



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 8 | Day 1

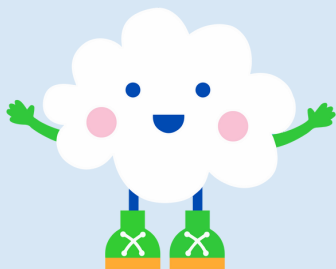


Physical Development

It's Trash Collection Day! Trash collectors are a VERY important part of our community, without them, there would be trash everywhere! We learned everything about how trash is cleaned up in neighborhoods and cities. We then pretend to be trash collectors driving around a trash truck to pick up trash in a neighborhood. They have a big job! During this activity, we learned how to be a helper and begin to understand safe and unsafe as we used imaginary objects in play.

STEAM

We had a lot of fun playing the game *The Mail Carrier Counts!* This was a fun game where we pretended to be mail carriers where we sorted and counted letters. During this activity, we learned more about the helpers in our community as we in progressive imaginative play. As we heard our teacher use our friend's name in the play environment we became more aware of our peers and begin to interact with them in more meaningful ways. When we engaged in activities like this, we are developing our beginning mathematical skills of sorting and matching, which leads to counting.



Music & Movement

We sang a song called, *Reduce Reuse Recycle!* It taught us about separating our trash so it can be recycled or reused. We talked about how we reuse this in the classroom such as egg cartons to sort with, yogurt cups to plant seeds, and scrap paper to make collages. This reduces how much trash is wasted. As we expressed confidence in our own skills and positive feelings about ourselves as we used hand-eye coordination to manipulate small objects with ease. Also by expressing creativity in thinking and communication, we are able to gain an understanding in recognizing cause and effect relationships regarding litter and keeping the earth clean.



Language & Literacy

There are so many helpers in and around our world and neighborhoods, today we listened to a story called "My Neighborhood" that talked about all the *Helpers Here and There* and everywhere! We learned there are so many helpers around the world, including mail carriers who deliver our letters and packages. We used picture clues in the story to determine what a helper looks like and what some of their characteristics are. We practiced what a storyline is and how to make a narrative which helps our language skills and are very important literacy skills. Ask me what I learn about mailcarriers!



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 8 | Day 2



Jump! *Jump If You Love the Earth!* I do!! Today we jumped and danced to the song *Jump If You Love the Earth*. As we all jumped, clapped, and stomped to the song, we worked on developing our large muscles and gross motor skills. We expanded our vocabulary by learning new words that are associated with the environment which helps us enhance our auditory skills. We had so much fun dancing and jumping with our friends!



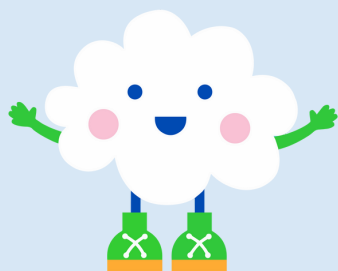
This is how we roll in our *Roll-a-Roma* game! We had so much fun working with a friend rolling our ball back and forth between a lane. We had to use our hand-eye coordination and coordination to keep the ball within our lane. We experimented with speed and motion to see how hard and how fast we had to push the ball to get it down the lane to our friend. We had to practice patience and understanding when it was our turn to pass the ball and then wait for it to come back to us.



There are so many *Helpers in My School!* Together we worked to create a chart featuring all helpers that work in our school. We encounter so many helpers every day, from the people who make our food and help keep our clean classroom, to the delivery drivers who bring us our packages. We may have even had a special visitor stop by to talk about their special job. When we are sitting and talking in a group setting, we are working to develop self-regulation while learning about our school community. Show me how I can be a helper at home!

STEAM

We became engineers when we were *Constructing with Reused Materials* today. We were able to use recycled materials to see what we could build. We practiced with the concept of stability and problem-solving, if what we were creating wasn't staying up, what could we add to make it more stable? We used our hand-eye coordination to place tape and move materials to the exact place we wanted them to be. Working with nontraditional materials can expand children's interests and inspire their creativity.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 8 | Day 3



Physical Development

It's time to Eat! *Lunchtime Chat* is a chat that we learned today to help us recognize when it's lunchtime as well as help communicate when we feel hungry. We used our baby dolls and our communication skills to find out what it feels like to feel hungry and how we can use our words to communicate those feelings. Putting a daily routine to music is not only fun but also aids in the development of building the child's gross motor skills, prompting speech and language development, as well as teaching about feelings and emotions.



Language & Literacy

Can you move like animals? We read, "*From Head to Toe*," by *Eric Carle* and used the new vocabulary we learned to see if we could move like the animals in the story. We had to use both our large and small muscles to maintain our coordination and balance when doing the different movements. We also had to use our listening skills and follow the directions in the book to try to match our movements to the different animals.

