



Pre~K 4

Weekly Learning Highlights
Week 4 | Day 1

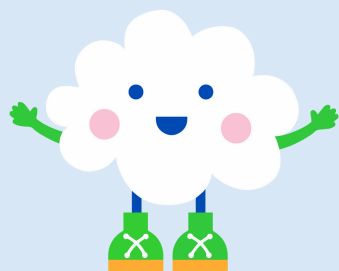
STEAM

What's going to work? TEAMWORK! We used *Teamwork to Observe with Our Senses*. We used our senses of taste, smell, and touch to investigate two different fruits. Activities where we are engaging our tactile, visual, and even tasting senses, encourage us to use the scientific process to explore and investigate the objects we are encountered and our surroundings which enhances our cognitive skills. By comparing and contrasting similarities and differences in three different pieces we use logical reasoning as well as critical thinking and perception.



Interactive Reading

My 5 Senses is the book we read today as a class. This is the introduction to our senses and the parts of the body associated with them. When we are read to, we gain new vocabulary and understanding of new concepts. It also teaches us to recognize patterns in the environment through language, and early literacy skills such as reading from left to right, and putting together the print we see to the words they make! We also gain communications skills as well as descriptive, and expressive language, and the ability to predict while looking at pictures while the teacher reads the book.



Language & Literacy

We continued practicing our letter and name recognition by putting a *Name Puzzle* together. Our teacher had a picture of each of us cut into strips, it had our names in big letters on the bottom. We had to figure out the order by using the picture and recognizing the letters. For this, we needed to use hand-eye coordination, and problem-solving and associate the letters with their sound. Name recognition builds the concept of print and begins the process of site reading.



Physical Development

Blue Suede Shoes is the Rock'n'Roll song we danced to today, it is by Elvis Presley! We learned that Elvis was a famous singer from the '50s and '60s, they called him, 'The King.' We learned to dance the twist where we need to use coordination, and it strengthens our large muscles and we practice to control our movements and balance.



Cognitive

We created *Scented Art* paintings today! One of our senses is the sense of smell and today our teacher mixed spices and extracts that added smells to our paints and we tried to recognize what the smells are. We used our noses to smell the smelly paint and made predictions using deductive reasoning, of what was the spice making each smell. Then we got to use the paints to paint anything we wanted, like a cinnamon-smelling flower, or a lemon cat! It was such a fun activity where our cognitive and sensory skills were engaged!

Learning BEYOND



Pre~K 4

Weekly Learning Highlights
Week 4 | Day 2



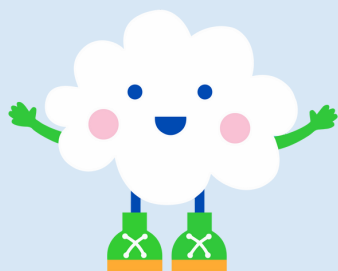
**Physical
Development**

We are still taking inspiration from the abstract artist Kandinsky and his circle art. Today we did an activity called *Kandinsky: Hole Punching Circles* where we chose paper in different colors to use a hole puncher to make holes in the paper and create circles in many colors. By using a hole puncher, we are developing the strength needed in our hands and fingers to hold a writing tool, as well as it helps develop the wrist, fingers, and hand muscles allowing us to hold a pencil or anything we write with for longer periods of time. We are also practicing on how to control those muscles and their movements which also help us when we are writing.



**Interactive
Reading**

I'm Going to be an Engineer was a wonderful book about two girls that want to grow up to be engineers. We learned about what an engineer is and some of the things they do in our community. By listening to this story, we explore how language works through written text. This also helps us develop our comprehension of verbal communication through stories. Our teacher asks us questions during and after she reads to develop our critical thinking skills. Don't forget to pause to ask questions when we read at home too.



