



# The Moon Monthly

December 2009-January 2010

## SENSES

During December and January, the Moons continued their exploration of the senses, having begun with the sense of touch in November. Throughout the unit they have been provided with a variety of interesting materials and experiences that enhanced their learning. They worked on their classification skills through recognizing objects by sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. The Moons read many exciting books about the senses such as [My Five Senses](#) by Alik.

**Hearing-** In the beginning of December, the Moons explored the sense of hearing through listening activities. They were provided with various musical instruments to use during work time and even created their own band. They listened carefully to the different noises that the instruments produced. They used empty bottles and a variety of small materials to make shakers. The Moons played a game called *Doggy, Doggy, Where's My Bone?* where they had to close their eyes, listen to and identify their classmates' voices.

**Sight-** Later in the month, the Moons learned about their sense of sight. They started by looking in mirrors and coloring in a picture of their eyes. We made a chart of the different eye colors in our class: blue, brown, green, and black. The Moons used their eyes to become detectives with magnifying glasses to observe tiny objects and binoculars to see things far away.



**Taste-** In January the Moons began to explore their taste buds. They did a taste test in which they tasted salt to experience a salty taste and then made salted popcorn. Afterward, they ate a plain rice cake to contrast between salty and non-salty. Next the Moons tasted sweet. They did a second taste test in which they tried sugar and then some sweet foods, including raisins. The two taste experiences were combined when the Moons made their own peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (sweet and salty). After sweet and salty, we moved on to sour tastes. The Moons put on blindfolds and tasted a lemon. We took pictures of the Moons with a "sour face". Then the Moons used the lemons to make lemonade.

**Smell-** Following taste, the Moons began to discover their sense of smell. They did blind smell tests and smelled both familiar and new smells. Some things the Moons smelled were peanut butter, clementines, cinnamon, coffee, vinegar, and fish (dried sardines). A few brave Moons even tasted the fish!



### Moons' Favorite Songs of the Month

"The Name Game"  
"Bop Until You Drop"  
"The Three Bears"



### Moons' Favorite Books of the Month

[Snowie Rolie](#) by William Joyce  
[Not a Box](#) by Antoinette Portis  
[Mouse Mess](#) by Linnea Riley



## DRAMATIC PLAY



During work time, the Moons have become interested in dressing up. Some of the favorite costumes are Superman, a lion, Bob the Builder, and a doctor. The costumes have sparked the Moons' creativity and have encouraged collaborative play. Through collaborative play, the Moons are learning to take turns, think abstractly, share responsibility, and problem solve. Families, if you have any old costumes at home that you want to get rid of, the Moons would love to use them.



## BUILDING

One day, during a small group activity, the Moons were building with stacking circles. One of the Moons constructed a tall tower that was leaning to its side. The Moon exclaimed, "It's a leaning tower!" A second Moon looked at it and declared, "It's the Leaning Tower of Pisa!" We then printed out a picture of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The Moons discussed the shape and construction of the tower and were highly interested. This began a discussion about the buildings they were familiar with, such as the Empire State Building, the Guggenheim, and Gillen Brewer. From there, we dove into a unit on building.



The Moons have been provided with a variety of different building materials during table top time, small group, large group, and work time. They have built with several kinds of blocks, manipulatives, and recycled materials. As the children carry, stack, line up blocks, and make increasingly complex structures, they learn about proximity, order, and balance. They are building on their skills of seriation (comparing attributes), spatial relations (fitting things together and taking them apart), and number sense. Their buildings have led to important discussions about comparing attributes such as tall and wide.

While building, the Moons use language to compare the numbers of things in sets to determine more, fewer, and the same number. For example a child might say, "I need more blocks" or ask another child "How many more?" and the child might respond "Three more." They are building their language through distinguishing and describing shapes. They also are provided with ample opportunity for collaborative play through group and partner building. If you have any interesting materials for building that you would like to share with the Moons, feel free to send them in.



*Building with pattern blocks*



*Painting buildings*



*Fun in a box!*

## LISTENING BEAR

The Moons have been reading a book called [Can You Listen With Your Eyes?](#) By Nita Everly. The book teaches children "whole-body listening." In the book, a bear demonstrates how to listen with his **whole body**. The Moons have learned that in order to listen, they need to use their whole body—ears, eyes, mouth, head, feet, bottom, and heart. For example, your mouth helps you listen when you keep quiet. Your hands help you listen when they are still. In order to further their understanding of the concept, the Moons have been interacting with a larger version of the listening bear with which they can put on and take off Velcro parts of the body that the bear uses to listen.



*The Moons demonstrate whole-body listening.*

## VISITORS

In December and January, the Moons have greatly enjoyed reading and doing projects with family visitors. If you are interested in coming in and reading to the Moons, doing a project, or sharing a talent, please contact Vicki.



*Adam's Aunt did a fun project with the Moons.*



*Adam's Mom read to the Moons and did a project.*



See you in February!