

corbis



November 2018

Buzz from the Bumblebees

Happy November! We have been talking a lot about what we are thankful for. Most children picked the obvious: mom, dad, house and food. Some children thought of other things like toys (of course!), indoor toilets, clean clothes and the Incredibles :)

Fall is such a fun time of the year. We went on leaf walks, learned about a few different trees and the different shapes of leaves. We learned about the parts of an apple and experimented with fractions by cutting the apples into pieces and then sharing them for a yummy treat.

In December, we will celebrate Christmas with a secret Santa book exchange and holiday party with crafts and treats. I will be sending more info out soon. We will also talk about other holidays in December. Let me know if you have a holiday/celebration/family tradition that you would like to share with the class!

Below is a quick snippet for each child and a few pictures of the children working. Thank you for letting us be a part of your children's lives!

~Jessica and Danae



Aspen has been working almost daily on the *addition strip board*. She is starting to recognize the commutative law of addition where $2+5=7$ & $5+2=7$. She was also excited to start an *italic folder* recently. She is practicing writing letters on the line and spacing between those letters.

Ava has been working on *puzzle words* (also known as sight words). These are words like the, was, are. They cannot be sounded out and need to be learned by sight. She also enjoys the *syllables work*

where the children match pictures of one (dog) and two (pumpkin) syllable words to numbered cards.

Emma loves painting on the *easel*. Even though she is one of our youngest children, she loves helping the other kids get their painting paper ready and clipped to the easel. She likes to play the *sound bingo game*. In a small group, the leader shows a letter and says the sound. Then the children check their cards to see if they have a match.

Findlay likes anything water related! *Pouring* activities are helping her strengthen hand muscles, gain fine motor control, and preparing her for pouring her own drink at snack time. We have *baby washing* out and there are many steps to this lesson: getting water for the basin, soaping up a washcloth, rinsing and drying the baby.

Hank has already made it to 260 on his *number roll*. He is able to identify and name numbers into the hundreds now. Writing these numbers in sequential order is helping him recognize numbers and is helping his penmanship along with writing the numbers correctly (fixing those backwards 2's!). He continues to love art and makes his own creations almost daily. He is beginning to recognize more sounds through working with the *sandpaper letters* and is able to read more words now.

Harvi is also an art lover! She started a few weeks ago on the *addition strip board* work and has already figured out how to count in her head to find the answer! After much practice with *sewing a button* and showing us that she can follow all of the steps, she was ready for *embroidery- pillow making*. This takes a lot of patience and control to do!

Jean-Nicolas is working on counting and identifying teen numbers with the *hanging teen beads*. He counts a ten bar (ten beads fused together) and places it next to a bead bar of a number less than ten. Then he counts them together and matches the quantity to the numerical symbol. He has also been interested in the *puzzle maps* lately and is learning the names of the countries in *North America* and provinces in *Canada*.

Joshua likes the *hammering board*. Tiny nails are hammered into a cork board making designs with wooden geometric shapes. He likes using the *number rods* to count quantities up to 10 and uses the *sandpaper numbers* to match a symbol (3) to its quantity (***).

Julian is also working on identifying and writing teen numbers with the *teen boards* material. He loves exploring with the *knobless cylinders*, grading and stacking the cylinders that vary in height and width.

Kylee enjoys making shapes with the *metal insets* (a stencil type work). She then likes to "poke" them out with the *pin pricking* work. This lesson is usually reserved for older children because it has a sharp point and takes much focus and concentration to be careful and productive with, but she is so mindful and focused when using the work! She also loves art and water activities.

Leia has been working with the *color wheel*. Eye droppers are used to drop the three primary colors in a circle pattern. Then those colors are mixed and the children see the secondary colors as well. She is practicing correctly ordering numbers 1-12 and writing those numbers with *o'clock lesson*. This work is preparing her for telling time starting with recognizing the hour (short) and minute (long) hands.

Mackenzie is also on a number kick right now. She is writing numbers with the *teen beads* and *number roll* lessons. She likes playing the *sound bingo* game and leading the younger children. She has also been learning to identify the different sounds in short words (cat= c - a - t) with the *I Spy* game.

Nora was excited to have new lessons with the *stamp game*. Wooden tiles represent the decimal system (units, tens, hundreds and thousands). These manipulatives are helping her learn trading with addition and subtraction in the thousands as well as multiplication. She was excited to learn that multiplication is, “basically just addition!” (her words!)

Owen has been *pin pricking* different geometric shapes and learning their names (square, trapezoid, ellipse). He has been working really hard with *the sandpaper letters* and learning sounds. He is beginning to recognize new ones every day!

Richard enjoys *memory matching* games. He also likes small objects and our *famous places* figures are great for that- while introducing him to fun vocabulary like Eiffel Tower, Pantheon, and Giza.

Sylvanna has been really interested in storytelling. She likes to tell stories and act out plays in group with other children. She has been drawing a lot lately too and has incredible details and stories to go with those drawings. We use the *moveable alphabet* at times to help her sound out words like bat and ran in her stories.

Trenton is also using the *moveable alphabet* to breakdown phonetic words (apple= a p l). He is practicing *puzzle words* in preparation for moving up through the phonetic reader books. Trenton loves art and has been making random designs as well as patterns with our *magnetic mosaic* cubes.

Violet is working with the *phonograms* (when two separate sounds make a new sound together: ee, oy). She is also actively using the *bow frame* and learning how to tie friend’s shoes and aprons. This week she had a new lesson with the *hundred board* where instead of rows of ascending order, she made a spiral so 100 was in the middle instead of the at the end. She did it without the control chart and was able to identify correctly every number from 1-100!

Zoe has a great sense of order and really thrives in our environment where everything has a place. She helps younger children put back work on the correct shelf and in the correct space on that shelf. When cleaning up at the end of the morning, she likes to make sure the *bead stair* and *sandpaper numerals* are in the correct order! Zoe also likes our cleaning lessons like *floor scrubbing* and *table washing* which both have numerous steps that need to be done in a specific order. The hand motions for scrubbing are refining her hand muscles and control of movement while indirectly preparing her for reading and writing with the left to right, top to bottom motions.