



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 45 | Day 1



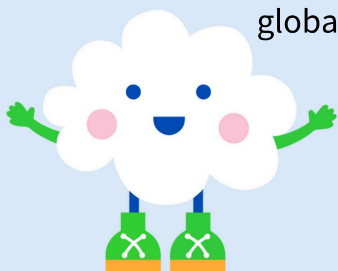
Music & Movement

We had so much fun singing the "*Five Little Fish Fun Finger Counting Song for Kids!*" by Jack Hartmann. This was a song where we combined music, movement, and numbers for a splash of learning and fun. Aimed at enhancing fine motor skills, number recognition, and group participation, as we practiced movements to a catchy tune, focusing on independence and confidence in performing these actions. Through interactive singing and dancing, we explored numbers 1 through 5 while engaging exercise not only supported our physical development but also fostered cognitive growth, creativity, and language comprehension.



Language & Literacy

In the activity "*My Bed, Enchanting Ways to Fall Asleep Around the World,*" we journeyed through diverse bedtime traditions across the globe with the help of Rebecca Bond and Salley Mavor's beautifully illustrated book. This engaging read-aloud experience enhanced the children's narrative skills and broadened our cultural understanding. By discussing the unique sleeping environments depicted in the book, we practiced descriptive language, shared personal experiences, and developed an appreciation for global diversity.



Physical Development

In our *Family Traditions* activity, we delved into the diverse culinary heritage of our students' families. We explored various traditional dishes, shared by our parents, ensuring a safe and educational tasting experience that respected dietary restrictions. The activity sparked conversations about likes, dislikes, and the significance of family traditions, enhancing social-emotional development and cultural awareness. We were encouraged to try new foods, express our preferences, and learn about the importance of respecting diverse tastes. This engaging experience highlighted the value of cultural diversity through food, strengthening our classroom community's understanding and appreciation of different backgrounds.

STEAM

In our *Designing Our Family Tree*, we explored the concept of stability through constructing tree models with a variety of building materials. Guided by books and pictures of real trees for inspiration, they engaged in thoughtful planning, experimentation, and collaborative discussion, learning about structural foundations, problem-solving, and creative expression. This hands-on project not only enhanced our understanding of basic scientific principles but also fostered teamwork and communication skills, providing a rich, multifaceted learning experience that combined elements of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics in a fun and engaging way.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 45 | Day 2



Language & Literacy

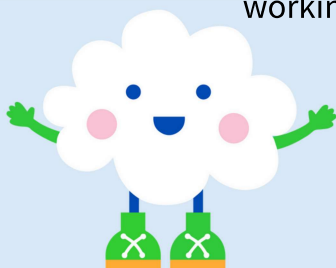
Today we enjoyed *"The Family Book"* by Todd Parr, aimed at celebrating family diversity and boosting our language and literacy development.

We engaged in discussions about our own families, enhancing self-awareness and appreciation for different family structures. The activity focused on improving our expressive skills, with an emphasis on being understood by adults and peers. Through interactive reading sessions, we shared personal experiences, fostering an inclusive classroom environment. Observations of these interactions will inform future teaching strategies to support each child's language growth.



Physical Development

In our *Castle Building Activity*, we engaged in sensory exploration and creativity by constructing castles using blocks, clay, and ice cubes. Inspired by castle imagery from books and pictures, we learned to differentiate and manipulate materials based on texture and temperature. During this activity, we not only developed our physical and cognitive skills but also strengthened our social-emotional competencies by sharing ideas and working together.



STEAM

Building Our Classroom Family Tree, was a fun activity where we teamed up to construct a tree representing our classroom community. Using a diverse set of building materials, from soft blocks to recycled items, we fostered teamwork and introduced basic concepts of stability through hands-on construction. Guided by insights from tree-themed books and previous attempts, each pair of students shared strategies and worked together to overcome challenges, such as maintaining the stability of their creations. The project concluded by adding pictures to the tree, symbolizing our interconnected classroom family. This activity not only enhanced our STEAM skills but also promoted social-emotional development, problem-solving, and the importance of collaboration, reflecting the value of working together towards a common goal.



Music & Movement

We introduced *"This is The Way I Move,"* a fun and interactive music and movement activity. Through singing and coordinated actions to familiar tunes, we practiced following movements, enhancing our physical coordination and language skills. The activity was structured to encourage participation and creativity and even allowed us to lead some movements, fostering independence within a group setting. Overall, this engaging exercise supported social-emotional development, self-control, and creative expression, contributing to a harmonious and collaborative learning environment.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 45 | Day 3



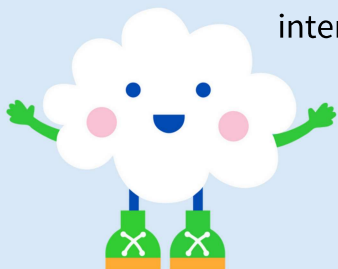
Physical Development

Our *Shape Match: Circles and Squares* activity focused on developing physical posture and recognizing shapes through a sorting game. We maintained seating posture while matching shapes to outlines on a table, promoting fine motor skills and shape recognition. The activity also encouraged language development and cooperative play. An extension activity allowed children to express creativity through drawing, enhancing their learning experience through structured and open-ended play. This approach supported concentration, coordination, and creativity in our young learners.



Music & Movement

Our *"Five in the Bed"* activity combined music, movement, and early math concepts as children engaged in a fingerplay song about stuffed animals falling out of bed. This fun introduction to subtraction and counting also enhanced their fine motor skills and creativity. Relating the song to their personal experiences deepened the connection to the activity, promoting social-emotional growth. This activity effectively supported cognitive development, language skills, and number recognition enjoyably and interactively.