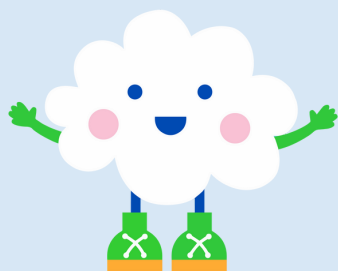
STEAM

We got to create and explore with *Calming Bottles* today! The children first used their imagination and creativity to make their own individual sensory or calming bottles using recycled bottles, water, oil, and other materials. We then watched and experimented with how the items in the bottle would move as we turned the bottle upside down and then right side up. We watched how the items changed direction and speed as we moved the bottle fast and then slowly. It was so calming watching the items slowly fall to the bottom of the bottle!



Music & Movement

Moving and stretching feel so good! We got our bodies moving when we sang and stretched to the song, "*All You Need is Love*." The children work on maintaining their balance and posture when they moved from one stretching position to another. Stretching helps us warm up our muscles for future large movement activities. We worked on stretching slowly, matching our breath to our movement while also trying to maintain our focus. By doing these slow meaningful stretching, children are learning how to calm their bodies when they may be feeling big emotions.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 8 | Day 4



Music & Movement

Our listening ears came in handy as we played a game called, *Monkey See, Money Do!* Our teacher would call out and demonstrate a movement and then it was our job to try to do the same thing back. We wiggled, jumped, and moved all about while working different muscle groups, developing those large motor skills. Presenting children with the opportunity to move while also controlling their impulses, ability to focus, and following simple directions encourage the development of self-control.



Physical Development

Let's Use Our Nose, we used our sense of smell when we explored natural scent jars that we created. Each jar had a natural item such as a piece of mint leaf, cinnamon stick, cut lime, and other great smelling things. Our teacher did not tell us what was in the jars. We used scientific inquiry and our sense of smell to smell each jar and describe or guess what the item inside could be. It was so fun trying to guess the smells and see if got it right!

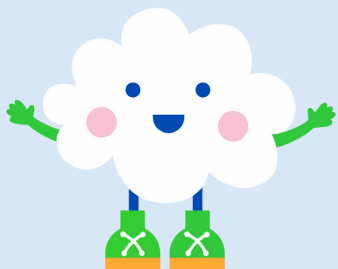


Language & Literacy

Poetry is a fun way to hear language and stories. We learned the poem called *5 Little Flowers*, it's a poem about 5 little flowers growing in a row and how they are all different colors. This activity allowed us to explore language through poetry and to help us recognize patterns in a poem, as we developed our comprehension of verbal communication. When we were reading the poem, we placed our flowers in the same order or sequence as the poem. Sequencing is an important readiness skill that is needed to provide a foundation for both reading development and scientific inquiry.

STEAM

Did you know that you don't need dirt or soil for a plant to grow? We asked ourselves if this was possible when we *Planted Lima Bean* seeds. We discovered there is another way of growing plants besides planting seeds in the dirt. Instead of using traditional soil, we wrapped the seed in a wet paper towel and then put them into a clear plastic zipper bag. We taped the bags to the window to be sure our seeds got a lot of direct sunlight. We're going to need patience because, over the next week, we are going to watch our seeds to observe how they grow. We can't wait to watch them bloom!





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 8 | Day 5



Language & Literacy

Did you know there are real-life superheroes all around us? We read a book called, *"Here Come the Helpers,"* by Leslie Kimmelman and Barbara Bakos. We learned all about real-life superheroes or community helpers, and what they do for our community. In emergency situations, it's important for children to know who community helpers are to help them recognize and trust the people who are charged with serving and protecting us, like firefighters, doctors, nurses, and the police. Ask about which helpers I learned about today!

STEAM

We just got a letter, I wonder who it's from? What did the mail carrier bring us in *My Mailbag*? We pretended to be mail carriers by sorting our shape letters matching them to their corresponding shape mailbags. By pretending to be mail carriers, we are developing awareness of different occupations and jobs that people have in the community. When we are matching shapes, we are improving our cognitive abilities including developing our visual memory, short term memory, and pattern recognition.



Music & Movement

We got to dance and learn a new song called, *"What Is My Job?"* We sang the song and tried to guess which helper the song was about, we sang about mail carriers, nurses, cooks, and custodians. Learning new songs increases our cognitive development, encouraging us to learn new vocabulary through patterns and sequencing. When we combine simple songs with play, we can help boost brain development and body coordination. Dancing strengthens and develops our muscles as well as our coordination, it is an excellent form of exercise and teaches us kinesthetic memory.



Physical Development

Thank you, Helpers! We used dot markers and stampers to create art that we passed out to our school helpers. As the children investigate and explore with art tools and choose the colors they want to use, they begin to explore their preferences and abilities. This helps promote their sense of competence and emerging self-awareness. We had to use our hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills to press the dot markers and stampers onto our paper. As we engaged in parallel play with our friends, we were able to also use art materials to express ourselves creatively.

