



Preschool Newsletter

12/18/17~12/22/17



The Passage of Time

Time is a difficult concept for young children to grasp. By creating our calendar each month on poster board, we have the opportunity to reflect on the passage of time with the children. By using consistent icons to document events, the children can "read" the calendar and recall things like birthdays or walking trips. At circle, we lined up our calendar charts from the beginning of the school year (August) until December.

We remembered together the special occasions that had occurred and talked about how our next calendar would have a different number for the new year. We will do this activity again towards the end of the school year and the children will be able to physically see the passage of time over the span of a year.

The Christmas Story

We told the children the story of Christmas by using wooden blocks that represent the birth of Jesus. The children then acted out the story and used the blocks during their center time.



Celebrating the Season!

The children were busy counting beads for their ornaments, baking cookies, printing wrapping paper and decorating cards for Christmas. We also had multiple dance parties playing Christmas music and practicing self-regulation skills through freeze dance.

The children used their picture cards to choose which shaped ornament they would make. We used this as an opportunity to practice math concepts such as "more" "less" and one to one correspondence. At our Christmas pot luck, Ms. Gemma shared her tradition of pulling Christmas crackers and we all got to tell jokes and wear silly hats. What fun was had celebrating the season together!



What group does it belong to?

Children are very observant. They notice similarities immediately and like to group things together whether it's colors, shapes or various items. We decided to leverage this and our new pet and talk about animal classification. We discussed the differences between the guinea-pigs and our turtle. We then talked about similarities between us and the guinea-pigs. The children caught on quickly with regards to characteristics such as mammals having fur or hair and most reptiles laying eggs.

Mammal, Fish, Reptile, or Bird?

Each child was given a plastic animal and asked to describe it to the group. They then had to decide which category their animal belonged to. Then, they had to explain why. When they were done, we asked the group if everyone agreed. Mostly, they did agree...until we came to the whale.



There was a debate over whether it was a fish, like the shark, or a mammal. We will continue this discussion when we return to school and prepare to embark upon our ocean unit.