



## KM News

### Week of Oct. 20-24th

It was pumpkin week in KM. We read pumpkin stories, sang pumpkin songs, played pumpkin math games, and much more! We began the week with the story Pumpkin, Pumpkin (in big book format) that shows a boy planting a pumpkin seed and taking care of it until the pumpkin grows big enough to pick. We talked about how pumpkins grow on vines, and looked closely at each stage of growth. The kids then colored pictures of a pumpkin seed growing and put them in the correct order.

We spent time looking carefully at pumpkins and brainstormed a list of words of descriptive words. Children at this age need plenty of practice using "describing words" to explain their observations. At the end of the week, the kids predicted whether a pumpkin would float or not... ask your child what happened! We also opened the pumpkin, took out the seeds, and then we carved a jack-o-lantern face. The kids enjoyed singing *Orange Pete* and *5 Little Pumpkins Sitting On A Gate*. They played a fun group game called "pass the pumpkin" to Halloween music. The kids also played a partner game called The Pumpkin Face Game with dice.

During Open Circle this week, we talked about how it makes your body feels to be upset, frustrated or angry. We discussed techniques for calming down, and practiced them during our group time. We have illustrations posted in our classroom to help the kids remember each of the techniques. They really wanted to take a set home, so I copied them for each child. If you didn't get our calming down techniques, please let me know.

This week I introduced another Alphabet Animal Silly Sentence about Hilda Hippo who loves hats. We read the sentence together, listened for H words, and identified hidden words in the sentence. We continued to work on rhyming this week. Next week, we will begin playing games and doing activities that focus on syllables in words.

During stay days this week, we worked on the letters E and D in our handwriting books- please practice them at home! We also began *Literacy Stations* this week. The kids rotate through different stations/activities that focus on letters, words, oral language, etc. Each station is designed to include a variety of materials to accommodate different learning styles. The children were very engaged during this literacy time, and seemed to really enjoy the activities.

During math time this week, the kids filled in tricky pattern block puzzles and recorded how many of each shape they used to fill the puzzle shape. We also read The Right Number Of Elephants and talked about what it means to have the "right number" (reasonable number) of something. For example: The right number of cookies for snack might be 2, or the right number of pockets on pants could be 2, 4, 5, 6... how about 20? This led to a great discussion about numbers. The kids then created their own illustrations for a *The Right Number Of...* class

book. Each child picked an idea that they liked, and then decided the "right number." They did a great job illustrating their ideas!

We had very successful nature walks this week. On Thursday and Friday afternoon, the kids had the chance to become scientists and explore the outdoors with trained parent volunteers. The Guiding Question was: How do scientists learn new things? Throughout their outdoor exploration, the kids learned that scientists learn new things by observation, recording, asking questions, and communicating what they have learned.

**A BIG thank you to everyone who came in to help with our nature walks!**

### **Conversation Starters of The Week:**

What did you talk about on your nature walk?

What was the "hop to it" activity this week?

What number is on the # of days of school chart?

Did you help scoop out pumpkin seeds? How did they feel?

What was your favorite pumpkin story this week?

What was in the Mystery Box at the Science Center?

Have you tried the new center: I Spy?

What was your idea for The Right Number of...

(what other ideas can you think of?..)

Have a great weekend!

Julie