

Dear Big Bear and Sun Bear Families,

We will begin one of our most in-depth Science-focused projects of the Pre-Kindergarten year over the next few days...

HATCHING CHICKS FROM FARM FRESH FERTILIZED EGGS!

Simply put, Farmer Carrie, a neighboring, Illinois Farmer who has had a long-lasting relationship with WUNS (for as long as I can remember), kindly donates 20-24 fertilized eggs each year for this amazing Embryology Project!

And so it begins...we incubate the eggs in a carefully controlled and monitored environment within the classroom space. The incubator slowly oscillates the eggs in an incredibly warm and moist space, and we anxiously await hatching day, 21 days or so later.

Our learning objectives for the children, are as follows:

- observe the development of the chick within the egg (see attached chart-and follow the progress at home with your preschooler:)
- observe the hatching of a chick (if all the science stars align). The experience will allow for conversations and wonderings about birth and possible death
- observe social behavior of baby chicks
- experience a chick's need for and response to care given by people
- have the opportunity to relate the development of the chick to the development of other living creatures

Other Skills Preschoolers will observe:

- Observation Skills*
- Fine-motor Skills*: writing/drawing 21 day calendar of chick embryo, and additional projects
- Letter recognition/Pre-reading Skills*: through frequent exposure to "Hatching Chicks" conversations, reading and writing opportunities
- Science Skills*: learn parts of an egg and parts of a chick

The chicks will stay with us in the classroom for a week or so following the hatching process. **They will be up for adoption by WUNS Families:) Please let us know if you are interested.**

Following that, the chicks that are not adopted by families, will be returned home with Farmer Carrie to Millstadt, Illinois. (From Miss Suzy: I have been fortunate enough to visit her farm several times, and it truly a wonderful environment! I too, adopted three chicks myself last year, and they have recently all begun laying, so eggs are a plenty at home:) I would be glad to try and answer any questions you may have about adopting.)

Sincerely,
~Suzy, Heather, Colleen & Katie

Related Readings:

- Let's hatch chicks by Lisa Peele
- A kids' guide to keeping chickens by Melissa Caughey
- Egg by Kevin Henkes
- The long, long journey: The Godwit's amazing migration by Sandra Markle

Link to Chick Embryo Development Drawings:

http://chickscope.beckman.uiuc.edu/resources/egg_to_chick/development.html