Language & Literacy

Our *Book Basket: Titles about Families* activity focused on enriching our understanding of family diversity through language and literacy. We explored a collection of family-themed books, such as "The Family Book" by Todd Parr, engaging in discussions to predict storylines and express their preferences. Each child's book selection was respected, with a promise to read all chosen titles, enhancing their trust in the learning environment. Through this activity, students gained insights into different family structures, promoting inclusivity and empathy. We're excited to continue activities that support language development and cultivate a love for reading.

STEAM

Our *Wet Towel Squeezing* activity offered our young learners a hands-on STEAM experience, exploring water's properties by soaking and squeezing towels. Conducted outdoors, this experiment encouraged us to observe, predict, and discuss how towels absorb and release water, fostering cognitive and language development. This activity not only highlighted the dynamic properties of water but also supported social-emotional growth, as we worked together and shared our discoveries. It was a wonderful way to combine scientific exploration with fun, promoting a deeper interest in the natural world around us.



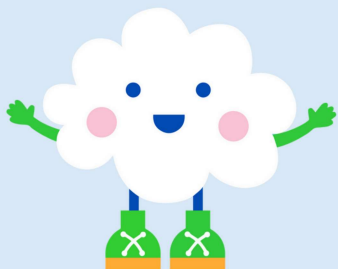
Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 45 | Day 4



Our *"Three Little Ducks"* activity blended music, movement, and math, showing children how to subtract in a fun way. Using objects and a catchy song, we learned to decrease sets from three to fewer, embodying the ducks to physically engage with subtraction. This approach reinforced math concepts, encouraged active participation, and nurtured social skills within a playful group setting. Revisiting this activity will continue to build our mathematical comprehension and confidence in movement, demonstrating learning can be both enjoyable and educational.



Our *We Recycle* activity engaged children in recycling through folding and crushing paper, teaching them about environmental conservation and enhancing fine motor skills. This hands-on approach fostered teamwork, responsibility, and awareness of how small actions can contribute to Earth's care. It reinforced the importance of the reduce, reuse, and recycle principles, integrating them into our daily classroom routine. This activity successfully combined physical development with learning about sustainability, encouraging our young learners to become environmentally conscious from an early age.



STEAM

Our *"Finger Painting with Sand"* activity provided a tactile STEAM learning experience, as children explored and described the texture of sand mixed with paint. This sensory activity enhanced our language skills and scientific understanding by comparing the mixture's properties to mud and soil. Creativity flourished at individual workstations, where we experimented with the consistency of their mixtures. This process not only encouraged problem-solving and expressive language development but also supported emotional growth through self-expression.

Cleanup emphasized the importance of responsibility, concluding a session full of sensory exploration and discovery.



Our *"Reading Buddies"* activity helped us successfully blend literacy enhancement with social-emotional learning. We selected dolls or stuffed animals as companions to read family-themed board books independently, fostering language development and emotional intelligence. Through this activity, we practiced empathy and sharing, learning to manage emotions and attachments. The use of name cards for buddy selection promoted fairness and inclusivity, contributing to a positive and interactive reading experience. This approach highlighted the value of combining reading with emotional support, making it a nurturing and enriching learning opportunity for our young learners.



Older Toddler Daily Learning Highlights Week 45 | Day 5

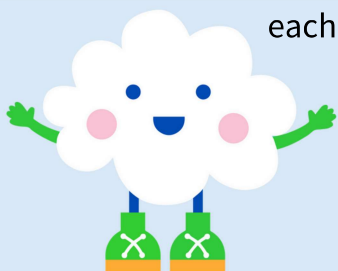
STEAM

Our *Crush It* activity offered a hands-on exploration of materials, engaging us in sensory discovery and scientific inquiry. We used our senses to compare and predict the crushability of aluminum foil, wax paper, and other papers, learning about the five senses in the process. This STEAM exercise not only fostered curiosity and environmental awareness by emphasizing recycling but also encouraged children to articulate their observations and predictions.

Through this activity, we deepened our understanding of material properties and sensory exploration, highlighting the importance of environmental responsibility and scientific exploration.



Our *Every Family is Special* activity highlighted family diversity through a simple, engaging song. We used rhythm sticks and their voices to explore the concept of different family members and structures, followed by sharing our own family stories. This activity encouraged self-expression, promoted language development, and fostered an understanding of the unique composition of each family.



Language & Literacy

Our *Community* activity engaged her in exploring and drawing local geographical features, enhancing their connection to the community. Through discussing and depicting landmarks like rivers, lakes, and parks, we expressed our understanding and experiences. Despite the abstract nature of our drawings, each of us shared our perspective, fostering language development and a sense of belonging. The resulting artwork was displayed in a classroom exhibition, celebrating the diverse viewpoints and deepening our awareness of our surroundings. This initiative successfully combined creative expression with learning about local geography, promoting curiosity and community engagement among ourselves.



Physical Development

We encouraged physical development and cooperative play among our children during our *Follow the Leader* activity. Starting with an adult leader, the game allowed us to eagerly imitate various movements and take turns leading the group. Through this simple yet engaging game, participants enhanced our gross motor skills, as we learned to listen and follow instructions, and experienced leading our peers. We concluded the activity with imaginative free play, allowing children to creatively express ourselves. "Follow the Leader" proved to be a dynamic way to promote physical activity, attentiveness, and social skills, underlining the importance of active play in early childhood development.