



CLASSROOM NEWS

The Panda class continues to engage in all types of activities in the room, from exploring colored rice in the sensory table to building with Duplo blocks on taped shapes in our circle area. New friendships continue to be made as the children recognize their peers at school. Discussing the Panda plan and what is in our thought bubbles have been a major topic of conversation in our classroom.

We have just completed our first themes of the year, colors and shapes. Shapes are a concept that may require periodic review throughout the year. Finding shapes throughout the day will reinforce the learning that has already taken place and will help them remember these rarely used words. "Look at your piece of pizza, it's a triangle!" "When you walk through that door, you will be walking through a rectangle." and "What shape are your crackers?" are just some examples of how to reinforce shapes.

Some of our favorite activities included making and playing with silly putty, creating shape monsters, feeding and dressing the babies in dramatic play, and painting with shape sponges on the easel.

This week, since the children have been noticing the fallen leaves and the change of colors, we thought we would start our Fall unit with leaves, while they are still colorful. We will be painting with leaves, decorating a wreath with leaves, and inspecting them through magnifying glasses, as well as exploring them through nature walks and other fun activities.

THANK YOU!

Our "Back to School Night" was a great success with parents getting to meet the teachers, getting to know one another and learning a little more about our classroom. We would like to thank Christina Rodrigo and Melissa Ricci for providing the evening refreshments.

Thank you to Alisa Amara for making orange playdough for October!

Also, thank you to Abby Wonderly for reading to our class!

THE WONDERS OF DOUGH!!

The Panda Class loves doughs of all types!!! Whether it is play dough or silly putty, doughs are a very effective way to support children's learning; as they "squish, mold, roll, and cut," the children benefit socially, creatively and physically.

Language skills and **vocabulary** develop as the children use their imaginations and share their ideas. **Cooperative play** occurs as they combine ideas and build together. **Math and science** skills emerge as the children observe their own and others' creations, comparing sizes and shapes.

As the children "**pound, squeeze, push and pull**" the dough, they are strengthening **muscles** and **improving dexterity** for **writing and drawing skills**.

PLAYGROUND CLOTHING

Although we may still have "teases" of warmer weather, it seems the cooler weather has finally arrived! Please dress your child appropriately for outside play each day. Even if the high temp is in the 70's, at our playground time (10:15) it can be quite cool.

This is also a good time to check your child's extra clothes bag to update clothing for the cooler weather.

LEARNING THE RULES

The children have been working hard at learning the school and classroom rules. Here are just a few, 1) only grown-ups open the doors, 2) only grown-ups push elevator buttons, 3) use the railing on the right side of the stairs. Thank you for helping us teach these rules.

OUR FAVORITE

Songs: "A Circle's Like A Ball"
"Little Square"
"The Lion Sleeps Tonight"
Yoga Poses: "circle" (sleeping child)
"triangle"
"Pizza Breath"

Books: Circles
Triangles
Squares