



Preschool Newsletter

10/16/17~10/20/17



Uncle Mike's Visit

Uncle Mike came to visit on Monday. He shared pictures of his greenhouse or nursery where he grows all of his plants. He also showed pictures of his plant shop, Living Memories of Maui, where he sells his plants. He asked the children what they knew about plants as he showed them a baby anthurium. "What are the roots for?" he asked, "The roots drink the water!" Sanai replied. "And does anyone know what the leaves are for?" "The leaves collect all the sunlight," answered Keziah. the children remembered these facts from our prior discussions and from participating in our plant movement songs. He then led everyone to the tables where they were each given their own baby anthurium to plant. Uncle Mike showed them the special plant food called fertilizer and one of the children asked if that was how he keeps the bugs away. We told Uncle Mike about how aphids were eating our crown flower plant and so we caught some ladybugs and put them on the plant to eat the aphids. He

said that he uses bug poison in the greenhouse to get rid of pests. The poison is called pesticides but we can make our own from natural ingredients. We will have to make some to take care of our plants. After all of the babies were transplanted, we created a "nursery" area for them by the window. As the children play in the plant shop, they transfer the plants from the nursery to the store. Thanks Uncle Mike!



Embedding Opportunities

Throughout our classroom and playground we embed opportunities for lots of learning to occur. Our centers and activities are set up with intention-sometimes specific to the individual needs of one child but beneficial to all. We pay special attention to observing the children and figuring out their needs and then embedding opportunities to address those needs within the natural environment. One example is the need for more or less sensory input. Sometimes, children can be overstimulated by bright lights and primary colors. We recently painted our classroom all one color to cut

down on this. In addition, we use plants and lamps to soften the room and give a more homey feel. There are spaces available for one child to get away and we keep the visual clutter to a minimum displaying current projects or artwork. For those who need more sensory input, we add items such as the rocking boat or the hammock. The motion of swinging restores balance to the vestibular system. Our vestibular system orients us in space which is the core ingredient of body concept. In addition, we offer lots of opportunities for children to engage in "heavy work." Heavy work consists of pushing, pulling, carrying, jumping & landing, and crashing. Heavy work helps to regulate the proprioceptive system which can help children to be more grounded. It is calming and organizing and helps the child to focus.

Of course, all of this is beneficial to both children with sensory processing issues and people without so all children are invited to participate!

