



The Moon Monthly

March/April 2010

Shaving Cream



Lillian mixes paint and shaving cream.

In March, the Moons were very interested in shaving cream play and other sensory experiences. They enjoyed squishing it in their hands, spreading it around, and experimenting with different objects inside the cream. Shaving cream is an exciting sensory experience for children. It also provided the Moons with opportunities for using descriptive vocabulary such as cold, wet, smooth, sticky, lumpy, creamy, and gooey. The Moons mixed different colors of paint into the shaving cream. They also brought in materials from the pretend area to add to their play. They put shaving cream into bowls and served pretend yogurt parfaits and whipped cream. They also put little toy people in the shaving cream to pretend the figures were ice skating. The Moons also experimented with other tactilely engaging materials: wikki stix, pipe cleaners, and straws. They wrapped, twisted, snipped, bent, and constructed with these materials.

Museum of Natural History

Finishing up their study of marine life, Andrea took the Moons on an exciting field trip to the American Museum of Natural History's Hall of Ocean Life. They took the exciting 86th St. crosstown bus



Rosie and Lillian are in clam shells.

to the West Side. Once at the museum, the Moons saw dioramas of penguins, polar bears, walruses, seals, sharks, dolphins, otters, and the great blue whale. It was thrilling to see life-sized replicas of the creatures they had been reading about in the classroom. One of the trip's highlights was getting to sit inside of a giant clam shell! It was a wonderful way to culminate the study.



Adam is sitting in a clam shell.

The Playground

The Moons welcomed the beautiful weather at the beginning of April by beginning to take trips again to Asphalt Green playground and Ruppert Park. The playgrounds provided opportunities for climbing, swinging, running, and sliding. On the play structures, the Moons are able to observe people and places from new spatial viewpoints.

While at the Asphalt Green playground, many of the Moons have gravitated to the sandbox and the house area. In the sandbox, they got to dig, sift, pour, and build as they explored how sand moved and felt. Sand play promotes physical development and imaginative play. As they dig, pour, sift, and scoop, they are using their large muscles. As they manipulate sand toys, they are working on small muscle control and eye-hand coordination. If you would like to accompany the Moons to the playground please contact Vicki, we would love to have you join us!



The Moons are playing in the sandbox.



Samuel is exploring soil.

Seeds and Plants

On the walks to and from Asphalt Green, the Moons noticed the red and yellow tulips growing. They smelled the flowers as they passed and asked questions about them. Their curiosity carried us into a study of seeds and plants. During group time and work time the Moons studied soil. They used magnifying glasses, trowels, and their hands to examine it. The Moons enjoyed finding little twigs inside and squishing the clumps of dirt with their fingers.

The Moons read a book by Anne Rockwell called One Bean. In the book, a boy and girl plant a lima bean. The Moons followed the steps in the book. They placed the lima beans



The Moons' garden.

in a plastic bag. They watched for signs of growth such as the bean turning wrinkly and a root coming out. After a few weeks the lima beans had sprouted roots and shoots and were ready to be planted in soil!



Matias is riding on Paul's push cart!

After a lot of soil play, the Moons wanted to begin planting seeds; however, they didn't have enough soil or pots. This dilemma led to an exciting solution. The Moons took a trip with Paul to the hardware store. Paul brought along his pushcart to carry the heavy load. Each Moon had a turn to stand on the pushcart!

Now that the Moons had soil and pots, they were ready to begin planting. They learned that they first put soil in the pot, then the seed, then more soil. They know that in order to grow, a plant needs water and sunlight.

The Moons planted lettuce seeds and corn. The window sill is beginning to look like a garden.



Matias and Adam are trying lettuce.

The Moons have done many exploratory activities with seeds such as making pictures with seeds, using tongs to sort seeds, and using them during work time. Their enthusiasm for seeds and plants have encouraged the Moons to try new fruits and vegetables. The Moons have eaten lettuce, celery, kiwi, carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, cabbage, and sweet potatoes. They were asking for more vegetables during work time to make vegetable soup!

See you in May!



Samuel and Rosie are planting lettuce seeds.



Rosie is making a picture with seeds.