



# The Moon Monthly

May 2010

## Office Materials and Tools

In the beginning of May, a group of Moons decided they wanted to take apart an old laptop computer to see what was inside. They began by removing the keys on the keyboard with their fingers. To get inside the computer, the Moons figured out that they would need a screwdriver.



The Moons took apart this laptop.

They attempted to unscrew the screws with a plastic toy screwdriver, but realized they needed a real one. They borrowed a screwdriver from Paul, and Ana used the screwdriver as the Moons told her which screws to open. They were very interested in the spinning fan inside the computer. They were also intrigued by the circuit board; many of the Moons commented that it looked like a city. This experience provided fascinating new materials with distinctive textures and properties for the Moons to manipulate.

Moons were later introduced to other office materials and tools that they see adults using and could potentially use in their own classroom activities. Each new object was introduced during group time and later available during work time. The first objects the Moons used were rubber bands.

They used rubber bands to hold objects together. They also used them



Rosie, Lillian, and Matias used rubber bands to make guitars.



A geoboard creation.

on geoboards - boards with grids of pegs

that hold rubber bands in position. Geoboards are wonderful math tools that help to teach early geometry concepts (lines, shapes), as well as higher level geometry concepts in the older grades. The Moons stretched, pulled, and twisted the rubber bands to make lines and shapes.

Through working with rubber bands, Moons are discovering that materials can be reshaped and rearranged. To save their geoboard pictures, the Moons requested to use the photocopier as well as the laminator. The Moons took an interest in these adult tools and frequently find images to photocopy and laminate during work time.



Samuel uses a drill.

Other materials the Moons have been introduced to and use during work time are staplers, hole punchers, paperclips, and envelopes. During a group activity, the Moons had to figure out how to get a piece of paper into an envelope. Fitting things together and changing the arrangement of objects helps Moons with spatial problem solving. They folded the paper in different ways to make it fit. Many of the Moons drew pictures and wrote letters to "send" to moms, dads, and grandparents. The Moons can often be heard during snack and lunch time making a plan to use these new materials during their play — "Can I use the hole puncher later?" or "Can we make copies of the rubber-band design and laminate it?"

### Stone Soup

In May, the Moons enjoyed reading the book Stone Soup by Ann McGovern. In the folktale, a young man tricks an old lady into making him a hearty soup. The story starts with the young man asking for stones to put in the pot. The Moons found the idea of



Lillian is pouring water into her soup.

putting stones in a soup to be very amusing. At the playground one



The moons are making stone soup.

day, the Moons collected stones in a bag to bring back to school to make stone soup. The Moons shared large bowls of water and emptied their stones into them. They used toy vegetables and other food from the pretend area to add to their soup. They took turns mixing the soup. They also got bowls and different utensils and practiced filling and emptying the soup into different containers.

Some Moons even added bubbles to their soup. This activity allowed the Moons to use their imaginations to create their version of Stone Soup.

The Moons Enjoying Work Time



Lillian and Adam are in a boat.



Rosie is dressed like Minnie Mouse.



The Moons are pretending to have rest time.



Samuel is building a structure.

See you in June!

