



The Moon Monthly

September

The Moons' school year is in full swing! The first few weeks of school, the Moons were busy getting to know each other, their new classroom environment, daily schedule, and routines.



Letter Links: Each Moon picked a *Letter Link*, which is a naming system that pairs a child's name with an object that starts with the same letter and sound (i.e. Vicki Vest or Netty Necklace). Building on children's attachment to their own names, *Letter Links* introduces children to alphabet letter names and sounds. The Moons quickly learned their peers' names and letter links. Through a variety of new "Hello Songs", the Moons greet each other daily during morning meeting.

The Origin of the Moons: The first week of school, our class had the big task of picking a name from the broad topic of "something from outer space". We read several books about outer space and the children shared concepts and specific interests they had about topics related to outer space. The class narrowed our name choices down to three: Saturns, Moons, and Suns. During large group, we took a vote by secret ballot. Each child pointed to his or her choice behind the board. When the tallies were revealed, the class counted the votes and discussed which choice had the most votes. This is how we became the Moons!



Class Routines: The Moons have been learning their daily schedule, classroom routines, and self-care tasks to help themselves become independent around the room. They have been *super-Moons* with learning the hand-washing routine! The important parts to remember are to scrub with soap and water for the length of a whole song and to turn the water faucet off using a paper towel.



Moons' Favorite Songs of the Month

"A Peanut Sat on a Railroad Track"
"Mary Had a Little Lamb"
"Down Around the Corner at the Bakery Shop"



Moons' Favorite Books of the Month

Cookie's Week by Cindy Ward
Can You Find Sadie? By Diane Ohanesian
Bark, George by Jules Feifer
Move Over, Rover! By Karen Beaumont



The Classroom Environment: The Moons' classroom is divided into interest areas, including the Building Area, the Pretend Area, the Art Area, the Book Area, and the Touching Table. Each day for



Plan-Do-Review ("Work Time"), the Moons choose an area of the room and make a plan about what they intend to do in that area. Materials are accessible to the children to take out and put in as they choose.



The Moons engage in active and shared experiences in these areas. Work Time is followed by a review period when everyone shares what he or she did during the session. Some of the Moons' favorite Work Time activities have been water play in the Touching Table, building zoos in the Building Area, and exploring shaving cream in the Art Area.



Leaf Study: Recently on a walk to gymnastics, the Moons began to observe the change in the weather and their surroundings. Teachers overheard many comments about the wind and the leaves rustling on the trees. The Moons noticed that many of the



green leaves were still on the trees, until they came upon a lone tree whose leaves were turning red and beginning to fall to the ground. The Moons picked up various leaves. On subsequent walks, the Moons noticed even more leaves had fallen to the ground. We went on a "leaf hunt" to collect more leaves and study them further. When we brought them back to class, the Moons observed all the different types of leaves and compared their similarities and differences.



They described the leaves in many ways, including "shiny", "crumbly", "pointy". They noticed the varying colors of the leaves and how many of the leaves on the trees are still green. We dove further into our study of leaves by reading several books, including, Fresh Fall Leaves by Betsy Franco and Fall Leaves Fall by Zoe Hall. The Moons will continue their study of the changing trees and the falling leaves as we dive deeper into the Fall season. We will be using the children's interests to work

on a wide range of science and math concepts, including *Classification*—sorting and matching by different attributes and *Seriation*—arranging objects in order and describing their relationships.

See you in October!

