APRIL 2024

Monthly Concepts:

***Shape*: Semi–Circle** **Colors: Blue & Turquoise** **Opposites: Top/Bottom (and middle)** **Values: Truthfulness** **Motor Development: Crawling & Creeping**

April 8-12
Essential Workers

* Discussion: "Who are Essential Workers?" Talk about people in our community. Use "clue cards" to learn more about each worker
* Arts & Crafts: Community Helper Wheels; cutting, coloring and assembling or Construction Worker Tool Belt
* Nature Walk: Walk to the mailbox to deliver mail
* Science Experiment: "Elephant Toothpaste"; yeast and hydrogen peroxide chemical reaction
* Math: Magnetic Mail Number Matching
* Dramatic Play: Pretend to work at a local business
* Sensory: Construction Trucks and Brown Playdough

April 15-19
Flourishing Farms

* Discussion: How do farms work, and why are they important?
* Arts & Crafts: Finger painting muddy pigs
* Math: Non-standard measurement; how many worms long is it?
* Outdoor Activities: Gardening; seeds and plants.
* Science: Worm composting
* Music: Sing and Play "The Farmer in the Dell"
* CleverTouch: Virtually visit a working farm
* STEAM: Farm animal peg boards
* Literature: *The Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle

April 22-26
Going Green: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

* Discussion Questions: "What are the benefits of recycling and repurposing materials?"
* CleverTouch: Watch a video on how plants grow and what they do for our planet
* Art & Crafts: Still life painting of a vase of flowers and coffee filter blue butterflies
* STEAM Activity: Windchimes from scrap materials
* Sensory: Garden Sensory; soil, shovels and gloves
* Math: Measuring children's height with flowers (non-standard units of measurement)
* Literature: *Love the World* by Todd Parr, *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert, and *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

Tuning Out to Tune In: How Time Outside Can Improve Readiness to Learn Inside

by Andrea Laser

Outdoor time matters. I've certainly lost track of time and my thoughts and worries seemed to disappear - all because I was outdoors in a peaceful setting. As teachers we send wound up children outside to "burn off some energy." And many of us plan our vacations based on the outdoor scenery. Our need to be restored by the outdoors and nature's almost magical effects may actually have its roots in brain research. As it turns out, the time we spend outside can do amazing work getting our brain ready for the time we spend inside.

To read the full article visit:
https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/time-outside-can-improve-readiness-learn

Special Events:

***April 1-5-**: Spring Break!*
See you back at school on April 8th!

***April 9:** Kindergarten Graduation Photos*

***April 10:** Preschool Bike Rally (Rooms 3 & 4)*
**** All participants MUST bring a bike or scooter and a helmet.***

***April 15-19:** Scholastic Book Fair*

***April 17:** Pre-Kindergarten Bike Rally (Rooms 5, 8, and 9)*
**** All participants MUST bring a bike or scooter and a helmet.***

***April 19 :** Spirit Shirt Day!*
AND
Kids Night Out
**** Sign-up using the link in the TW@TR email***

***April 24:** Junior Pre-K Bike Rally (Rooms 7, 10, and 11)*
**** All participants MUST bring a bike or scooter and a helmet.***