

## Teddy Bear News

November 19, 2014

Brrrr!! "It's sooo cold!" When the Teddies come waddling into school now, we sometimes have a tough time recognizing them. After we unwind the scarves, pull off the hats and mittens we begin to see our Teddy! We have such fun being so silly. Thank you all, Teddy Bear parents, for all these very warm accessories. I really like the hats! We have a fox, an owl, and a raccoon hat. We have polka dots and stripes. And then we have all my crazy hats which I wear for their smile and laugh out loud value. We will be going out every day that we can. We don't play outside if the temperature is below 30 degrees. The children are handling the chill factor very well. Of course, this is November. We will see how things are going in February!

At the Early Math Table, the children have been sorting colors and small items. They have been working with the number cubes and the rubber bands and geo boards. We were talking about shapes in the Art Class with Miss Suzi. Then the children talked about the lines and shapes they made with the geo boards, the Manga Doodle boards, the dry erase boards, and the crayons and markers at the Writing and Art tables. The Teddies have been working with pegs and small, colored blocks. They look at all their material and set to work on their plan. The children may look like they are randomly stacking or putting the materials in a line. However, as we listen to them we hear some very "early math" language. "I need two more." "You have more than I do." "I am using all blue ones." "I have five blocks." At this center, the children have also been working with matching cards, tangrams, colored links, small shapes with pegs on them with pegboards, and with number and object cards. This is a very popular center. Many children start their morning here and many come back for some more work later in the day.

At the Art Table, we painted two giant turkeys and then glued feathers all over them the next day! We then made some fences for the turkeys by using black paint and forks on Kraft paper. The turkeys and fence are depictions of our latest song about a turkey who is sitting on a backyard fence. We have been doing lots and lots of finger and water color painting. These are very popular art experiences in the Teddy Bear class. We do urge the children to use the available art smocks. Not all take advantage of this opportunity and we surely do apologize for the really challenging laundry situation. We are very thankful for all the great stain removal products.

We have changed out the water in the Sensory Table for a very special sand...Moon Sand.

The children are fascinated by this sand. They play for a very long period of time with it. We have small shovels, rakes, scoopers, and containers. Sometimes a car or truck finds its way in there too. One of the children gathered some up and squished it in her fist. Then she slowly broke it up. "Look! I made a rock. Now I broke it up." Maybe that's where the name comes from...moon rock...moon sand. Go figure!

We also put leaves in the Sensory Table. This was a big hit! They were very crunchy and the Teddies do know how to crunch! We had containers, rakes and many hidden bugs in there also. This provided much fun and many observations.

We have had great fun with our Spanish and Music and Art classes. In Spanish, Miss Colleen introduced us to three of her Spanish friends. A doll named Juan, his sister, Juanita, and their mother, Mama. They in turn, shared their favorite meals with us. Juan really likes breakfast, Juanita likes lunch and Mama loves dinner. So we learned the Spanish words for these meals and for the wonderful foods involved in each.

In Music class, Miss Laura has taught us an Indian chant about the earth. We also learned a turkey dance song which was major fun and then topped everything off with some "kitchen music." The children used pot, pans, Tupperware, and spatulas, spoons and whisks to keep the beat... I can't tell you how great it was! On a very cold day, you might want to try this..maybe with a playdate friend. Then you will treasure the peace that follows!

We are looking forward to our Day with Dads, Granddads, and friends. The children will be having Free Choice time and will be able to show you all the things they enjoy doing. Our only wish is that you try to get on their level. So many big people standing tall are a little overwhelming for some of our children. So, please find a chair and get comfortable. ?? After we play, we will all gather in the center of the room so we can sing our Autumn and Thanksgiving songs for you. Snack is next. Then we will say "Good-bye."

We would also like to extend another invitation to our Teddy Bear families. We do not celebrate any of the winter holidays with the children. Rather, we would like you to come in and share your holiday traditions with the class. You can bring a book or a special snack, or just sit and tell us a story. Whatever you think you would like to share with the children will be just delightful. You can call or email either Chona or myself and we can schedule your visit.

Bye for now!

Chona and Marbie