



KM News

Week of Sep. 29th-Oct. 3rd

This week we began our Lois Ehlert Author Study. Many of her books focus on plants, food, fall, and animals, which is a perfect fit for this time of year. For our first story, we read Growing Vegetable Soup, which is a very colorful book about growing a vegetable garden and making soup. The kids enjoyed looking at Lois Ehlert's labels on each picture, and especially liked naming the vegetables they knew. We played a sorting game with pretend food by categorized them into two groups: Foods that grow from the ground and foods that don't grow from the ground. The kids then cut out food pictures to fill in a food collage. We read an alphabet book by Lois Ehlert called Eating The Alphabet: fruits and vegetables from A to Z, and then the kids made up their own food riddles. The kids drew their favorite foods on a plate, and then thought of clues to describe the food. We had fun trying to guess what was hiding on each person's plate! This week we also read Nuts To You by Lois Ehlert, which is about a squirrel that gets into mischief while gathering nuts for the winter. We then learned some squirrel facts while reading Squirrels by Brian Wildsmith, and then the kids made moveable bushy tailed squirrels. During Stay Days, we read a book by Lois Ehlert called Planting a Rainbow, which shows how seeds and bulbs grow into beautiful flowers. During Stay Days, everyone illustrated their own counting flower book, with a similar format to Lois Ehlert's story. Be sure to have your child read his/her book to you. The kids are learning to identify/read words that they see often, such as color words. They had fun playing color bingo on our Stay Days.

Each week I add some new materials/activities to learning centers. This week I introduced a new routine called "Hop To It" activities. The kids need to complete the *Hop To It* Activities by the end of the week. These required activities could be a writing, drawing, art, or game type of activity that have specific learning goals. Since we have been talking about seasonal changes, the kids painted a fall picture at the art center for their Hop To It Activity. This week I introduced a new Learning Center called "Write Around The Room." The kids walk around the room with a *special* clipboard and pen, looking for letters and words that they would like to write on their record sheet. As the year progresses, and their skills develop, I will ask the kids to look for particular words to copy. This center was very popular this week! (Check out the pictures on the website).

Every week I will introduce a *Silly Animal Sentence*, which focuses on a particular letter/sound. This week, the silly sentence was about a "Cool Cat." We clapped out all of the C words, counted the Cs in the sentence, and scrambled and unscrambled parts of the sentence. During Center Time, I meet with children in small groups to continue reviewing the letter sounds we are working on. For those children who are reading at his point in the year, we will meet in small groups to play word games and read some great books together.

During our Morning Meetings this week we focused on the month of October, and worked on several math concepts. We counted the number of days in the month, figured out how many days until Halloween 😊, learned how to use the calendar (ex: what day of the week will the 16th be?), and counted the number of days of school by tens (practice at home..). Each day the Weather Watcher records the weather on our monthly weather graph. This week, we looked at the weather graph data for September. The kids figured out which weather we had the **least** and **most** of this month by looking at the colored graph.

Here are some questions to ask your child about our week:

- Who was our *Guest Reader* this week?
- What new activity is at the *Science Center*?
- Is there a fun game at the *ABC Center*?
- What did you learn about squirrels?
- Which *Lois Ehlert* book do you like best?

Have a great weekend!

Julie