

HORSE ROOM- am class
October 2018

We hope your children are enjoying the time they spend in the Horse Room. They have certainly been busy.

Each week one child will have a chance to be this special helper. We will make a poster of the child and place it on the door. This child will be responsible for closing the door at 8:40 to begin our day, placing the gem in the jar, choosing the word of the day, and feeding the fish and frogs.

Please try to have your child at school by 8:40 each day. We begin our day with time together as a group. Often there are presentations that build upon the previous days lessons. Allowing your child to enter the classroom before the door closes also helps them feel more connected to the group. This month's group presentations included primary, secondary, and complimentary colors. We also learned about tints and shades.

A new group activity we started is Dr. Montessori's "Silence Game". Too often we forget to slow down and bring peacefulness into our days. Dr. Montessori knew that sitting quietly is an important part of growing our brains and bringing an awareness of what is around us. Our Silence Game not only helps us find calmness, but it also strengthens memory, patience, and self-awareness.

Though we do not have show-n-tell in our classroom, your children are free to bring in things pertaining to what we are studying. In October we will be learning about apples and pumpkins in preparation for our trip to Curtis Orchard on October 3rd. Books about autumn are welcome.

The Sensorial Area of the classroom has been alive with creativity this month. Popular works have been the pink tower, color boxes, and sound cylinders. Unlike the Practical Life activities, the Sensorial materials are new to the child. After an initial presentation, the child will discover, explore, problem solve, and create. These materials help to refine not only the child's senses, but also their sense of order, exactness, self-correction, and reflection. We know that what goes into the child through the senses plays a vital role in neurological development. Once the child can discriminate, order, and classify, vocabulary is added. Each of our sensorial materials can reach the mind of a 3 year old and extend beyond the kindergarten year.

Later in the month we will be learning about Fire Safety. We will practice what to do if we hear the smoke detector. We will perform skits that involve going to the door and touching it to be sure it was not hot. Then we either exit (if it is safe) or go to the window and wave to the firefighters. Next we will add pretend smoke to our skit and practice crawling under the smoke. We talk about what to do if our clothes catch on fire - STOP, DROP, and ROLL the fire out. When we have a fire drill at school, we all meet at the fence behind the bench. We practice this once a month. We tell the children "if we hear the alarm inside, we go outside". This is a good time to plan an escape route from your home in case of fire. Also set up a meeting place - a tree, mailbox, or a neighbor's house. If you have a smoke detector that you can remove from the wall, you can let your children hear what it sounds like and roll-play what you will do at home in case of a fire.

HAPPY FALL
Julie Warren