

The Pre-K Post

March 19th, 2009

PASSOVER / SPRING

Our busy schedule this week evolved around introducing our new unit, Passover, with Morah Dena telling us stories and reading the



Haggadah (in pictures) and also acknowledging signs of spring.

Passover is another story that provides us with the opportunity to retell a story of events that happened many

many years ago. We are discussing practices and this coming week we will be concentrating more on the story.

In the meanwhile children started working on their individual Haggadah (adding to their Haggadah from previous years and the new children making a new one) and also on working on their pillows. We acknowledged how the pillow signifies peace and a time for relaxation. This project promotes development of fine motor skills, as it involves the use of the small hand muscles.



This supports them in extending their writing skills (more confidence with holding the pencil). It is a difficult task, but children have so much satisfaction after each knot!



One of our table activities is setting up the Sedder meal table. Children are encouraged to have a close look and think about what goes where. We also labeled

each object, in this way they can match words with the appropriate objects.

Class Notes

- We would like to ask if anyone would be able to help us build a worm box. A simply made wooden box. We'd appreciate it!

Jimmy working with Morah Chaya; observing a spring flower. Morah Chaya continues working with children on the way we artistically represent an object.



Zushe spelling SPRING.

SPRING RELATED ACTIVITIES



What would it feel like to be a worm? No legs, no arms, no eyes. All we can do is crawl.

SPRING

Children acknowledged that it is not spring yet, but there were definitely signs of spring. As a follow up of our last week's observations, we spoke about worms, about what kind of creatures they are. *Researching* is what we do when we do not know much about a topic. And the research can be done "on the computer" and "from books". There are times when even adults do not have all the answers, which means that the child can ask his/her parent or morah to help finding the answer.

TORAH

We feel safe when we are around honest people. Yaakov, as we learned last week, needed to run away from Esav, as Esav (who made bad choices) has threatened to kill him. He went to his Uncle Lavan's house, which was quite a journey from his home in Israel. Arriving there, he hoped to be greeted with kindness and friendship, but Lavan was not a nice and honest person. Lavan gave Yaakov a tight hug, just to see if he brought money with him! Lavan agrees that Yaakov can marry his daughter Rochel after working for him for 7 years, but he tricks him into marrying his other daughter Leah. He tricks him into working for him for 14 years, so that he can marry Rochel too. Yaakov marries 4 wives, and has 12 sons and 1 daughter – a very large family. He, with Rochel and Leah, are now the parents of all the Jewish people. Of course, Yaakov does not feel comfortable or safe in Lavan's house, because Lavan was always tricking him. He wasn't being honest! It is time for Yaakov to go back home to Israel. He prepares his family, his wives, children, and all their belongings for the very long trip back home.

Coming up next Week:

We will have another busy week with children finishing their pillow project, continuing working on their individual Haggadah. In the meanwhile Morah Dena will continue telling us the Passover story.

Another fun experience was when during our music session children used recyclable materials as instruments; there were different kinds of sounds one more unique than the other.



In one circumstance the word *talent* was brought up, this providing us with the opportunity of exploring this term. It is important to acknowledge that everyone is good at something. It was interesting to hear children sharing with each other about their own talents; we are very proud of being such a talented group!

SKILLS ADDRESSED THIS WEEK:

Math/Logical Thinking:

- Matching game- numeral with correct number of objects;
- Large size triangle/ pyramid. Using blocks in the block area to fill in triangle.

Literacy/Communication:

- New vocabulary- research, knowledgeable, talent, moist, light detectors; vibrations. Also Passover related vocabulary slaves, pyramid.
- Spelling games- spring, Passover, Pharaoh, etc.

Emotional:

- Children learning about Passover;
- Understanding the importance of freedom ((when discussing about slaves);
- Children extending their understanding on the importance of research (what does it mean, how can they do it, who can help them research).
- Understanding the concept of being knowledgeable and how we should continuously learn new things.

Fine/Gross Motor:

- Making knots (working on their individual pillows). This supports children develop their hands' small muscles;

Science/Social Studies:

- Observing signs of spring- noticing the transition period when there are only a few signs, because it is "not spring yet";
- Observing crocuses- stem, petals, roots.
- Exploring worms.

Art/Creative Expression:

- Painting acknowledging spring colors;
- Representing a crocus (drawing) using artistic techniques morah Chaya introduced to the children.