

Infant Toddler Newsletter November 2016 Longwood Medical Child Care Center

Infant classrooms

Autumn is here and the Infant classrooms have been exploring items in their environment related to the changes in season. They have been very busy investigating pumpkins, gourds, leaves and Fall colors by using all of their senses.

The Younger and Older Infants have been touching and feeling the texture of the pumpkins, gourds and leaves. They have also used their sense of smell and taste as they used their mouths and noses to explore these items. Many of the children also experimented with sound as they hit the gourds together and banged them on the floor.

Both the younger and older infants were given the opportunity to explore orange, red and yellow paint. They proceeded to put the paint on the pumpkin and gourds. They also explored the paint by sitting on a large piece of paper and painted with all of their body.

The Infants have taken advantage of the great fall weather and have been enjoying walks in the neighborhood. On these walks the teachers are pointing out and talking to the children about the falling leaves and the autumn colors. The teachers collected some leaves for the children to create a collage on sticky paper. They were very interested in the feel of the leaves as they stuck them to the paper.



The Infants also used their senses as they explored the inside of the pumpkin. The teachers encouraged the children to reach inside and see what they would find. Some of the children were a bit cautious as they pulled the pulp and seeds from the pumpkin. Their expressions were amazing!



Parent Reminders:

Car Seat Safety

As temperatures begin to drop and we bundle our children up to prepare them for the elements, even with good intentions, a bulky coat and a car seat is a dangerous combination.

- As a general rule, winter coats should not be worn underneath the harness of a car seat. A bulky coat under a child's seat harness can result in the harness being too loose. An expert on the subject of child safety says the first rule of thumb when you buckle your child up is that you don't want them wearing more than what they would be wearing indoors such as a sweater or sweatshirt.

Warm Clothes

- Please remember to provide warm indoor and outdoor clothes for your infant. On days we venture outside children should have a jacket and hat accessible.
- Please provide food that is prepared, safe and ready to be eaten. For example, oranges should be peeled and fruit/veggies cut to the desired size. Remember, corn, nuts, popcorn, raisins, seeds and raw carrot sticks are hard to digest, may cause choking and are best to avoid.

Mixed Classroom

The Mixed Room is consistently involved in numerous messy activities. Since September, the teachers have been encouraging the children to wear smocks to protect their clothing. With lots of practice and persistence many of the children have developed a comfort level retrieving and wearing a smock. Several of the children also request a smock prior to indulging in messy fun. Certainly, there is great benefit to setting routines and expectations in the classroom!

The Mixed Room Teachers have been hard at work modeling how to play with toys. They are demonstrating to the children how to stack, push together and pull apart toys such as the pop beads and Legos. These types of activities are building strength in and increasing the children's fine motor control.

The classroom continues to work on self-help skills as they will throughout the year. The children are practicing drinking from open cups and using utensils at meals. When they are finished eating the children place their cups and plates in the sink. They are also practicing getting in and out of chairs independently and washing their hands for minimally 20 seconds. Most of the children can find their mats at rest time and after resting will place their used blanket in a bin so that it can be washed.



Some of the children are showing interest in using the potty. Several have sat on the potty and experienced some toileting success! Every success is marked by a smiley face recording on the diaper board and as accepted a smiley face stamp for the child. In general, learning to use the toilet requires children to master a complex set of skills. Prior to beginning any official toilet training we ask that all families attend a meeting with classroom staff and the Infant/Toddler Coordinator.

Lunch in the Mixed Room is occurring on the later end these days. The children have adapted well to eating closer to 11:50 am.

The pumpkin and gourds have also been a big hit in the Mixed classroom as the children explore the different colors, textures and sizes.



Cubbies: Check out the cubbies! They now have pictures of your child at their eye level to help your child identify their cubby on their own.

Reminders:

- Please remember to label all your child's containers, tops and bottoms please.
- Label all clothing as we run into many duplicate outfits.
- Please ensure that your child has warm clothing available for outdoor play inclusive of a coat and hat.

The Toddler Classroom

The Toddlers have been busy using their imaginations creating and working on their Fall farm stands. They are eagerly collecting apples and vegetables as they fill their baskets and head to the cash registers to check out their produce for the day.



The children's imaginations have also been very busy with the climber as they pretend to be in a hay loft or on a hay ride under the watchful eye of the scarecrow. The hay has provided interesting play in the sensory tables as well as in the creation of art work. The children have had discussions about the use of hay on farms and are very interested in its texture.

I was hoping to get your permission to use this photo of Asa for the November Newsletter. Thank you.



The toddlers have had an opportunity to explore many books for discussion and enjoyment about farms. These discussions have included what animals they might find on a farm, the crops the farmers grow and of course discussions on trucks and tractors.

The teachers have also incorporated activities related to the changing season, bringing leaves into the classroom for projects and discussing the colors of changing trees as they walk to Movement. They have also been exploring the pumpkins. Children were very involved in painting and decorating the fruit.



The children recently enjoyed doing a fall flavored baking project. They participated in identifying the ingredients, measuring these ingredients and worked together as they mixed the batter. The cooking process was so much fun!

Rebecca Moser

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