



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 44 | Day 1



Language & Literacy

In our *Mud Kitchen Restaurant* activity, we turned the playground into a bustling outdoor restaurant, using sand, water, and kitchen toys to cook up imaginary meals. We all got to be chefs, serving delicious pretend dishes like salads and macaroni to our friends. The best part was talking about our creations and practicing speaking clearly so everyone could understand us 75% of the time. It was a fantastic way to blend imaginative play with improving our language skills, all while having a blast outdoors!



Music & Movement

We had so much fun with the *Jazz version of 'Ants Go Marching'* activity! Our teacher asked us about ants and how they move, which made us think about their crawling and building tunnels. Then, we got super excited when we learned we'd dance to a jazz song about ants marching. We all stood up, spread out, and matched our moves to the cool beats of the music played by a big orchestra. Dancing to the rhythm felt amazing, and we wanted to do it all over again!

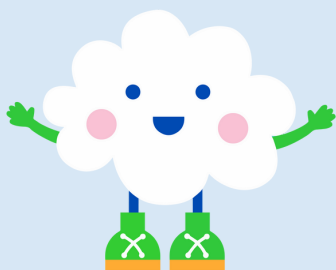


Physical Development

We really dig *Ants in the Sand*! This activity was where we dug for ants hidden in the sand and placed them on special mats with boxes. Using tools and our fingers, we searched excitedly, aiming to fill the tens-frames. Once we found ants, we counted them together, learning about numbers by adding and taking ants away. It felt like a treasure hunt mixed with a math lesson! We practiced counting, understanding more and less, and even pretended the ants needed houses. It was super fun combining play with learning!

STEAM

Building an Ant Hill was challenging but fun! We dove into how ants live by constructing our own anthill forts using sheets, PVC pipes, and foam noodles. After watching a video on ant habitats, we discussed the different "rooms" inside an anthill, just like our homes have various rooms for different purposes. Then, we got creative, building anthills that included entrances, chambers, and connecting tunnels. It was a fun way to explore and understand the complex lives of ants, enhancing our investigative skills with minimal guidance!





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 44 | Day 2

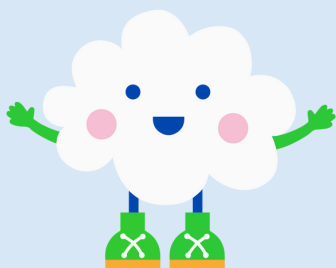
STEAM

In *Building Another Anthill*, we got together in small groups to talk about ants and their homes, using paper plates, sand, and natural materials to craft our very own anthill chambers. After recalling what we learned about ants from a video and a poster, we creatively constructed chambers, which we then connected on a poster board to form an ant colony. This activity helped us understand ant life better and encouraged us to use our STEAM skills by modeling and verbal prompting, enhancing our knowledge and creativity.



Physical Development

We became detectives during *Sock and Shoe Sleuth*. We matched mixed-up socks and shoes to solve a mystery! With adult support, we practiced putting on or taking off oversized socks and shoes, learning to handle different fastenings like laces, straps, and buckles. This fun activity helped us improve our dexterity and independence while wearing footwear. We worked together, choosing our favorite pairs and trying them on to see if they fit, boosting our problem-solving skills and getting better at dressing ourselves with minimal help.



Music & Movement

Exploring Different Genres: Alphabet Edition has us dancing to two unique alphabet songs from different music genres, using bell bracelets to add rhythm to our moves. We practiced moving our bells up and down to match the beats of a Punk Rock song and House music, learning to express our preferences through movement and sound. This fun activity helped us understand how music can vary in rhythm and style, encouraging us to communicate our likes and dislikes while enjoying the universal language of music through an engaging, alphabet-themed dance party.



Language & Literacy

In the activity, *Revisiting the Book: Fiesta!*, we gathered to read "Fiesta!" by Ginger Foglesong Guy again, diving into lively discussions about the story. As we flipped through the pages, sticky notes guided our conversations with questions about piñatas, parties, fruits, vegetables, and more. We talked about our own experiences, like the parties we've attended and our favorite treats. This activity encouraged us to use our speech in multiple back-and-forth interactions, aiming to be understood 75% of the time, enriching our language and literacy skills through the joy of a shared story.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 44 | Day 3

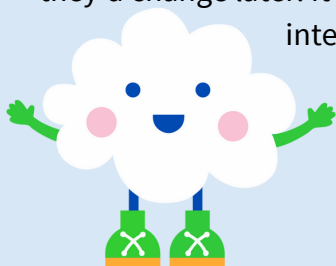


Language & Literacy

While reading *"Ten, Nine, Eight"*, we got cozy and dove into Molly Bang's counting story about bedtime. With our picture name cards in hand, we took turns pretending to read, sweeping our fingers across the text on each page. We discussed the little details in the illustrations, like the toes and the nine soft friends, including a sneaky cat among toys. Each of us had a chance to 'read' the story aloud, pointing to the words and talking about what we saw. We practiced counting items in the book and talked about the characters, noticing their features and relationships. It was a fun way to explore the book, practice our pretend reading skills, and learn about counting and storytelling together.

STEAM

We became little scientists, mixing salt, flour, and water to see what happened when we made *Salt Dough Mixtures*. We used all sorts of tools like spoons and droppers to combine the ingredients on our trays. We talked about how our mixtures changed when we added more water or flour, exploring cause and effect with curiosity and excitement. It was a hands-on way to learn about mixing ingredients, and we even discussed the textures we created. When we were done, we cleaned up by tossing our creations in the trash, but some of us left our trays out to see if they'd change later. It was messy, fun, and super interesting!



