

April 1, 2020

Dear Branch Families:

Where do we begin? March proved to be quite a busy month... it was difficult to fit in all the learning, activities and art planned; but we did it! We began our 'Radical Rainbows & Rhymes' by just simply talking about the rainbow, its colors and its shape. As a whole group, we discussed how a rainbow is created. Our Branchers discovered that a rainbow is formed when sunlight shines through raindrops. Simple explanation, big result!

Our Branchers were excited to study how a rainbow was formed! As we made our way outside one morning after our discussion, many friends in the classroom searched the sky for that beautiful and colorful arch. With all the excitement discovering different facts and knowledge about rainbows, it was time for a little voting! As you know, our classroom votes nearly daily...whether it is voting on a book to read or what stations to set out, we provide our Branchers the opportunity to give their opinion and have a chance to stand out and say what they like! Our voting topic for that day: "What is your favorite color in the rainbow?" Each Brancher was able to stand in front of their friends at circle and say their favorite color. Once their color was chosen, a colored circle was added to a rainbow graph according to the color chosen. Once all our votes were in place, we then tallied up each color's votes. We thoroughly enjoyed each Brancher's thought process as they decided which was their favorite.

When the voting was done and the rainbow graph was up, we decided it was about time for some rainbow art! With just a few simple art supplies and some creativity, each Brancher created a uniquely beautiful rainbow streamer. Gluing multicolored tissue paper strips to a large craft stick, we were able to witness the Branchers creating some beautiful patterns! Once the desired amount of tissue paper strips was added, the last step was to add fluffy white clouds (cotton balls) to the top of the rainbows. This was quite an art project and each rainbow created was individually amazing, just like each Brancher in our classroom!



Art didn't stop there! As you know patterning has become quite popular in our classroom. We decided to incorporate art and patterns together! Using both thick and thin markers, each Brancher formed a beautiful thick and thin rainbow using the colors in rainbow order! Though this was a simple art activity, it helped focus on fine motor skills, as each Brancher had to switch back and forth from a larger marker to a much smaller and thinner marker. With each one of the art activities provided, we love to include many different skills to be focused on. Cutting, gluing, coloring, lacing and beading are wonderful activity stations to build up fine motor skills. We are so proud each day as we witness the progress each Brancher has made. Whether it is coloring inside the lines, to cutting on the line and following the shape provided, we have seen such impressive growth!





As you may know, we had a rather fun leprechaun come and visit us a few days before St. Patrick's Day! We discovered that his name was Liam, Liam the Leprechaun. He was a leprechaun who stood at only 2 inches tall. He was so small, that we could never find him! We knew he was there though! As we entered our classroom one day, we discovered that Liam the Leprechaun left us a note. As we were reading the note, we discovered that Liam was in search for his lost gold and it was the Branchers job to help him find his gold. He also left us some fun binoculars to paint and decorate! We then were able to use the binoculars to search for Liam's missing gold! Liam must have been impressed with our skills, because he left us some delicious rainbow fruit loops and twine to put our fine motor skills to the test as each Brancher created their very own necklace. The magical necklaces and beautiful binoculars must have done the trick, because we found ALL of Liam's missing gold!



Though the month of March was a bit challenging, with many of our Branch friends out of the classroom, we are eager for the month of April to be engaging, interactive and exciting!

Our study for the month of April, will be a "Weather Study" You know the saying...." April Showers bring May Flowers!" We shall see what the weather brings us!

Ms. Heather & Ms. Kenzie

APR-20

WEATHER WONDERS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HAPPY EASTER!			WEATHER 101 WHAT IS THE WEATHER	LITTLE CLOUD BY: ERIC CARLE	FAVORITE WEATHER GRAPHING
APRIL 12TH			STORM IN A BOTTLE	WHITE INK BLOT CLOUDS	CRACK. BOOM. BANG. THUNDERSTORM
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!			PAINTING WITH THE RAIN!	RAINDROP PLOP BY: WENDY LEWISON	RAINDROP ADDITION SUBTRACTION
JASPER			PINECONE WEATHER PREDICTION!	SUN POWER & SOLAR POWER	SUNSHINE SUN CATCHERS
APRIL 3RD			IT LOOKED LIKE SPILLED MILK!	CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS!	
ALEX					
APRIL 6TH					
VIVIAN					
APRIL 24TH					

BRANCH