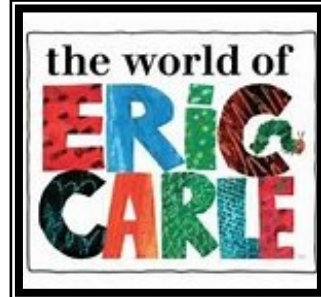


June 19-23 2017



Xayden and Zofia love to play piano together!



For the last two weeks, the children have been reading books by author, Eric Carle. We have been discussing how you can tell that a book is by him. The children noticed that his artwork all looks very similar and they are now able to recognize his unique style. As we looked closer, we noticed that his illustrations are made of paintings that have been cut into shapes and collaged onto paper. We decided to use a similar technique and work in teams to create mini-murals to represent our summer group names-the manos and the nai'as or the sharks and the dolphins. The process involved multiple steps beginning with individual easel painting. The children were encouraged to cover the whole page-quite a task for some! When the paintings were dry, we took them to the rug and began tearing them up into smaller pieces. The act of tearing paper requires some coordination and fine motor control. This is an excellent activity for strengthening the small muscles needed to hold a pencil. Children's development happens in a fashion that goes from large to small. Children first gain control of their head and trunk, then their arms and legs but hands and fingers take a bit more time. Development occurs from the general, (waving of the arms for example) to the more specific, (like holding a crayon and making a mark). These muscles continue to get more refined over time and with experiences to support development. This activity also allowed the children to participate in a joint productive activity where everyone is working together towards the same goal. After they tore up their paintings, they glued them onto the paper that had an out line of their group's animal. It took a long time to cover the whole thing and the children worked hard to accomplish the task as a team. We will hang them on our wall for all to see next week.

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 27

Walking trip to the library to see Uncle Wayne at 1230pm

June 28

International Mud Day

Please dress your child in something you don't mind getting very dirty, bring a change of clothes and a towel

July 30

Waterplay

July 4

CLOSED

Board Games Continued

This week, we introduced a game called Goblets. Some games that we play are really based on luck of the draw, such as Candyland. Others require a little more strategy. Goblets is one of them. Goblets is similar to checkers but played on a smaller board with nesting pieces. The larger pieces can gobble up or cover smaller ones. Although it is only a two player game, it drew a crowd as friends stood around to watch each game. Watching closely can assist in learning how to use



strategy. In the beginning, we model for the children and show them alternatives that would have led to a different result. We will continue to offer this game next week and see how the strategies change and develop.



Wheatgrass Popsicles

This week we made wheatgrass popsicles using wheatgrass that we had grown in our classroom, left over mango and cucumber. Before cutting the wheatgrass, some children noticed it's swift growth and were measuring it. Chance noticed that it was longer than our ruler and asked if he could use a "taller" one that he could see in the teacher area. Using math language during daily activities such as taller, longer, shorter and making comparisons lays a foundation for mathematical concepts. Ms. Gemma brought her juicer and the children were fascinated by the machine. Everyone had a turn at juicing an ingredient and then, we blended the green juice with the mango. We fed the left over pulp to our worms. We poured it into cups, froze them and enjoyed them during waterplay. Not all of the children were thrilled with the final product but they all tasted it!

