



BIG BEAR NEWS



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY NURSERY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019



Dear Wonderful Big Bear Families,

We are off to a great start in the Big Bear classroom! The children have been spending their first several days with us focusing on learning Big Bear routines, rules, and responsibilities. As pre-kindergarteners the children are growing in their independence. Each morning every Big Bear is expected to hang up their backpacks, put away their lunches (if appropriate), wash their hands, and sign in. On our “bookend” days Big Bears also complete other weekly challenges first thing in the morning: on Mondays Big Bears estimate - rather than count - how many items are in our Estimation Jar, and every Friday they share their thoughts and feelings in their BB journals. Our Big Bears are rising to the new challenges of being the oldest kiddos at WUNS!

You may have also heard about your Big Bear’s weekly job on our job chart! As the year progresses, the children look forward to carrying out their responsibility for the week, such as taking attendance, leading calendar, holding the door for their fellow classmates (“bellhop”), and calling BB names for dismissal. It is amazing what children can do when called to contribute, look out for one another, and take responsibility!

Big Bears are also learning how to take care of our classroom during “official cleanup,” how to use inside voices during choice time, and how to be sure to check the orange numbers displayed in centers to find out if there is room for another Big Bear to play there.

During circle time the children are practicing taking deep breaths to calm their bodies and voices and thus to get ready for this shorter, teacher-directed time. At circle we read stories, dive deeper into weekly themes, and complete certain BB jobs. Last week and this coming week our theme is: FEELINGS! We have read relatable, thought-provoking books about feelings (both comfortable and uncomfortable-ALL feelings are okay) and perhaps more important, how to handle our feelings. Books include: Even Superheroes Have Bad Days by Shelly Becker; When Sophie Gets Angry, Really, Really Angry by Molly Bang; The Feelings Book by Todd Parr; and A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Stead.

We also watched a 2-minute Sesame Street music video about how deep “belly breaths” can calm the monster in each of us. Big Bears truly responded to the video and song. Here is the link:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=_mZbzDOpyIA

Watch our Big Bears grow this school year:



Have a wonderful week!
Love,
Ms. Heather & Ms. Suzy :)