

News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

September 22, 2017



Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who brought in some recyclable materials for our instrument project this week. The children had so much fun testing the sounds that the various materials produced and creating their very own instruments!

This week we had our first visit from our music specialist Rubi. During this visit Miss Rubi not only sang songs, played movement games, and taught us about music, but she brought a very special instrument with her; a guitar! We are fortunate enough to have Music and Movement with Rubi on a monthly basis for the entire school year.

Jayma

Science: We continued learning about our five senses this week, focusing mostly on hearing and sight. On Monday, children had an opportunity to help complete a five senses poster by sorting four pictures each into the category that fit the best. Later in the week we read a favorite story of mine called Library Lion, and discussed something we use in our class all year called the "loudness scale". This visual tool helps children remember when it is appropriate to use varying noise levels at school. The scale ranges from a "4" which is only used for emergency situations, down to a "0" that means no noise is made. During Sci-Fri this week we solved a mystery! There had been a mix up in the kitchen and the labels for the salt and sugar containers had fallen off! Teachers needed the help of the kindergarten detectives, and their super senses, to determine which was which so that there was not a coffee tragedy!

Math: This week we read a story called Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!, written by Lloyd Moss. This musical rhyming story is a Caldecott winner, recognized for its unique gouache paint illustrations, that introduces ten orchestral instruments and teaches the numerical names for musical groups from one member, a "solo", to a "chamber" meaning ten! The vivid vocabulary, paints a picture of not only the details of each instrument, but the tone and sound of them as well. Children chose a number to illustrate their own musical group. This activity was not only intended to teach children about musical instruments and expand their musical vocabulary, but it also helped us practice our counting skills, one to one correspondence and how to place numbers in numerical order.

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This week was the last week of the "Start Smart" unit of Treasures. The third week of each unit serves as a time for review of some information from the previous two weeks. We began the week by reading a story called Jazz Baby by Carole Boston Weatherford. Children explored many musical instrument flashcards, and we read about some of the instruments together. During journal writing, each child drew an instrument that they would like to play, as well as other ways to make music. The read-aloud story for this week was a folktale called "The Clever Turtle" about a turtle that cleverly plays a flute and dances to get out of becoming turtle soup! The story ends with a question prompting children to decide whether or not the turtle is ever found. To connect with our science unit, we also read several stories about our senses including a story called The Listening Walk by Paul Showers. The main character is a girl who takes a walk with her father and dog and listens closely to all of the sounds she hears around them. The story has great examples of onomatopoeia (sound words) that the children enjoyed imitating. After reading the story we took our own listening walk near our school to see what quiet and loud sounds we could hear.

Next week we will be starting a new unit on families. A notice is being sent home today about an upcoming family tree project!

CORNER

