

June 2022

What an incredible month it has been! May has brought us a lot of wind, rain, stormy skies, and finally, sunshine...all of which made our plant study that much more exciting and somewhat challenging.

We like to take a deep dive into gardening during May because, as they say- April showers bring May flowers! This is always such a fun and exciting study for both the teachers and the students. It allows us to see the growing process from start to finish and get our hands dirty!

We were able to get a great hands-on visual experience by planting an assortment of different flowers and vegetables! With some thoughtful consideration, the Branch room was able to narrow down some items to plant. Believe us, it wasn't easy. Who knew the Brancher's loved vegetables so much? Once the decisions were made, off to the green house we went to gather the supplies and seeds needed to get our gardening on! Because May weather is quite unpredictable, we decided to grow our flower starts inside and the veggies were planted towards the end of the month when the sunshine showed its well-anticipated face more often!

The flowers, we picked Black-Eyed Susan's, Zinnias, Dwarf Sunflowers, Shasta Daisies, and last but not least, some not only beautiful but helpful wildflowers. The chosen vegetables were, of course, Green Beans and Peas.

With each passing day, the Branchers were eager to observe the planting pots in the hope of discovering new sprouts. The germination process has proven worth the wait because we have beautiful flowers sprouting left and right! While we anxiously await the veggie sprouts, each Brancher is more than willing to provide a helping hand as they take turns watering with curiosity and wonder. Stay tuned...before you know it, we'll have a green garden in no time!

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle has always been a classroom favorite, so what better way to incorporate our favorite book than bring it to life inside the classroom. So, we decided to create our very own Carle-esc flowers.

We created these magnificent flowers by texture painting paper. We observed all of the colors that Eric

Carle had used in his illustrations and mixed similar colors. After our textured painted paper was dry, we were ready for the next step of our multi-step art activity! We then cut out stems, leaves, petals, and pistils. We put them all together and wha-la, we had flowers! We love how each flower looks similar but also so uniquely different as well! Spring has sprung in the Branch classroom with these beauties displayed!

Those aren't the only flowers we created this month. This month, we put our fine motor skills to the test by creating 'flower diagrams.' From roots to petals, each Brancher drew their very own flower and labeled their flower accordingly to the proper parts that make a flower!

To challenge our fine motor skills, we used thin markers. When working with these markers, we focused hard on how to grasp the marker to make controlled and detailed lines. It is always so fun to watch the Branchers draw so intently.

No study would be complete without doing some science and math, both a favorite in the Branch room! When exploring the various parts of a flower, we put our lab coats on and got to work by performing our very own science experiment, **Radical Rainbow Blooms!** The investigation was a simple one but full of teachable moments. We placed daises into the water with various food colors. As time went on, we watched as the flowers soaked up the water and began to turn the colors that they were placed. This gave us a great visual of how a flower's stem can be used as a 'straw' to soak up water and bring it up towards the pistil and petals of the flower. Science can be so awesome!

Speaking of awesome...the Branchers grew their very own grass! We conducted the super seed science/craft activity on a Friday, and on Monday, we had green grass growing! Talk about amazing!



As the month nears an end, it is always fun to reflect and discuss as a group some of the fun, hands-on, engaging, and informational things we have all enjoyed learning! Make sure you ask your Brancher what their favorite discovery was in May.

May also brought change to the Branch room. You need to know that I, as a teacher, will continue to provide a warm, loving, inviting, nurturing, and fun environment in our classroom! Consistency is crucial, and I will maintain just that. You have my promise. For now, Ms. Stephanie will be filling in until Tammy can hire the right person for our Branchers.

Can you believe June is upon us already? Bring on the warmer weather, sunshine, and insects...that's right, insects! Our subsequent study is Insects & Arachnids!

-Ms. Heather



JUNE 2022.

Interesting INSECTS & Amazing ARACHNIDS

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
		Insects VS Arachnids	Caterpillar Life Cycle	Whimsical Winged Wonders
Dragonfly VS. Damselfly	Tie Dye High Sky Flyers	Super Dragonfly Suncatchers	On The Wings Of A Dragonfly	I Spy With My Dragonfly Eyes
What's The Buzzzzz?	Hexagon Honey Bee Bubble Wrap	Sticks & Stripes Bumble Bees	“Give Bees A Chance” Words & Pictures: Bethany Barton	Father's Day Surprise!
All About Arachnids!	Sparkle Spider Symmetry	“The Roly Poly Spider” Jill Sardegna	What's the word, Ladybird? Ladybug 101	Ladybug Seek, Search & Observe
Painted Lady Release!	Insect Open Art	Build An Insect	Insect & Arachnid Wrap Up Questions & Answers	