Physical Development

Crazy Straw Threading had us working on our fine motor skills by threading colored felt circles onto crazy straws. Each of us got to choose our straws and circles, focusing on the small hole in the middle of each circle to push the straw through. We practiced using our pincer grasp to manipulate the materials, adjusting our grip as needed to get the circles onto the straws. We also noticed patterns with the colors of the straws and circles, making our threading not just a physical task but a cognitive one too. It was challenging at times, especially holding the circle with one hand and threading with the other, but we got the hang of it and felt proud of our threading masterpieces. This activity was a fun way to develop our fine motor skills and learn about colors and patterns!



Music & Movement

We grooved to a special *Rhythm and Blues* version of the well-known song *"Apples and Bananas"* by Learning Vowels with Gracie's Corner. We gathered on the carpet, ready to move and express ourselves through dance. I introduced the genre, explaining that Rhythm and Blues is often abbreviated as R&B, setting the stage for a fun, musical experience. As the song played, we sang along, emphasizing the words "apples and bananas" while dancing to the beat. It was a lively session where we got to express our preferences, discussing whether we enjoyed this funky R&B twist more than the traditional version of the song. It was a fantastic way to combine music, movement, and personal expression, all while enjoying the rhythms of R&B.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 44 | Day 4



Physical Development

Today, we had a blast in the *Tunnel Relay* outside! We split into teams with cool colored dots on our hands. Our teacher explained the game: jump, crawl, crawl through the tunnel then run, run, run back to our teacher. It was so fun cheering for our friends! Sometimes we needed reminders to be gentle, but we worked it out. When conflicts popped up, our teacher helped us talk it through. We felt proud after each turn. We can't wait to play again tomorrow!



Music & Movement

Today, we had a blast *Dancing with the Bears*! Our teacher played the "Teddy Bears' Picnic" song, and we got to pick our own fluffy buddies to dance with. We pretended to search for bears and then danced around like it was a real picnic. Some of us even made up our own moves! When the song ended, we gently put our tired teddies to bed. It was so fun moving and grooving with our furry friends. Can't wait for our next dance adventure!



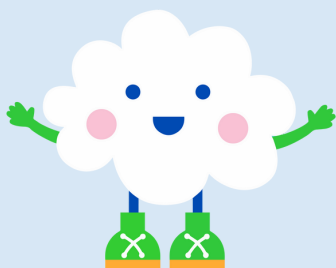
Language & Literacy

Today, we dove into the enchanting world of *Teddy Bears' Picnic* with our teacher. Authored by the Irish writer Jimmy Kennedy, the story captivated us with its charming illustrations and adorable teddy bears. We eagerly counted the bears on each page, pointing out hidden ones.

Our teacher illuminated new words like "disguise" and explained the joy of picnics. We're thrilled to dance to the accompanying song, feeling like active participants in the bears' escapade.

STEAM

Our *Snack Time Experiment* with Apples encouraged us to be scientists, exploring how different liquids affect apple browning. After observing a browned apple slice, we hypothesized which of our liquids - lemon juice, pineapple juice, milk, water, and vinegar - could prevent browning. Each child placed apple slices into four sections on their plates, then we applied the liquids, noting any changes. Using magnifying glasses, we made detailed observations, eagerly sharing our findings. This engaging experiment not only taught us about scientific inquiry but also sparked curiosity about everyday phenomena, turning snack time into a learning adventure.





Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 44 | Day 5

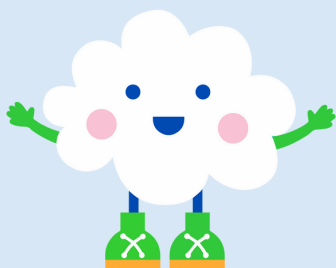


Music & Movement

During the activity, *We're Going on a Picnic*, we got to act out a fun story using picnic props like blankets, baskets, and toy food. We sang a catchy song, taking turns to show which picnic item we brought, like apples or sandwiches. It was a blast standing up and being part of the song! We learned to listen and respond with our props, and then we all played pretend picnic together. It felt great to understand and be part of the story with just a little help from our teacher!

STEAM

Today, we got down and dirty while *Finger Painting with Mud*! Our teacher gave us a big bowl of mud to play with. We scooped dirt and added water until it was like thick paint. Some of us used our fingers to make art, while others tried brushes or spoons. We talked about how the mud felt and what we discovered about painting with it. It was messy but so much fun! We loved exploring the different textures and making our own mud masterpieces.



Physical Development

We had a picnic lunch outside with our lunches and a big blanket! We checked the weather first and then set up our picnic spot. Our teacher helped us open our lunches and talked about the yummy foods we had, like fruits and sandwiches. We learned to listen to our bellies and say 'no more', 'no', or 'full' when we felt done eating. After eating, we cleaned up and washed our hands. It was fun to eat outside and learn about our food and how our bellies feel.

Let's Enjoy a Picnic together sometime on a weekend!



Language & Literacy

We became *Print Detectives* with magnifying glasses and looked for secret letters and words around our room! We found hidden letters and words on crayons, clothes tags, food boxes, and even tissue boxes that we never noticed before. We learned that print tells us things, like colors and sizes. It was like a treasure hunt, finding and reading the print on different things. We took turns and showed each other our discoveries. It was super fun being detectives and finding out that there are words and letters everywhere!"