



Toddler Class 2008-09

Morah Chaya, Ashi, Evan, Jacob, Levi, Luke, Mendel, Nati, Sholi, Tomas

Week of April 20

It is the season of **Spring!** The children undoubtedly see the “manifestations” of this season; it is our objective for the children:

- To see the **interconnectedness** between the seasons (and the universe), and
- To understand that it is the **weather** that creates the seasons.

We began by talking about what it feels like outdoors. This heightened the children's **OBSERVATION SKILLS** and **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**. Then we compared it to the other seasons in the **yearly cycle**. We took out our “Portfolios” and looked at pictures of ourselves during the Fall and Winter seasons. The children noted that in the Winter, they were playing with the snow and ‘it was so freezing we had to wear a hat and gloves’. They saw pictures of themselves jumping in piles of leaves - during Fall. We went back to our conversation about Spring, what are the different things we could do outdoors during Spring? The children said, ‘we can blow bubbles’ and ‘we could play outside for a long time because its not cold anymore’. This conversation helped the children recognized that temperature outdoors creates the seasons.

Camera in hand, we went on a **nature walk** to see what's going on outdoors?

As we walked we sang;

Tune: ‘Muffin Man’

Do you see a sign of Spring?

A sign of Spring, a sign of Spring?

Do you see a sign of Spring?

Please tell us what you see...

The children were very excited to discover buds, worms, flowers that had opened up, birds, and leaves on the trees. The children took photos of what they found. We then looked at the pictures, each child describing what they saw. (Again, this empowers their skills for *observation* and for *communication*.)

Please see our bulletin board outside our classroom, for the children's **observations**.

At circle time, we spoke about Spring being a time when the world of nature is ready to grow, after taking a long rest - during Winter. How do we feel when we have had a good nap? We feel rested and no longer tired. The world does too.

What things grow from the ground? The children mentioned, trees, flowers, fruits and leaves. We wondered, how do they all start to grow? All plants start as **seeds**. We spoke about what the seed needs in order for it to grow. We need soil, which has vitamins in it for the seed, water / rain and sunshine. We observed different seeds. We looked at seed packets and saw that some had pictures of fruits, some vegetables, and some flowers. The children recognized that each seed produces a different type of plant. At snack time, we cut open some fruit and found seeds inside them too. At circle time we read the book ‘Carrot Seed’. After exploring the different types of seeds, Morah asked the children if they wanted to grow something? The children were very eager and excited. We took Lima beans and put them in a wet paper towel in a bag. “Where would be the best place to put them, since they need a lot of sunlight?” The children replied the window! We will watch to see what happens to them...

SKILLS

Math/Logical Thinking:

- Flower matching game
- Large floor puzzles
- Counting and number recognition with flower petals
- Acknowledging different temperatures

Literacy/Communication

- New vocabulary words: Spring, soil, sunshine, vitamins, seeds
- Reading Spring books.
- Writing Spring vocabulary books
- Communicating observations and thoughts

Art/Creative Expression:

- Singing Spring songs
- Songs with motions
- Replicating observations on to paper drawings and into clay forms

Science:

- Planting Lima beans
- Observing the seasonal shifts outdoors

NEXT WEEK:

We will be talking more in depth about soil, rainfall and clouds.

Reminder:

With the nice weather here, it is time to change the clothing in our clothes buckets, so if you can please bring in appropriate Spring change of clothing.

Please bring in a bottle of sun screen that we can apply to your child before we go outside.

A peek into The Toddler Classroom

April 20, 2009



Nati is looking at different Spring pictures



Ashi is watering the flowers



Sholi is writing the
word 'Spring'

Mendel is smelling the Spring flowers.



A peek into The Toddler Classroom

April 20, 2009



Tomas is playing a counting/ number recognition with flower petals.



Jacob is digging for worms



Evan is looking through his history binder for pictures of himself during Fall and Winter seasons.



Luke is playing a flower matching game.



Levi is hanging the lima beans up by the window so they could get sunlight.