strangers.

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it will be time for him to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat of the vehicle. The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) has information on how to keep your child safe while riding in a vehicle.

