



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 9 | Day 1

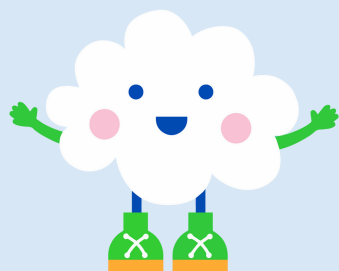
STEAM

It got a little messy as we explored using our senses through art as we *Painted with Soil*. It was so fun to freely explore unlikely art materials such as dirt and soil to paint on paper through encouragement from our teacher. Painting allows us to build our fine motor skills while working with tools as we moved paintbrushes over the paper. During this activity, we learned to explore inventive or new ways of using new art materials and completing tasks as we worked on problem-solving when making our unique pictures.



Language & Literacy

We read the book, *"Piggies"* by Don & Audrey Woods with our teacher. This activity gave us the opportunity to hear new vocabulary words related to animals and used verbal expressions and gestures to communicate responses while listening to a story with our class. This activity required active listening and answering "what" questions, which promoted our ever-growing vocabulary. Reading stories together we are encouraged to listen and show interest in the story through props or multiple means of presentation.



Physical Development

Oink, oink, the piggie is hungry! We learned through independence as we *Feed the Pig*. This gave us the opportunity to build small motor skills as we strengthened our hands and fingers. During this activity, we practiced our listening skills as we followed directions and practiced our counting skills. We were also invited to show increasing independence as we selected this activity and participated on our own as much as possible. Holding the tweezers was challenging as we worked to coordinate the use of our hands and fingers to move food to the piggy's mouth.



Music & Movement

We sang and played with our teacher and friends as we learned a new song called *The Five Little Pigs*. During this fingerplay, we played alongside other children as we built our attention span for short periods as we made observations, and imitated the movements of the song. As we explored new situations through dramatic play we practiced following the motions of the finger play, developing our fine motor skills. Singing and moving together also gave us the opportunity to learn the names of our new friends in class while singing, clapping, and moving.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 9 | Day 2



Music & Movement

We participated in the action song, “*Smell the Flower*” as we began to identify pictures of basic emotions such as happiness, sadness, and anger. This song gave us the opportunity to learn techniques to calm ourselves when we feel big emotions. Teaching us to calm down strategies, such as breathing, when we are engaged in the story makes it easier for when we are feeling those emotions to remember the techniques we learned to calm ourselves. Ask me to show you some of the breathing strategies I learned.

STEAM

We used our observation skills to explore the outdoors while using art materials as we created *Paintings in Nature*. We all looked around to see if we could find blue, green, and other colors outside, and then some of us used different colors to paint on a big piece of butcher paper. We are learning to share and work together on collaborative projects. This promotes the development of a sense of self with others. While creating nature paintings, we explore the relationships between color, shape, and movement and those related to the outdoors.



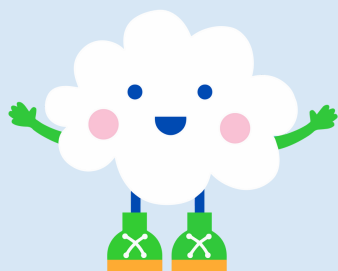
Language & Literacy

Tap the Magic Tree was a fun and engaging story where we got to tap, shake, and jiggle as we helped one lonely tree change with the seasons. When we are read to, we gain new vocabulary and understanding of new concepts, it teaches us to recognize patterns in the environment through language. As we looked at the pictures and participated in the story we learned to sweep our fingers across the words as we pretended to read. We are also provided the opportunity to ask and answer questions about the story which develops our cognitive and communication abilities



Physical Development

It was a yummy day because we got to *Taste Tiny Trees!* Our teacher provided us with broccoli, snap peas, and yummy dips and then we used our fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination to dip and taste the yummy veggies! We also had to use our listening skills and concentration to follow the teacher's directions to complete a goal-oriented task. Accomplishing a task, such as preparing my snack, provides an opportunity to show a sense of satisfaction in our own abilities, preferences, and accomplishments. Having a fun and positive food experience helps us recognize healthy foods while trying green vegetables.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 9 | Day 3

STEAM

We had a full gardening experience as we learn how grass is grown from a seed and then *Planted Grass Heads*. We learned how to care for a living object as the grass head will need to have water sprayed on it as we developed new vocabulary associated with planting and gardening. As we investigate plants and how they grow and change it provides us with the opportunity to understand that plants need soil, water, and light to grow.



Language & Literacy

I Spy Something that Grows!... What do you think it is? It was so much fun playing with our teachers and friends today! Since I Spy is a group activity, it aids in our social development, teaches cooperation, and allows us to practice give and take with our peers. While we play, we are attending to and learning descriptive language about things that grow from our friends and teacher, as well as learning to use visual cues and discrimination. Let's play this game on our way home today!