STEAM

We created disappearing art creations while exploring the properties of water during our *Chalk Art - An Evaporation Study*. We developed an understanding that water has different states/phases as they observe and discuss the effects of drying and evaporation of water on a surface. As we participated in this activity we had to think, guess, and try out different ideas to see why we thought the chalk disappeared when the water hit it. Ask me why I thought that happened!



Cognitive

Learning How to Use Our Calendar is an important skill that takes a lot of practice but with our teacher's help, we were able to do it! We used our calendar to see what month and season we are in as well as what day it is. These discussions help us understand the concepts of past, present, and future. Ask if I can tell you what month it is!



**Language
& Literacy**

Today we learned all about the days of the week by singing a fun song called *Day of the Week!* This activity provides children the opportunity to learn the days of the week by visually seeing the numbers and names of days on a calendar. While singing the numbers of days to the week with friends, children learn new concepts such as using numbers to identify days of the week. By communicating with their teacher, children have the opportunity to use new vocabulary. This activity encourages children to volunteer for classroom responsibilities.



Pre~K 4
Weekly Learning Highlights
Week 4 | Day 3

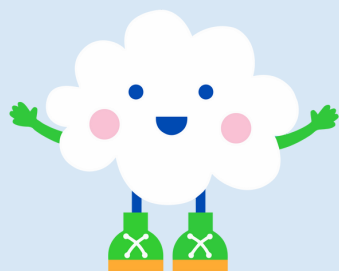
STEAM

We explored and experimented with *Roads, Ramos, and Loose Parts* as we become engineers to create roads for our cars. We had to work cooperatively with our friends in order to use different types of ramps to test out how our toy cars would drive on different roads. Putting together parts and building helps develop our fine motor skills that require small-muscle strength and control. This activity also provided us with the opportunity to use information gained about familiar objects and apply it to this experience by creating a ramp. Ask about the road I made today!



Physical Development

Did you know our breath has power? We explored air and how it can move objects when we *Smelled the Flower and Blew the Pinwheel*. We would take turns “smelling” a flower, which would help us take a deep breath, and then we would blow the pinwheel to observe how it would spin. When we blew really hard the pinwheel would go fast, teaching me the concepts of aerodynamics. We also developed self-awareness as we learned how to control our breathing to make observable effects on objects like the pinwheel. We can do the same practice at home using bubbles!



Cognitive

We completed an *Abstract Art Collage* using the circles we punched out yesterday which were inspired by Kadinsky’s circles. Making collages helps us develop reasoning, and creativity, and allows us to use our imagination, visual perception, and problem-solving skills. As we create the art piece, we are enhancing our motor skills, and hand-eye coordination and we learn about proportions.



Language & Literacy

Today we played and learned with our friends during our *Show and Tell Me How* activity. This activity provided us with the opportunity to engage in cooperative play with other children as we acted out real-life experiences using social interactions and cues. We used prior knowledge to use objects in new situations as we created pretend meals with our friends using dramatic play to explore and express our creativity.



Interactive Reading

Today our teacher read *My 5 Senses*, a non-fiction book to us. It continued enhancing our knowledge of the senses, and vocabulary that goes along with them, as well as continued to repeat the parts of the body that go with the senses to call attention to them, therefore placing them in our long-term memory. Ask me about my 5 senses!



Pre~K 4 Weekly Learning Highlights Week 4 | Day 4



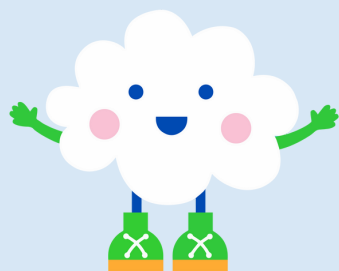
Cognitive

We played the *Outdoor Sounds* game today. We all sat in a circle closed our eyes and used our auditory senses, which we use our ears for. We listened very carefully and then discussed the things we heard and what we thought made the sounds. It was very engaging and entertaining! Not only did we use our auditory perception and sustained attention, but we had to use deductive reasoning to figure out what made some of the sounds, like a clunking far off, maybe a construction worker hammering something.



