



COUNTRY CHILDREN'S HOUSE NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO SCHOOL!

SEPTEMBER 2011



MATH & SENSORIAL

Every week we will focus on a certain number, what it looks like and the value of it, and we will also be learning our number of the week in Spanish and a color in Spanish as well. With each letter of the week in Math the children will have the opportunity to choose many different adding and subtracting and counting works that correlate to the letter of the week. This helps reinforce the phonetic sound of each letter throughout their day.

"A" & "#0" WEEK- We learned that 0 means nothing. We learned that 0 is cero and red is rojo in Spanish. Our shape we reviewed was a circle. We had a lot of fun playing new works for the letter "A" which included ants on a hill, apples on a tree, animal sorting and ant counting on a napkin. We sorted small & large apples.

"T" & "#1" WEEK-We learned the color blue is called azul and the # 1 is uno in Spanish. Our review shape was a triangle. Our new works introduced this week included counting feathers for a turkey work, a train number matching work and in Sensorial we introduced the tactile board. A favorite is treasure chest.

"M" & "#2" WEEK-We learned #2 is dos and yellow is amarillo in Spanish. We reviewed the shape square. We enjoyed many fun choice works for "M" week. Some included measuring with monkeys and a mystery bag game. Our mystery game involved feeling inside a bag and guessing what is inside the bag. We also measured objects around the classroom with a tape measure and a yard stick.

Good questions to ask your child from Math: What did you count today that started with the letter of the week? Who did you do a work with today? What number are you learning about?

SCIENCE & GEOGRAPHY



"A" WEEK-We learned that toads and frogs belong to the family of amphibians. We learned an amphibian is born in water and likes to live in water and on the land. We spent time learning about the ant and how they tunnel. They are very social creatures living in large colonies, each one having a specific job, be it a soldier, a worker or the queen! We learned that an ant has 3 body parts and 6 legs. We predicted whether an apple would float or sink. We learned animals are alive and discovered something that is alive grows and changes.

"T" WEEK-We learned about trees. Trees are some of the oldest, tallest and heaviest things on the planet. We spent time looking at different types of trees. We learned a baby tree is called a sapling. We identified the roots, trunk, branches and leaves. We learned that turtles are reptiles. They lay eggs & their shell serves as protection for them. We learned a tortoise is a special group of turtles that live only on land.

"M" WEEK-We studied magnets-that's a metal that has the power to attract or make iron or steel move towards it. The children enjoyed discovering what would & wouldn't attract the magnet. We looked at our big world map to find the continent in which we live-North America. A map helps to show where things or places are. We looked at mammals and learned that they are animals whose mothers provide them with milk from their bodies until they are old enough to feed themselves. People are mammals.

Good Questions to ask in Science would be: Did you learn about some type of animal or insect today? Do you remember where that animal lives? What work did you choose to do? Who did you do it with? This should open up conversation.



LANGUAGE & PRACTICAL LIFE

Each week we introduce the letter of the week in many different ways. We recognize it visually: we phonetically learn it: we write it using methods from "Handwriting without Tears": we learn it in sign language; and we do the sound box. The sound box is a box for each week which contains objects in it that begin with the letter of the week. Each child has a turn picking out an object and we talk about the sound at the beginning of the word. We then go back around and pull out a word to match to the correct object.

This is also the day that your child glues an object to the letter to help reinforce the phonetic sound. (This is a fun game to play at home with your children each week as well.) We also read stories or listen to them at the Listening Center that begin with the letter of the week. In Practical Life every week we introduce something new that we can pour, scoop, wash or sweep.

Good questions to ask your child from Language and Practical Life: What object did you get out of the sound box? What did you scoop or pour? What is the letter of the week in sign language?

ART & MUSIC



"A" WEEK- We created apple paint prints & learned about famous apple paintings from Warhol, Picasso & Cezanne. We enjoyed singing "Ants Go Marching". We worked on cutting-holding scissors properly & safely & practiced apple cutting. We studied abstract art.

"T" WEEK-We enjoyed making tambourines and dancing to music with them. At our instrument "petting" table we enjoyed real tambourines, a triangle and a tuning fork. We also created different types of texture paintings. We enjoyed music by Tchaikovsky.

"M" WEEK-We studied the classical artist, Monet. We learned his pictures appear "fuzzy" and we created our own Monet art works. We learned about the Mona Lisa by Leonardo Da Vinci. We learned that it took 4 years to paint. At our instrument "petting" table we enjoyed making music with maracas.

We enjoy each day modeling with clay & playdough!

DIRECTOR NOTES



POSITIVE BEGINNINGS: We have had a wonderful beginning to the new school year. We have many new friendships already developing. All of the children seem to be adjusting very well and are really enjoying school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone, note or e-mail with any questions, comments or concerns.

I look forward to getting to know all of your children and working with the teachers in making this first introduction into school a positive experience for everybody.

MONTESSORI CORNER



Who is Maria Montessori? Maria Montessori was born in Ancona, Italy on August 31, 1870. At the age of 60 and with many accomplishments, she was offered a job at Casa dei Bambini, translated to The Children's House. Years of work at the Casa dei Bambini produced a series of conclusions that developed the foundation of the Montessori method. She passed away in 1952, leaving behind a successful educational philosophy and a thriving institution.