



WCA Preschool Times



October 9, 2023

Last week just flew by! The class has definitely slid into a nice routine and it feels like we have gelled nicely into one big classroom family. We spent time outside as much as we could. The days rain was forecasted, I tweaked the schedule in hopes to miss it. For the most part, we did! All of our caterpillars, but one, have formed a chrysalis. With the temperatures forecasted the next few weeks, I'm nervous we will not be able to safely release them. I've already prepared myself to drive south a little so they have a better chance at a successful migration! Of course, I would video tape their flight for the class to watch. I'm hopeful though that temperatures will swing up a little more! Mrs. Tran and I worked one-on-one with each child on proper pencil hold and name printing. They are doing great! We introduced a new daily sign-in when your child arrives in the morning. He/She finds their name on the table and traces the dotted lines of their name with a dry erase marker. If you do this at home, be sure your child starts forming their letters at the top. The Pumpkin Jack science experiment already has slightly started to decompose. We have mold and I'm sure glad he is in a sealed glass jar! This week we will continue to learn about fall and harvest. There is a corn stalk and soybean plant with their root systems at the science table. We also have whole corn cobs and soybean plants in the sensory table for the class to explore completely. To demonstrate how the root systems work we will use white carnations in water that is dyed with food coloring. The petals will turn color day-by-day right before our eyes! I suspect that making their own sensory bottle will be a big hit too! Pretend play will transform into a fall farmers market with a cash register and shopping bags. So Fun!

Areas of Focus

Fall Harvest



Literacy and Language



- Books: *Pumpkins!*, *Apple Cider Making Days*, *Why do Leaves Change Color?*, *Mouse's First Fall*, *The Scarecrow's Hat*, *Leaf Man*
- Farmer's Market in Pretend Play
- My Fall Book, "What Can I see in Fall?"

Focus Words

absorb * crop * harvest * autumn

Math and Science

- * Making A Sensory Bottle
- * Corn and Soybean Plants
Science and Sensory Table Exploration
- * Color Absorbing Carnations
Root Systems
- * Lincoln Logs



Important News

➔ Heads up! Friday, October 20th is a half day for Prek thru 12th grade, with dismissal at 11:40 A.M. Then on Monday, October 23rd there is no school.

➔ Please, keep sending a coat each day for the morning time outside.

Emergent literacy, or reading readiness, skills begin to develop very early in life. These critical school-readiness skills go beyond knowing the ABC's. Along with language development, children are building their vocabulary. They learn new vocabulary in many ways, including through reading books and talking with adults. Studies have shown that the larger a child's vocabulary, the quicker they will learn to read, as they are familiar with more of the words they will encounter. There are many activities you can do at home to support your child's emergent literacy skills. Talking with him/her, reading to them, signing, playing games, saying nursery rhymes, playing word games, having access to writing materials and books, and taking them to the library will support their literacy. It is recommended by The American Academy of Pediatric that parents engage in 30 minutes a day of literacy activities with their child. Here are some reading tips below!

READING **at Home** with Your Child

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS AND IDEAS TO HELP CULTIVATE A LOVE OF READING AT HOME!

- Let them hold the book as you read
- Allow them to turn the pages
- Invite them to read with you
- Let them finish the sentences if reading with you
- Point to the words as you read so they associate words with reading
- Model reading in front of your child
- Go to the library
- Encourage them to read the pictures and talk about them
- Read the same 2-3 books every day for a week, then switch.
- Read to them daily
- Designate a "reading time" where the whole family sits down to read
- Allow them to choose books
- Talk about the books after reading them
- Be excited about reading with your child. It's contagious!

"CHILDREN ARE MADE READERS ON THE LAPS
OF THEIR PARENTS." — EMILIE BUCHWALD