



WCA Preschool Times



October 30, 2023

I think it's safe to say that everything pumpkin last week was a hit. The jack-o-lantern carving was great to be able to do outside in the beautiful weather! Each child did great with helping to scrape out the pumpkin and then carve out the face. We also did a fun egg carton bat painting project outside too. Many kids liked exploring and playing with the guts of the jack-o-lantern. The geoboard pumpkin was a huge hit with some! The skills being challenged were excellent for hand eye coordination as they used sturdy plastic hammers to put long thick nails into the pumpkin. Then creatively stretching rubber bands from nail to nail was equally challenging. There was an expected surprise for our sensory table that everyone just loved! We had sensory and gel beads with containers, funnels, scoops, and cups. The texture felt cool, wet and just a neat sensory experience. This week we will turn our focus and attention on our community and family. The next few months are a time of year when families celebrate various holidays within their culture. Some may help or volunteer more at various events that serve our communities. At home you can take this opportunity to talk with your child about the traditions your family has and why you celebrate holidays. Children enjoy knowing about their traditions and sharing those with others. I'm looking forward to learning about the traditions in your family! In science we will talk about where rain comes from and the why's and how's of clouds as we do our cloud experiment. It's a simple yet exciting experiment to watch! Slime making is always a fun activity that also teaches about measuring ingredients correctly and witnessing the chemical reaction between them. It's really a great science and math lesson that is fun to play with in the end! Nearly all the activities that I plan include concepts in math, science, reading, fine motor skills and cooperation. The children are engaged and having fun while they are learning and developing important skills! Play is very important developmental work for children and our room is working hard!

Areas of Focus

Family and Community



Literacy and Language



- Books: *Mind Stretching Math Riddles; Amazing Grain, Five Little Piggies, Does Your Grandpa Say Galoshes?, Momma Cat Has Three Little Kittens, All Families are Special*
- My book: *My Family!*
- Playdough Alphabet

Focus Words

*relatives * celebration * textures * grandparents

Math, Science, Sensory

- * Clothes Pin Family Math
- * Rain Cloud Experiment
Shaving Cream, Water, Food Coloring
- * Homemade Slime
Measuring, Following Recipe, Chemical Reactions



Important News

- ➔ Thursday is a half day. Dismissal is at 11:40. Please, send snacks for morning.
- ➔ Thursday are parent teacher conferences.
- ➔ Friday there is *NO SCHOOL*.

School Office: 517-437-2000 Mrs. Draper 517-610-1475

Fine Motor Skills

The National Association of the Education of Young Child (NAEYC) states that many of your child's daily activities—like getting dressed, eating, and writing—require control of small muscles in the hands. We call these skills fine motor skills. Your child can do more things for himself when he has opportunities to practice these skills. There are lots of activities that can increase muscle strength and coordination, preparing children for more advanced skills, from writing with a pencil, using a computer mouse, or playing a musical instrument. Help your child build fine motor skills at home by providing opportunities to...

- Set the table
- Hold knives, forks, and spoons to eat
- Pour juice into a cup
- Wipe the table with a sponge
- Help with meals—stir, shake, chop, cut, and mix
- Get dressed—button, zip, snap, buckle, and fasten
- Use Velcro tabs
- Open and close containers with lids
- Cut with child-safe scissors
- Finger paint
- Use a paintbrush
- Play with playdough and clay—roll, smooch, pat, pound, and use tools like popsicle sticks or stamps
- Draw, scribble, or write with crayons, pencils, and markers
- Put together puzzles
- Place pegs in a board
- Build with small blocks
- Play board games
- Play with puppets

When I plan the weekly lessons I am consistently doing activities, in all subject areas, that promotes your child's fine motor skills. Not only are these muscle groups vital for later school successes, it is also building your child's confidence to take on more challenging tasks. Building confidence in your child and their abilities is of the utmost importance in my classroom. If you are interested there are many great resources and ideas that can be found at www.naeyc.org.

Poem

Rain, Rain Go Away

Rain, rain go away,
Come again another day.
Little (your child's name) wants to play.

