

Teddy Bear News

September 28, 2015

Hi! Welcome to our first newsletter of our Teddy Bear Class of 2015-2016. We are very happy to report that all is well in the TBC. The Teddies are happy and busy and so, so fun! They are exploring in the water table...filling funnels, catching fish, pouring and measuring, using their eye-hand coordination and their brains. Their comments to each other reveal their thinking. "You have more than me." Some people might view that statement as a complaint. We see that child is making a comparison and evaluating the situation and the amount each one has. Now, I admit. When one of my children said, "She has more than I do..." I did not attribute the remark to higher level thinking....I wish I had. It would have been far more pleasant.

The writing table has become a real hub in the Teddy Bear Room. The children are using markers, pencils, and scissors. We do not instruct. We let the children pick up the scissors and use them on the paper in any way they want. As they try different ways, (upside down scissors is a favorite), they do cut the paper. That is just what their goal was and they were successful! If a child is struggling, we ask if we can help. If so, we put their fingers in the correct holes. Show him how to hold the paper. And, with his hand and ours we make a cut. We will sit by and assist, or just do little cuts on our own paper.

The early writing work the children are doing is just prolific! They are manipulating their writing tools. They are making curving lines and straight lines. They do dots and color over colors. They do up and down work and side to side work. We are delighted with their papers and so are they. With all the toys, cars and dress-ups available in the room it is just wonderful that the children take time out from the cars and trucks, and come over and explore the writing table. Not to say there is anything wrong with the child who doesn't come over. That child is using his/her thinking skills in a different way. Maybe she is using her imagination in the housekeeping area, or "reading" a book." We do have many children who love

to have stories read to them. We refresh the books in the library area frequently. However, we are always careful to keep the favorites on the shelf.

We will tell you more about all the learning going on at our various centers in future newsletters. We don't want to tell all right away. Have to build your curiosity and anticipation. We will tell one more thing. We write and spell the child's name on every paper he/she does. The children listen and learn. Some are spelling with us. All are beginning to recognize their names on the cubbies, on the name cards we hold up for hand washing turns, and on their papers. Consequently, when some children are at the writing table, or the art table working with crayons, they are starting to use "left to right" progression in their "writing". A couple of children are even forming letters! Such magic!

We have had Spanish class and Music class. The Teddies did a remarkable job of sitting, listening, and responding. Of course, Miss Colleen is a delight in Spanish and Miss Laura is equally fantastic in Music. So, that greatly helps hold the Teddies' interest and involvement!

We have been working on the Theme of "Teddy Bear Class ". We talk about being part of a new group that is bigger than the small family group. We are in a very big group now...a class...a Teddy Bear class. We talk about being in a class, sharing the class toys with the other Teddies, waiting for a turn to do something or to even being able to have the teacher listen to their ideas. We painted a big Teddy Bear Schoolhouse. This was a fun co-operative art project. Then the children made paint prints of teddy bears with cookie cutters. We cut these out and put them around the schoolhouse. And we have wonderful pictures around the room of the children interacting at the various centers. The children love to find themselves and their friends in the pictures. As you can see in the pictures in Shutterfly, the children are happy, focused, and very, very busy.

Here are a couple of suggestions that you might do to help your Teddy with the big job of nursery school.

1. If you could come a little early for carpool pick up, it would be a big lift for your child. The children see others going before them. And that's okay for a few minutes. Then, the Teddies get a little anxious. So, if you

would be able to come to pick up carpool at 11:30-11:35 it would be terrific!

2. Please send in family pictures as soon as possible. The children who already have their page made, (thank you, Chona!) are enjoying them very much and telling their teachers and friends all about the special people and places pictured.

Dates to remember.....

October 8th.....School Picture Day

October 9thProfessional Development Day. No school.

October 10thOpen House!! For all classes and families.....11:30-1:30

COMING IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.....

What's happening in the Teddy Bear Room for HALLOWEEN ?!?!?!!!

Bye for now!

Chona and Marbie