

# A peek into The Toddler Classroom

**W**inter is behind us and spring is ahead of us. We are now in the transitional stage between two seasons. This was a week full of **observations** for our children. It was at circle time that they noted that they do not have to wear hats, gloves or boots when they go outside. Why? What does it feel like outside? Is it cold? No! The new season we are now entering is a warm season. It is **SPRING!** Spring is a warm season, while winter is cold.

We looked outside our window and made observations: *"The trees have no leaves still."* *"There is muddy on the ground."* We were now ready to go outdoors to experience the season first hand. But, first we wanted to **create the connection** for the children between the seasons. We looked at photos of the children playing outdoors in the fall and in the winter.

Outdoors, we saw that the trees are still **bare**, from the winter cold but as the Spring comes, we will see the beginning of growth, of leaves, plants and flowers. We introduced the new vocabulary word - **buds** - and spoke about what buds are. I asked the children what they think the buds will grow into? Some said leaves, others said flowers. Over the next few weeks, we will keep an eye on the buds and watch them grow. Some of the children were very excited when after looking in the soil, of the flower beds, they found some flower **shoots** peeking out of the soil surface, we will keep checking on those too.

At circle time we were discussing ways to bring Spring into our classroom, so that we can feel Spring, not only outside but also inside our Classroom. **Since it is the children's space, the children are part of the decision-making!** The children wanted to 'update' the tree in our classroom. The first thing they did was take down the 'snow' from our tree, since it is no longer Winter. We came up with the idea adding buds. One child said, "We need to add branches and *then* add the buds." How true! We took paper and cut out branches and buds.

This week we have also been focusing on **specific skills**. We introduced a variety of new puzzles, meeting the variety of skills of our children. We sat together in a large group, **working together, supporting each other** and practicing **waiting to take turns**. The children decided to make their own. We used this as an opportunity for motor skills as well; the children cut along the drawn line, and made various shaped 2-piece puzzles!

We have also been talking about the days of the week. We sing a song, as we sing we count the days on our fingers: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Shabbat.

## Extracting the Skills

### ● **Math/Logical Thinking:**

- Variety of puzzles
- Counting and number recognition with flower and petals.

### ● **Literacy/Communication**

- Recognizing beginning sounds of words ie; **Petal, Buds.**
- Writing the letters of our name.
- New vocabulary words

### ● **Art/Creative Expression:**

- Singing our days of the week song
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- **Physical awareness and skill:**
- Cutting branches and buds out of paper.
- Painting, using our fingers, paintbrushes, even toothbrushes!

## Next Week....

- We will continue our transition into Spring, we will be talking about the animals that are no longer hibernating, the birds, the bugs and insects we will be noticing this season.
- We will continue to work on specific skills, and build on those we are currently working on.
- We will begin talking about the upcoming holiday-Passover

**PLEASE LOOK AROUND THE CLASSROOM AND ASK YOUR CHILD TO DESCRIBE HIS/HER LEARNING!**

March 19, 2009

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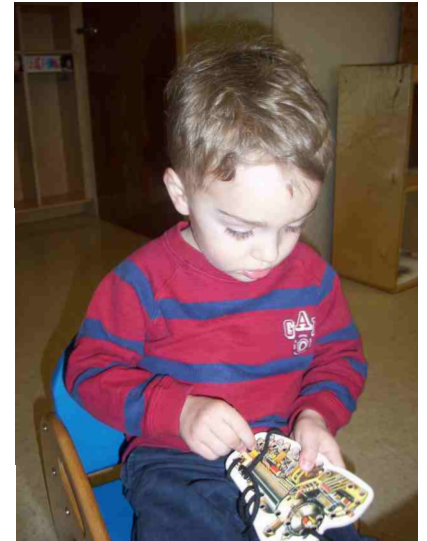
**COOPERATION:**  
Working together  
to complete the puzzle



**OBSERVATION:**  
What's beginning  
to grow?



**AWARENESS:**  
Pointing out  
the buds  
on the trees



**FINE MOTOR:**  
Sewing in and out of  
holes, with a string



**SENSORY EXPERIENCE:**  
Painting with a toothbrush



**LOGICAL/MATHEMATICAL:**  
Finding the right puzzle piece



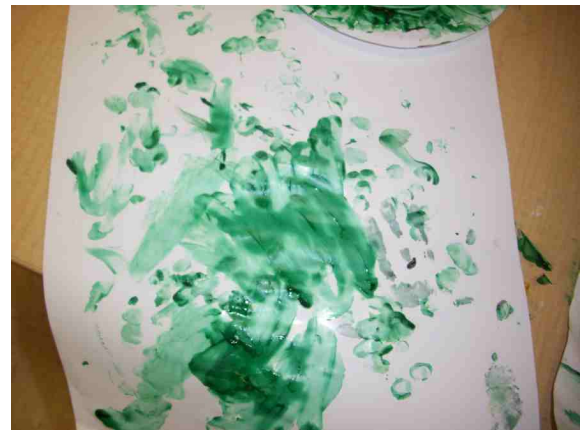
**ECO-CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY:**  
Keeping our yard tidy -  
watching the grass being cut.



**MOTOR SKILLS (PURIM BOOK)**  
Coloring with pencil crayons,  
learning to hold the pencil correctly



**NUMBER RECOGNITION AND ONE-TO-ONE CORRESPONDENCE**  
Counting with flower petals



**SENSORY AND ART:**  
Finger painting



**FINE MOTOR:**  
Tracing around an object



**MOTOR SKILLS & MATH:**  
Making a 2-piece puzzle