

Mrs. Leopold's Pre-Kindergarten Newsletter
Week of October 17-21

Weekly Content Standards

COG 1 Engages in scientific inquiry

COG 12 Recognizes similar sounds in speech

CRE 3 Represents experiences and fantasies in pretend play

PHY 2 Uses coordinated small-muscle movements

Circle Time: Our week was full of "5 senses" exploration! We focused on our sensational senses that serve as our windows to the world. They are the gateways through which we observe and explore our environment. Learning and remembering are most effective when we use as many of our five senses at the same time. Our five senses are seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching. We discussed what exactly each of our senses does for us. We spent one day focusing on each sense. We read books that explained how sometimes we use one sense and other times we use multiple senses. We learned that senses send messages to our brains and throughout our bodies. Our senses are very important to us in figuring out the wonderful world around us.

We discussed what it would be like to not have use of one or more of our senses. We role played different scenarios of what it would be like if we could not use a sense. We closed one eye and realized that we would have to turn our heads to see what was on that side. We closed both eyes and listened, using our sense of hearing, to different sounds and had to guess the noise. We learned that our sense of taste and smell go together. If we have a stuffy nose usually food doesn't taste the same. We even tried to hold a pencil in our toes to write when we thought about what it would be like not to have the use of our hands or sense of touch.

We furthered our discussions and spoke about people that are handi-capable. We looked at the people figurines in our block corner and realized that two were blind, another used a walker, another was in a wheelchair and another had braces on his legs. We looked at the equipment they used to help them get around. We learned about seeing eye dogs as well. Some of us even compared them to their dogs at home.

We read My Five Senses, David Smells, Your Five Senses, Seven Blind Mice, Even More Parts, The Five Senses Series including: See, Hear, Smell, Touch and Touch, and You Smell with Your Nose. We used stuffed animals to tell and retell the story of Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? The children were able to recite the story together as a class all by themselves. "They are reading!"

Art:

Rattles: We dipped a variety of rattles with all different textures into paint and printed with them. We used our senses of hearing and touch.

Collage: We glued a variety of textured materials onto paper. We used our sense of touch to feel the differences.

Finger painting: We painted using our sense of touch by smearing paint around paper.

Feet painting: We used our toes to grip the paint brushes as we painted on paper. We thought about what it would be like if our hands didn't work.

Cooking: We made pudding by mixing milk and the powder mix together. We noticed that over time that the liquid (milk) turned solid (pudding). We also made orange and lime flavored Jello. The powder sugar dissolved in the water then the entire mixture went from a liquid to a solid just like the pudding. We are always engaging in scientific inquiry in pre-k (COG 1). We enjoyed the pudding and jello for snack. Delicious treat!

Science:

We used our sense of smell this week to differentiate between different items including chocolate chips, cinnamon, coffee, lemon juice, mint and garlic. After sniffing, we tried to guess what was in each container. The teachers tracked our answers.

We used our sense of taste and tasted a variety of items and had to guess what they were. We tasted pudding, pretzels, chocolate chips, honey, oranges, lemon juice, mint and salt. We learned about the taste buds on our tongue and about the important role they play. We noticed that they tasted differently. Some were sour while others were sweet, some were salty and even bitter.

While experimenting with a manipulative in the science corner, we observed movement of water with sparkles inside wooden cubes as we shook them. We noticed that the wood was solid and the water was a liquid. We made a connection to what we had previously learned about liquids and solids.

We used a "feely box" to put our hands in and used our sense of touch to try to identify different objects. It was hard not to look and only use our hands.

Science Center: We explored with kaleidoscopes, rain sticks, color paddles and magnifying glasses. These instruments allowed us to use our senses in different ways. We also added "phones" to use our sense of hearing.

Sensory Table: We have water in this center and are trying to figure out why some things float while other things sink. Why is the big question? We are experimenting with rocks, corks, plastic boats to name a few items. We looked at water movement as well in this center as we moved our hands in different ways the water moved differently.

Small Group: We are utilizing our different senses with the toys. During one game we are sorting and matching real objects to the correct sense. In a feeling discs game, we have been using our sense of touch to match different textured materials. This allows us to learn new vocabulary such as smooth, rough, bumpy and fuzzy. We have feely dominoes as well.

Dramatic Play: Our fire station is extremely busy putting out fires and keeping the town safe. We are continuing to review "stop, drop and roll" as well as "stay low and go." We are looking for multiple ways out of an emergency situation. We are remembering when to call 9-1-1 and what constitutes an emergency.

New centers... we were busy this week exploring in a couple of new centers that opened up. We are making a variety of sounds with the instruments in the musical instrument center. We are using our senses for sure while sampling the new items in the science center.

Special Visitor: We were treated to a visit from Officer Leonard from the West Hartford Police Department. She is a female Police Officer. She showed us how to identify her as a "real" Police

Officer. We learned to look for her badges. We listened to her read a book as well. She took us out to see her police car and we were able to look inside. We know that Police Officers are trusted adults just like our teachers.

IMPORTANT:

Please send your child with warm clothing to wear outside. We will be going outside daily (weather permitting) and need to be dressed appropriately.

Dads/Special Person's Breakfast is Monday, October 31 at 7:30. Come spend special time at Webster Hill eating breakfast.

Save the date of Monday, October 31 for our school-wide Halloween parade. Please join us. Pre-K will lead the Webster Hill parade as we march outside beginning promptly at 9:00 am. Please send your child to school with a costume, no weapons, scary masks or face painting allowed. We will help them put on their costumes when they arrive to school. Individual and group photo opportunities will be available back in our room after the parade. It is difficult during the parade to stop as we are the leaders and need to keep the pace going. After the fun, the children will change back into their school clothes.

Blankets are coming home today. Please wash and send back on Monday. We will keep ziplock bags here to store blankets when they come back.

Also please send in long sleeve shirts and pants to replace the shorts and short sleeved shirts that are in your child's stay at school clothing bags. With the weather changing we want to be prepared in case of an accident or clothing change.

Please remember to send your child to school wearing clothes that can get messy. We are learning and having fun exploring with different materials. All materials are washable. We are trying to encourage independence but please remember that with or without a smock sometimes your child might get messy. Please do all that you can at home to talk to your child about this.

As always if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Have a nice weekend,

Mrs. Leopold and Mrs. Burnett

Randi_Leopold@whps.org

(860)521-0320 x3409

Five Senses (tune:Skip to My Lou)

I have five senses, how about you? (3x's)

To learn all about my world with.

I can touch and taste and smell.

I can see and hear as well.

I have five senses of my own,
To learn all about my world with.