



Branch Room

Wow, what a month it has been! Is it just us, or does it seem like the Branchers are growing like weeds? Not only in height, but in knowledge as well! It has been a blast to witness the growth of these children. We can only imagine how far they will go within the next year. So exciting to think about! The month of October brought us studies on our 5 senses, as well as pumpkins to help us celebrate this beautiful season. The 5 senses are one of our favorite lesson plans, because we are able to incorporate so many fun, hands-on activities! We started off the month by exploring what exactly the 5 senses are (touch, taste, sight, hearing and smell). After we established a baseline of knowledge, we dug into each sense a little more.

For touch, we participated in a Mystery Grab Bag. The children were asked to put their hands inside of a bag and pick something up. They were then asked to guess what the item was, without peeking! The children were encouraged to move the object around their hands and feel what kind of shapes or textures there might be. Once they took a guess, they were able to unveil what the item was. We had a lot of interesting guesses to say the least! But we also had some guesses that were spot on! It was so fun to watch the children's brains work out what they thought they were holding. Based on their smiles, they appeared to really enjoy this activity! We also explored our touching sense by cutting and digging into a pumpkin. Some of the children loved the feel of the insides of the pumpkins; others however were a little more hesitant to get their hands dirty. Thanks to our Branch kids, we were able to collect all of the pumpkin seeds from inside the pumpkin.

As for taste, we experimented a lot with different kinds of food. Each taste test we conducted, the children were asked to describe what it was they were tasting. We started off by taste testing various different types of apples. Each child was given a sample of a Golden Delicious, Sweet Opal, Granny Smith, and Honey Crisp apple. After we sampled each apple, the children gave us one adjective that they could use to describe the apples. We had some great describing words! Such as sweet, crunchy, sour, and of course delicious! After the taste test was conducted, we used our leftover apples to make some warm, homemade applesauce! The Branchers took turns putting apples and spices into the crockpot and helped mix it all up. After cooking all afternoon, we were finally able to try our very own applesauce! We decided that our applesauce

was a success! It was both sweet and “spicy” thanks to all the cinnamon we used. But that wasn’t all the cooking we did this month. We also had the opportunity to bake the pumpkin seeds we collected! We create two types of pumpkin seeds: sweet and savory! For the sweet seeds, we mixed some vanilla and cinnamon; for savory we used a blend of garlic and onion powder. Once we baked our pumpkin seeds we were able to eat and vote on which seeds we enjoyed more. It was no surprise to us that the sweet seeds won the hearts of our Branchers!

For lessons on sight, we planned some really fun science experiments! Using both carnations and celery, we watched how colored water could change the color of both items. We started off by filling cups of water using the colors of the rainbow. Then each Brancher was able to put one carnation and one celery stick into whatever color they preferred. We made some predictions on what we thought may happen. Some of our favorite guesses were that the flowers and celery would grow, that both items would sink down to the bottom, and that the celery and flowers would drink the water. After some conversation, we decided that we thought that the flowers and celery would turn the colors of whatever water they were in. After some time, we were able to see that the celery and flowers were indeed changing colors! The Branch kids’ eyes grew so wide when they noticed the changes in color. It was a great surprise to them!

We tested the Branchers hearing sense by playing a fun guessing game! The children were asked to close their eyes and quiet their bodies so that they could listen to different sounds. After we played the sounds, they were asked to guess what they thought it was. We played wide varieties of sounds, such as pans clanking, wind blowing, and various instruments. But one of the categories that the Branchers loved, was of course the animals! We couldn’t trick them at all. They sure do know their animal noises; but then again, were we really surprised?

Last but certainly not least, we had our lesson on smelling. Our smelling sense was something we talked a lot about when conducting our taste tests and science experiments. We had the kids smell the flowers and celery, as well as our applesauce and pumpkin seeds. Taste and smelling go hand-in-hand with one another! We also were able to do a fun lesson by using various essential oils. By using Q-tips and oils we were able to put our noses to the test! We used peppermint, citrus, cinnamon and lavender. The Branchers took a deep breath in to help the smell the Q-tips, then they guessed what they thought it smelled like. This activity was hilarious! We had a lot of scrunched up noses and funny guesses. Boy do these kids have a sense of humor!

The Five Senses was a huge success, but we can’t forget to mention our wonderful field trip to Landsystems Nursery! Going to the nursery as a class was such a fun bonding experience. We were able to walk around the nursery looking at all the various plants, take a hayride, plant bulbs and even got to take a pumpkin home! We had so much fun, and are very grateful for the experience. None of this would have been possible without our wonderful volunteers! We appreciate each and every one of

you for coming along for the ride and helping us tackle each activity! The children (and teachers) were ecstatic to see your smiling faces. Thank you! The month of October has sure been busy. We are sad to see this month go by, but we are excited to welcome November which will bring us studies on thankfulness, family and friendship. Bring it on November, the Branchers are ready for you!

- Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather

Dates to Remember:

- November 2nd: First Friday
- November 12th: Parent-Teacher Conferences. Growing Tree will be closed that day.
- November 22nd & 23rd: CLOSED for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



Nov-17

Dates To Remember
November 12th Conferences
Veteran's Day
November 22nd Thanksgiving Day (closed)
Novmeber 23rd (closed)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Thankful Self Portraits	The Giving Tree
Friendship Fingerprints	Friendship Addition Subtraction	Friendship Mix & Max Color Mixing	Friendship Beading Bracelets	Freinship Stew!!
Happy Conference Day!	My Family Is....	Colorful Family Graphing	Last Name Memory game	Thankful Family Portraits
Thankful Fork Feather Turkeys	If You're Thankful & You Know It...	Fantatsic family Feast!	Happy Thanksgiving Day!	CLOSED
Pumpkin Pie Taste Test	How Do You Make a Pumpkin Pie?	Pumpkin Pie Math Graph		



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