



The Moon Monthly

November 2009

Bodies

Since October, the Moons have been enjoying a book called I Ain't Gonna Paint No More by Karen Beaumont. The book is about a boy whose mother catches him painting all over the house and himself. I Ain't Gonna Paint No More is full of rhymes ("So I take some red and I paint my... HEAD!"). Given the word **red**, the Moons were able to predict that the boy would paint on his **head**. Rhyming is an important part of a child's language and literacy development.

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More also led to a strong interest in their own bodies and what each part is used for. The Moons practiced isolating body parts and colored them in a picture of a figure as we read the book. A favorite activity they did this month was using colored tape and "painting" themselves like the boy in the book.



The Moons read several stories having to do with their bodies. They practiced movements with each part such as clapping hands, stomping feet, and nodding heads. They came up with original ideas like bending knees, blinking eyes, and opening and closing mouths.

Hands

The Moons developed a strong interest in their hands while they explored the way their bodies move. They made prints of their hands and traced them. The Moons learned to isolate each finger and identify it by its name. We sang the songs "Where is Thumbkin?" and "10 Little Fingers." Ask your Moon to tell you the names of their fingers. There is Thumbkin, pointer, tall man, ring man, and pinkie.

Using their hands, the Moons made finger puppets, hand puppets, and sock puppets. We then incorporated these puppets into the pretend area of the classroom. They used many different materials in their puppets, which led to a rich discussion about the different textures. They used their hands to reach inside a box and feel the different textures. They also differentiated the feeling of cold objects from room temperature objects.



Moons' Favorite Songs of the Month

"The Turkey Ran Away"
"Shoo Turkey, Shoo!"
"Mat Man"
"Going on a Bear Hunt"



Moons' Favorite Books of the Month

Today I Will Fly by Mo Willems
The Little Red Hen by Philemon Sturges
The Big Red Tub by Julia Jarman



Through distinguishing between the cold objects and non-cold objects, the Moons practiced their classification skills. It was very exciting for the Moons when they were presented with trays of ice to explore. They were able to describe the ice in several ways as well as hold more than one attribute in their minds. The ice was both smooth and cold. This was an opportunity for a lot of vocabulary; the Moons described the ice as cold, icy, frozen, freezing, chilly, wet, hard, and smooth.

Mat Man

Through their study of their bodies, the Moons were introduced to Mat Man which is part of the Handwriting Without Tears program. Mat Man is made of simple wooden pieces that the Moons assemble like a puzzle on the floor. The Mat Man song helps the Moons to place the pieces to make the person. The song begins, "Mat Man has one head, one head, one head, Mat Man has one head so that he can think." During this, the child whose turn it is takes the head piece and places it down. This continues on until Mat Man has each of his body parts. The Moons are able to tell us how Mat Man uses each part.



Mat Man enhances the Moons' body awareness (body parts, body functions), socialization (participation, following directions, turn taking), and number awareness (counting body parts). The Moons have been able to use the Mat Man pieces in other areas of the classroom such as the pretend area, the building area, and during table top. They have discovered that they can use the wooden pieces to make upper-case letters. Some of the Moons have been making different

letters with the pieces.

If you would like to build Mat Man with your Moon at home, you can go to <http://www.hwtears.com/matman/arcade/buildmatman> and create your own Mat Man!.

Letters

The Moons have become interested in their names and the letters used to spell their names. We have begun to introduce a different letter each week that is in the Moons' names. So far, we have talked about the letters S and A. The Moons have identified and counted these letters in their names. We put out tape in the shape of an S for the Moons to walk on.

They Moons also became letter detectives and went on an "S" hunt. Each Moon got a magnifying glass and we went on a community walk to find the letter S in our environment. The Moons found the letter S on buildings, signs, and automobiles. We have been isolating the initial letter sounds in different ways such as saying the Moons' names but replacing the first letter with an S. Netty would be "Setty". They are learning to identify the beginning sound as well as recognize rhymes.



The Moons use their bodies to brush teeth, touch their shoulders, and give hugs!

See you
in
December!