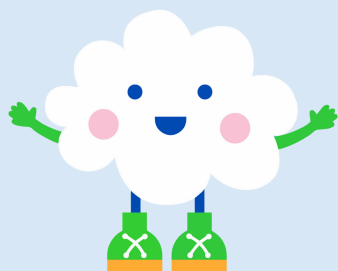
Physical Development

We had a *Nature Inspection*! Oh, so many great things to discover outdoors. Each one is a treasure from our Earth! It was exciting to have the freedom to explore our environment but it was important to also learn what is safe and unsafe around us. As we gathered a variety of natural materials, talked about where we find them and how we can be safe holding and playing with them Finding natural treasures engaged us in a focused and purposeful activity, building our attention to detail. We were also able to participate in cooperative play which teaches us that it is important to help our friends. We can go on our own Nature Inspection outside too!



Music & Movement

It was so much fun singing the song *Where the Green Grass Grows* where we learned about birds' homes and some nature items that might be in bird homes. We talked about how different animals live and create homes in their favorite habitats. We also learned that an animal habitat has everything the animal needs to live, and create a home, and for baby animals such as food, water, space, and warmth. After the song, we continued to use our growing vocabulary to discuss a variety of plants and animals.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 9 | Day 4



5...4...3...2...1! We practice counting backward during our *Five Little Monkeys Swinging from a Tree* activity! During this activity, we played alongside other friends for short periods of time as we observed and imitated each other as we counted backward from five to one, and follow directions. We relied on our teacher to lead the fingerplay as they take on the characteristics of the monkeys and the alligator as we explored new situations through dramatic play while following the motions of the fingerplay.

STEAM

We got creative as we used crayons and markers to create drawings from nature, where we used nature and the outdoors as inspiration to create unique artwork. As we explored the *Colors of Our World*, we built relationships with other our friends as we enjoyed the activity together and shared the art materials. As we held and explored the different art materials we strengthen the muscles in our fingers and hands. Maybe we can make a nature drawing together!



Language & Literacy

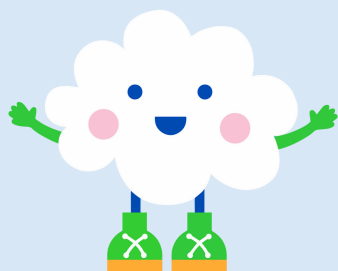
We explored the fun book called “*Swing Sloth*” where we first explored the parts that make up the book, the front cover, back cover, and spine.

We then read the story about a sloth as he swings through the forest, visiting different animals. This activity allowed us to explore the language through books. It also helped us recognize patterns in a story and to develop our comprehension of verbal communication through stories. We also learned to express preferences as we talked about which animals we liked best in this book, this helps us to develop our self-awareness.



Physical Development

We explored this during our *Peg Board Stacking* activity. During this activity, we developed our sense of satisfaction in our own abilities and preferences as we built our fine motor skills by stacking pegs on a foam pegboard. We also strengthened our bond with our teacher discussed and were introduced to new vocabulary words including pegs, pegboard, and stacking. We explored ways to stack pegs higher and gain an understanding that pegs can be assembled in different ways. We used our counting skills as we used one-to-one correspondence as we placed the pegs into the board.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 9 | Day 5



Language & Literacy

We enjoyed a book today called “*A Color of His Own*,” by Leo Lionni about a chameleon who wanted his very own color! We used our ever-growing vocabulary to describe the objects, and actions, including color words and basic emotions as we talked about what was happening during the story. We related to the character in the book as we used verbal expressions and gestures to communicate responses. During the story, we investigated numbers and a variety of plants and animals that the chameleon came across.



Music & Movement

Red, green, purple, blue, there are so many colors and we loved exploring them while singing “The Color Song.” While we danced with our friends, it gave us the opportunity to build the large muscles needed to move our legs. This activity also provided an activity for us to draw conclusions based on listening to the song. We compared the colors in the song to our surroundings.



Physical Development

We went outside and enjoyed a wonderful *Nature Walk*! It was exciting to have the freedom to explore our environment while seeing and feeling the weather. We placed our nature finds in a bag and later shared our favorite findings with our class as we create collages. Finding natural treasures engaged us in a focused and purposeful activity, building our attention to detail. We were also able to participate in cooperative play which teaches us that it is important to help our friends. We also developed our muscles as we walked and ran around the outdoors, practicing spatial awareness. We can go on our own nature walk when we get home!

STEAM

We made *Nature Collage* today! We had a nature walk where we gathered a variety of natural materials. We then used our imagination and creativity as we explored a variety of natural objects to create a collage. Making the collage gave us the freedom to express ourselves creatively while engaging in parallel play with our friends. As we glued the materials to the paper, we used focus and persistence, at the same time developing our hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and pincer grasp, which are all important for our writing skills.

