



Branch May 2018 Newsletter



What a month it has been! April has brought us a multitude of weather changes; and for that we are grateful because it made learning about weather that much more fun! We kicked off our weather study by voting on which type of weather was our favorite. We asked the Brancher's to come up with some various types of weather we could vote on. Our discussion led us to four main weather trends: rain, snow, sunshine, and cloudy. After voting we transformed our votes in a beautiful graph. It was a fun math activity that also incorporated giving our Brancher's a voice- which we love to do! The Branch room was so excited to show off their graph to their friends and family. We loved hearing them show it off to you!

We continued our weather study by diving the various types of clouds and what those clouds might mean. We talked about the three main cloud types: Cumulus, Stratus, and Cirrus. We learned that Cumulus clouds are the white, fluffy clouds that can sometimes bring rain and thunderstorms. Stratus clouds are often grey, flat clouds that bring us rain and snow. And finally, that Cirrus clouds are thin and airy clouds that often look like feathers. Now these can be pretty tricky words to tackle, but our Brancher's were so enthusiastic about them and embraced their new knowledge! Going outside became a cloud scavenger hunt as the children would look up and determine what kinds of clouds were out that day. It was awesome to see our Brancher's applying their newfound knowledge to the outside world! To expand their learning on clouds, we created a fun and hands-on learning experience that the kids really seemed to enjoy. We created our very own puffy-paint to make our own Cumulus clouds! To create the paint, we mixed shaving-cream and glue together. So simple! Then we proceeded to paint our clouds. The children really seemed to enjoy this activity, so much so we tried it again! This time we decided, as a class, to make storm clouds. To do so, we figured that we could mix in some black paint in order to make the paint darker and more like a storm cloud. We loved that our Brancher's were able to get creative and try out some new materials. We are sure you will be seeing more puffy paint projects in the future!

After tackling the types of clouds, we touched on the water system and how exactly we get rainy weather. To give the kids a visual, we created a storm-in-a-bottle! We started by adding water in a bottle, then placing shaving cream on top to resemble a cloud. The next step was to add a few drops of blue food coloring to the top of the cloud. Before we added the drops, we predicted what we believed would happen. We had a lot of creative answers such as the cloud

would turn blue and that the cloud would disappear! After discussing it for awhile, we proceeded to find out what would happen. We discovered that after some time the blue drops would travel through the cloud and into the water. Much like how the clouds in the sky really work! We loved how our storm-in-a-bottle turned out so much, that we decided it would make an excellent addition to our sensory bottle collection. We then took the storm-in-a-cloud idea and expanded it a bit to explore rain clouds more. We took four cups, added water to them and topped them off with shaving cream again. Then as a class, we decided on four colors we could use to determine about how much rain storm clouds could hold. After the colors were chosen, we began to drop the food coloring on top of the clouds. In the first one we added 5 drops, the second 10, then 15, and finally 20. We were then able to discover that it takes a lot of drops to get the cloud to “rain” and that clouds can hold a lot of moisture!

After weeks of discussing the various types of weather through fun activities and books, we took our expertise to a creative art project. At circle time, we created picture cards as a class. We started by folding a piece of paper into 6-equal-parts and then proceeded to cut them out. We then transformed these pieces of paper into weather cards. We took each type of weather pattern we learned about and created picture cards- with the help of the Branch kids, of course! We decided what to put on each card. For example, the thunderstorm card; the Branchers decided that the thunderstorm card need a big cloud with a lightning bolt. It was a lot of fun having the kids tell us what needed to be on the card; and it allowed them to discuss and agree on certain aspects which was a great team builder! After creating the picture cards, the children colored their own set to create their own weather mobile. The Branch kids couldn't wait to take their weather mobiles home and hang them in their room. And we were so happy to see the pride they took in their work!

The weather study was a great success. We had so much fun talking about weather and coming up with fun and interactive activities that could expand our knowledge on the weather system. As fun as April was, we are eager to move on in to May. You know what they say, April showers bring May flowers! This leads us to our next study... flowers and gardening! We can't wait to begin this study; we are certain that the Branch kids will love all the engaging and interactive activities we have planned. So cross your fingers for some more sunshine and warmer weather!

Reminders:

With warmer weather ahead of us, we are asking you to bring in your sunscreen and take home your snowsuits! When you bring in sunscreen, please make sure to fill out a form as we are not allowed to apply any sunscreen without it. Thank you!

Please only allow your Brancher to bring *one blanket, one pillow, and one small lovie* for naptime. It really does make all the difference and we would greatly appreciate it!


Dates to Remember:

- May 4th-First Friday
- May 28th-Memorial Day-NO SCHOOL THIS DAY

- Miss Kenzie, Miss Heather & Miss Stacie



APRIL SHOWERS...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MOTHER'S DAY					
SUNDAY MAY, 13		HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?	PLANT LIFE CYCLE	PLANT SCIENCE 101	FLOWERS FRUITS VEGETABLES
MEMORIAL DAY	SEED SORTING & SEED PLANTING	FANTASTIC FLOWER GRAPHING	BEAN SPROUT BAGS	MOTHER'S DAY SURPRISE!	MAKE A WISH DANDY DANDELION
MONDAY MAY, 28	RADICAL RAINBOW DASHES	CARNATION STATION COLORING	BEAUTIFUL BUSY BEES	STOP....AND SMELL THE ROSES	HAPPY HEART GARDEN
GROWING TREE	THE TINY SEED ERIC CARLE	THE SEEDS WE EAT TASTE TEST	VEGGIE GRAPH	SUPER SOIL VEGETABLE PLANTING	EATING THE ALPHABET FROM A-Z!
CLOSED	CLOSED	THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER	BRANCH ROOM FLOWER ARRANGMENT	FANTASTIC FINGER FLOWERS	

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