

# The Pre-K Post

February 20th, 2009

## Recycling continues!

Children's interest in our topic keeps growing and children keep asking questions and keep on exploring it. This week we analyzed more in depth the meaning of our "R" words (**Recycling, Reusing and Reducing**).

Lots of explanations came from our story books (we have a large collection on this topic) and many times it was the children who had the answers. There were some in depth discussions, exploring the concepts of *reusing* and *reducing*. Then for *recycling* we had a story book that explicitly explained how each material goes into a special machine, at a *factory*, and this machine *melts* the items we recycle. The paper is being washed, *bleached* and then dried. This is how the paper becomes new paper. There were pictures that made it even clearer.

In the meanwhile children keep bringing recyclable materials to school and together we analyze them and we decide where they belong: in the recycling bins or our art materials container. After discussing about where the paper comes from, our scrap paper is piling up and children use it when undertaking an art project, instead of throwing away. Our regular paper is used for drawing, painting or making cards. So we are using our materials very responsibly!

It is important to **remember that the point of reusing materials** to make new ones is to reduce the amount of garbage we fill the world with; **we have a responsibility to take care of the world and keep it as clean as possible**. This message ties directly to the Torah lessons we have been learning, about the responsibility that Hashem gave to man to take care of the world around us.

We also have a big collection of bottle caps and lids and children are very creative when using them. We hope everyone had a chance to notice some of the projects that remained in class, as most children choose to take their work home.

We are also continuing fixing our books, our *fixing book club* is active; when children find books that

## Class Notes

- Thank you, Lena, for coming in to show us how to make paper from paper that was already used. It brought the concept of recycling to life, and the children really enjoyed it!
- We encourage children to keep bringing fun recyclable materials, like lids, corks, nice looking boxes, egg containers, canisters, colorful paper, etc.
- Next week, Friday, February 27, we will be having a **community Shabbat dinner**. Always an enjoyable experience, there is a simultaneous children's program while adults get to mingle together and hear an interesting speaker. Please join!
- Please mark your calendars for our **Purim Party - Tuesday, March 10 at 5 PM**. Please also note that Preschool will be **closed** that day.
- We are planning a grand Purim food-gift exchange for **parents!** More details will be coming soon.



need fixing, we do it right away.

Our table activities are planned carefully. While Morah Dena takes a few children upstairs to the literacy room, Morah Chaya and I either help children with their art work (we often need to use the glue gun so there is a need of an adult's supervision and support) and also work with one or two children at the time, engaging in mathematic or literacy activities. When working with one or two children only, we are able to take notice of individual needs and in this way we can support each child appropriately.



### SKILLS ADDRESSED THIS WEEK:

#### Math/Logical Thinking:

- Daily math activities planned for individual children, working with children at their own level.
- We continue to read the thermometer; children becoming more and more confident when reading numbers such as 40, 50, etc. Also concepts such as *above, below, lower, higher*.
- Acknowledging shapes and sizes when undertaking an art project using recyclable materials (when making a person, what size body would look appropriately considering the size of the head, etc).

#### Literacy/Communication:

- Daily literacy related activities planned for individual children, working with children at their own level.
- Revisiting new vocabulary we acknowledged during our unit on Recycling.
- Making signs for our bins: paper, plastic. In the literacy room children worked on labeling each area: library, games, etc.

#### Social/Emtional:

- Children extending on their understanding of the importance of being responsible: *recycling is a responsible thing to do*.
- Children acknowledging the importance of working with care when handling a glue gun.

#### Fine/Gross Motor:

- Children experimenting with different texture materials: cutting (regular paper, cardboard, egg containers, etc), gluing.
- Dancing, moving like animals (children choosing actions for the chosen animal- The Animal Song).

#### Science/Social Studies:

- We analyzed the importance of not wasting paper, as it is made out of wood; the importance of trees for our environment.

#### Art/Creative Expression:

- Very creative ideas when using our recyclable materials.



### Coming up next Week:

Next week we begin our unit on Purim. Purim celebrates a story set in ancient Persia illustrating how Hashem loves and cares for us always, The story has many lessons for us today, including a very pertinent one of taking the time to appreciate the many things that we may take for granted on a daily basis. Purim is a holiday celebrated with great joy, fanfare and spirit. Get ready for costumes, masks, a grand palace, and lots of glitter and fun!

### TORAH - Yitzchak is Born!

Continuing the stories of Bereishit, this week we learned about how Yitzchak was born to Sara at the age of 90; it seemed so funny that such an old lady would have a baby, that Sara laughed when she heard the news. The name "Yitzchak" means 'to laugh.' Avraham and Sara taught their son how to care for others and do the Torah and Mitzvot; he did not learn from books, but from watching his parents doing these good things all the time. They were good role models for how to act.

### LITERACY CENTER UPDATE:

This week in the Literacy Room we continued finishing our signs from last week and created some new ones. We continued to discuss the idea that words give us information, just as the signs in our room help us know what is done in the different areas. We boosted our letter recognition and used phonetics to spell words such as GAMES, PLAY, AREA, and LETTER. We also played the game of "Sleeping Puppets" - As Morah Dena read a story, each child had a puppet with a certain letter on it. Every time they heard a word that started with the letter on their puppet, they would raise their puppet, as it would "wake up"! Next week we have a surprise activity coming up - we will keep you posted!