

The Pre-K Post

February 12, 2009

Tu B'Shvat

We enjoyed our first day of the week celebrating Tu B'Shvat. Children learned that we need to appreciate all the things that grow. We read a story about the fruits and vegetables that grow in Israel: dates, figs, oranges, olives, pomegranates, etc. Most children remembered to bring their own fruits, so we were able to have a nice fruit snack together with the rest of the school: pomegranates, oranges, grapes, figs, dates, apples, pears, etc. Children were good helpers at peeling and cutting them. We joined the 3's and 2's class to celebrate together.

Recycling

Children quickly acknowledged that *recycling* is something good and that by recycling we are *reducing* the amount of waste, which is the main idea we planned to emphasize on. Hands on activities like sorting recyclable materials into different categories and also materials that we could use for our art area were fun and children were very active and focused on our project. We discovered that there are numbers at the bottom of almost each plastic item and that made the process of sorting even easier and encouraged children to concentrate even more. Our most populated area was the art center where children engaged in individual activities or small group projects. Most children chose to take their work home, which is why we posted a few pictures on the wall by our classroom. They were very proud of their unique ideas and of their final result; good idea to take their work home for Mom and dad to see.

During our meetings we covered concepts such as *landfill*, *pollution*, *toxic*, *harmful*, *layers*, *incinerator*. We had many interesting discussions and we also read story books that helped children understand even better some



Class Notes

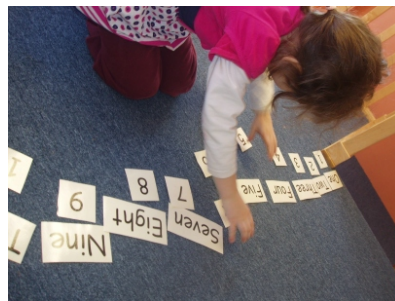
- Reminder: School will be closed Friday, February 13 and Monday, February 16.
- We encourage children to bring recyclable materials, they help us learn more about categorizing them and about the possibility of reusing them (newspaper would be appreciated, too, as we use it when we dry our floor, it gets used quickly).
- Morah Dena will be working with the children in the literacy room and she will provide parents with information as often as possible (please see *literacy center*, next page).



of these concepts.

Children also showed interest in our *fixing books club*, as part of our recycling topic. When we fix books it means we are responsible and we want them to last for a long time. We went through our books in our library and there were quite a few that needed fixing. The same with our toys; we used the glue gun to fix the wooden toys and again, there were lots of helpers!

We continue with our small group math activities (numbers, shapes and symmetry) and also many games that promote letter recognition; we have both math and literacy related resources in most play centers; in this way children will gradually develop more and more interest and will become more comfortable with challenging tasks that relate to these two learning areas.



SKILLS ADDRESSED THIS WEEK:

Math/Logical Thinking:

- Exploring textures, shapes and sizes when using different recyclable materials.
- Acknowledging that the recycling symbol is a triangle.
- Matching numbers with the appropriate word.
- Symmetry
- More advanced patterns

Literacy/Communication:

- New vocabulary: recycling, reusing, reducing, toxic, harmful, landfill, pollution.
- Matching words with the correct numbers.
- Reading story books.
- Acknowledging Recycle, Reuse, Reduce- words that start with letter R.

Social/Emtional:

- Acknowledging the importance of fixing old things instead of throwing them out: fixing books and toys.
- Children sharing their own understanding of recycling related concepts.
- Children experience an environment where their ideas are appreciated (when creating their art projects, etc).

Fine/Gross Motor:

- Children extended on their cutting skills as they used different texture paper (egg containers was hard to cut but children did not give up); plastic, fabric.

- Dancing and free movement at music time

Science/Social Studies:

- Children acknowledged that landfills, smoke from factories, smoke from cars and airplanes make the air toxic. This can make people sick. Analyzing pollution.

- Learning about how plastic, glass and paper are recycled (glass and plastic are melted and paper is bleached).

Art/Creative Expression:

- Creating individual or small group projects usign our recyclable materials.



Coming up next week:

We will continue with our unit, **recycling**, and next week we will explore what is paper made of and how important it is to use it responsibly. This is a topic that is very relevant to us, as the art center is one of the children's favorite area. We will learn that using the paper that does not seem to be useful, as scrap, can save us a lot of paper.

We will also continue with our hands on arty projects. Children were so creative, we simply did not have the time we needed.

Literacy Center:

This will be a topic that Morah Dena will be keeping parents informed about. Morah Delia and Morah Chaya will support children with both literacy and math skills in our classroom, while Morah Dena will be upstairs for an hour with 4 or 5 children at the time.

This week Morah Dena already provided some very useful information about her plans for the literacy room and also information about how are children engaging during the activities.

A little note from Morah Dena: This week in the Literacy Room we discussed what literacy means to us and how we give and receive information through letters and words. In order to make the Literacy Room a more welcoming and exciting place to be we began to make signs designating the different areas of the room.