



# The Moon Monthly

## October 2009

### In the Classroom

October has been a very busy month for the Moons. At the beginning of October, the Moons were studying leaves. They went on nature walks and brought leaves back into the classroom to explore and use for art and sensory projects. On a nature walk, the Moons also discovered twigs and bark, which they brought back and also added to all areas of the classroom. These interests led to a more expansive study of trees, including learning about the parts of a tree: trunk, branches, twigs, and leaves. They all practiced making their own tree poses with their bodies. The Moons learned that wood comes from trees. They went on a hunt around the classroom to find objects made out of wood. Some of the things the Moons found are chairs, tables, blocks, and train tracks.

While playing with twigs, the Moons began to build houses. Some of the Moons were reminded of the story, The Three Little Pigs. We read four different versions of The Three Little Pigs. The Moons enjoyed the repetition in the book, as well as the slight variations between each story. Each day we explored a new material that the pigs used to build their houses. The first day the Moons explored straw. They built houses out of straw, and blew down their houses. The next day they explored sticks. They practiced building things up and taking them apart. The third day, the Moons explored bricks. They were not able to blow the bricks down! The Moons explained why the straw and stick houses could be blown away and why the brick houses were too heavy or sturdy to blow down.

The materials were added throughout the classroom along with props such as pretend pig noses. The Moons used these materials to collaborate and re-enact the story of The Three Pigs. The Moons role-played as the pigs and the wolf and recited each part in sequence. They also expanded upon the story by adding in a scary dog that barked and scared the poor wolf away.

The Moons became interested in things that have to do with fall and examined gourds and pumpkins. They are learning key concepts such as weight comparisons - heavy versus light and size comparisons – big versus small. They also used rich vocabulary while exploring these natural materials, such as “bumpy”, “smooth” and “striped”. The Moons explored the surface of the gourds and pumpkins by making imprints in play dough and wrapping and un-wrapping them in foil.



Tree Pose



Tree Pose



### Moons' Favorite Songs of the Month

- "Happy Birthday"
- "Hickory Dickory Dock"
- "Leaves are Falling"
- "Mary Had a Little Lamb"



### Moons' Favorite Books of the Month

- The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog by Mo Willems
- I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! By Karen Beaumont
- Leaves, Leaves! by Salina Yoon



## Music

In Music, the Moons learn new songs and get to use a variety of instruments. The Moons have been moving to music, exploring and identifying sounds, exploring their singing voices, and developing melody. This month, the Moons have played guitars, xylophones, bells, chiquitas, maracas, shakers, and drums. In music they are able to move their bodies because almost all of the songs incorporate movement. A favorite music game of the Moons is “Sally Go Round the Sun.” In this game (which is similar to “Duck, Duck, Goose,”) the Moons sit in a circle and one Moon has a scarf. The child with the scarf skips around the circle while the other children sing. When the song is finished, the child with the scarf places it in the lap of a Moon and that child has to chase the other child until he or she sits down. Through this game the Moons are practicing turn taking and following directions. Robert ends music with a quiet good-bye song that helps the Moons to transition.



## Art

The Moons have been working with a myriad of materials to create different pieces of art using leaves as inspiration. The use of leaves in Art has built on their leaf study in the classroom. The Moons have used markers, crayons, pastels, glue, paper, bottle caps, buttons, dotters, and paint in class. They have also explored shapes such as circles and squares in Art. Kate read the Moons Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson.



## Science

Each week the Moons have been exploring new materials and creating new materials. So far the Moons have made their own Playdoh and Oobleck (which has properties of both a liquid and a solid). Through these activities, the Moons have been learning how to describe different attributes, as well as use vocabulary such as “hard,” “sticky,” “slimy,” and “squishy.” Because of the children’s interests in nature, Andrea brought in a pumpkin which she cut into. The children used four out of their five senses to explore what was inside of the pumpkin. It was a wonderful tactile experience. The Moons are hard-working scientists!



## Gymnastics

The Moons start out Gymnastics by warming up and stretching their muscles on the mats and by running in different ways across the room (backwards, hopping, skipping). The Moons then move their bodies in numerous ways to get through an obstacle course which includes balance beams, a trampoline, tunnels, large cube-shaped mats, etc. The Moons are sequencing their motions by following the order of the obstacle course. They have been running straight, running sideways, jumping forward, jumping backward, climbing, crawling, and much more! The Moons end Gymnastics by dancing to music with different objects such as hula hoops or scarves. The Moons are really proud of all the ways their bodies can move! Ask your Moon to show you a bear walk or crab walk.



See you in November!

