



A LOOK AT LITTLE LAMBS

March/April 2009

Dear Parents.

As the weather gets warmer, the Little Lambs are having a great time outside. There are a few activities we'd like to share that may give you some ideas to try at home. The children all enjoy nature walks where we pick up sticks and rocks, look for bugs, and read books in the breeze. Sometimes we even enjoy ice pops together outside at the picnic table. Most of the children are also interested in "I Spy" where an adult says something like "I spy something green, do you see what I see?" and the children try to guess which item the teacher is referring to. The children are also exploring movement by rolling, jumping, spinning, and attempting to do somersaults out on the grass. These "gymnastics" are a great way to stay active and enjoy the sunshine. We hope your families are enjoying this spring weather as much as we are.

Love,
Crystal, Shiloh, and Juanita

Parent/Teacher Collaboration: Trying New Things

The Little Lambs are exploring their independence and are trying a lot of new things, some of which can be difficult and frustrating for them and for the adults supporting them. At this time, many of the children are beginning to wear underwear, transitioning out of a crib and into a toddler bed, trying new foods, and dressing themselves. When trying something new with your child, we encourage letting them see you try it first. Not only will that show them how the new task is accomplished, but also they are more motivated to try it because they want to be like you. Consider letting your child be involved in decision making as much as possible. Give them two or three reasonable options for which underwear they'd like to wear, let them pick out a new food at the grocery store, or have them select between a few clothing options when it's time to get dressed in the morning. This gives your child a sense of control that fosters their independence, while also helping them to be more excited about trying something that is potentially difficult. Above all, remember that it takes awhile for any person, adult or child, to adjust to something new. If something seems to fail at first, don't give up. Take a short break if you need to, but then give it another try. Your child will be thankful for it and will be proud of their new skills soon.



Emergent Curriculum: Using students' current interests and accomplishments to facilitate learning

Language: Children are learning to use their words to resolve conflict. They are encouraged to say things like "I need space", "Stop hitting my body", or "How many minutes?" when they would like to use a toy that another child is using.

Fine Motor: The children are still working on putting on their own shoes and socks. They are also lacing different shape cards with yarn.

Gross Motor: The children are practicing jumping, rolling, and galloping as forms of movement. They are also becoming more skilled at throwing balls and trying to learn how to catch a large ball from a few feet away.

Sensory/Science/Art: The children are still exploring things that grow, and will be growing a class plant. They will also be looking at books and pictures about where different animals live.

Social/Emotional: The Little Lambs are still taking turns with desired objects by asking "How many minutes?" if they would like a turn with an item that someone else is playing with. They are also still working on checking on those who get hurt by asking "Are you okay?" and "What do you need?"

Cognitive: The Little Lambs are developing an understanding of why we have certain rules. For instance, "Why do we use walking feet in the classroom?", "So we don't fall and get hurt."

Literacy: The children are enjoying new story tapes in the classroom. The overall favorite is a book called "Abiyoyo", which is a story about a father, a little boy, and a giant. The children love the story, as well as the music and song that accompany it.

Math: The children are practicing counting in English and in Spanish, as well as trying to identify some numbers in print. They are also learning to use one-to-one correspondence to count up to five objects.

Self-help: The children are still learning to dress themselves, including putting their shoes and socks on with as little assistance as possible. **Please continue to work on this at home as frequently as you can.**

Student Spotlight Ryan Moellenberg



Upcoming Events

- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day- Children are invited to wear green and participate in a special activity with green jello and cookie cutters.
- 4/6-4/10 – Coloring eggs, a Spring egg hunt, and a fruit salad cooking project
- 4/8- Miss Shiloh's birthday
- 4/24- Family gathering at

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C

Student Spotlight Malena Pye



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Crystal and Shiloh are both excited to announce that they will become mothers this summer. Shiloh's baby is due on July 28th, and Crystal's baby is due on August 29th.