Interactive Reading

Our teacher read *Llama Llama & the Billy Goat* today and we were able to connect with the story on a personal level because we share experiences with Little Llama. Llama Llama books contain a lot of rhyming helping us feel comfortable with the syllables and rhyming sounds which are helpful for early literacy. The story and the experiences that Little Llama has to help us to continue understanding emotions and the environment around us on a deeper level. We read and discussed the emotions we may feel when we see someone bullying or if we get bullied. The discussion helps us to practice our expressive and descriptive language.



STEAM

Did you know that there are taste buds on the tongue and inside of our mouths and that with these we can taste foods and learn if they are sweet, salty, or sour?

Those are the basic flavors and we tried foods and decided what their flavor was. Marshmallows are sweet, pretzels are salty, and lemons are sour! For this sensory activity, we used our sense of taste but also smell and touch. It was a delicious activity! We gained new vocabulary and had to practice patience while we waited for our turn.



Physical Development

We played *Hopscotch* today, it really is fun! We get to strengthen our leg and core muscles, as well as balance and coordination. To play hopscotch we need to learn a set of rules which takes cognitive skills and as we have fun we learn to move with a purpose, and gain control of our bodies.



Language & Literacy

The *5 Senses Song* was neat to learn! We read along with our teacher from the chart and learned more about the 5 senses. Following the text with our teacher helps us recognize letters and learn the connection between the text and the sound of the words. Some early literacy skills that we need for reading such as phonological awareness, narrative skills, and gaining new vocabulary are enhanced by singing. Plus singing and dancing encourage and intrigues children, making us want to learn more.





Pre~K 4

Weekly Learning Highlights Week 4 | Day 5



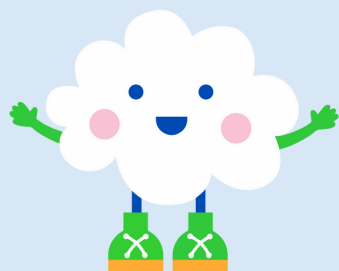
Interactive Reading

Ana Dewdney is the author of the Llama Llama book series that we love! Our teacher brought to the carpet area all the Llama Llama books we have read and we got to pick which one we wanted to read. We had to use good sportsmanship because maybe the book we wanted to read did not get picked, and if it did, we had to be nice to those that wanted a different story. We learned that this is how the voting goes, the majority gets to decide! As our teacher read we were engaged in the story and gained an appreciation for books as well as continued practicing rhyming.



Language & Literacy

The theme for our *Weekly Journal Entry* today was to draw or write about what we felt in the Touch, Texture Boxes. We are expressing ourselves through drawings and speaking, our teacher helps us write words down that we say making a connection between the spoken and written text. We get to practice turning the pages of a book in the correct direction, learn the structure of a sentence, and see the written words come to life in our drawings, just like illustrations in a book! Our language, literacy, and expressions continue to develop over time. So does our love of language and literature!



Cognitive

What's in the basket? We explored loose parts such as legos, pom poms, buttons, or items found in nature that were placed in two baskets to compare which one has more and which has less. Providing opportunities for preschoolers to engage in counting opportunities fosters autonomy and builds independence as they learn about quantity and numbers. Ask me how many items I was able to count for today!

STEAM

The Touch Texture Box activity was amazing! We had to use our sense of touch to reach in a box to feel what was in there and then try to match it to the textures on the table. We had to use critical thinking, deduction, and exploration. Matching the textures without seeing them was a challenge that made us concentrate more on our sense of touch and perception.



Physical Development

Today we painted with a new medium on the easel, we used *Oil Pastels*. These are very smooth to use and paint like crayons but are brighter. We used very bright colors like the ones Kadinsky uses for his paintings. When we color on an easel, we increase the control, strength, and coordination of our small muscles as well as use our spatial awareness and visual perception. We also practiced our geometrical shapes increasing our early math skills.