



MARCH The Tree Study and Online Learning

March was quite the exciting month for us and has taught us adaptability and a variety of new skills. Before the school shut, we excitedly started working on the Tree Study and the children had lots of fun planting, exploring and discovering plants and trees. Some classes planted some beans and the children watched their little beans sprout and grow roots and leaves. They learned about deciduous and evergreen trees, the features of different kinds of trees and they learned to ask questions about what they would like to learn about trees.

Then we were all thrown a curveball and we had to learn how to teach from a distance. It has been quite the challenge but as teachers and as people, the Pre-K Team couldn't be more proud of their children and their parents. In 2 weeks we have learned how to make videos, connect via Zoom, give dojo points instead of high-fives and we have seen you working unbelievably hard at home. The teachers sure miss you a lot and will continue to work hard to stay connected with you online until we get re-united in school. We understand it might be difficult to stay at home all this time but it is so important to follow instructions so we can all stay safe and healthy.

We send out a big SHOUT OUT to all parents who have put in a tremendous amount of effort by working with their child, learning how to teach from a plan, how to adapt learning to their child's level and interests. We see your hard work and we could not be more appreciative. THANK YOU!





April What we will continue working on...

In April we will switch things up a little and have some fun with themed weeks. We will kick April off with ‘Science Week’. We will dedicate every day to one concept where the children get to explore and experiment how the world around them works.

Why is Science important in Early Childhood?

Young children are naturally inquisitive, full of questions about the world around them and the drive to investigate how things work. It follows, therefore, that we should take advantage of this innate curiosity and start channeling their enthusiasm for scientific discovery as early on as possible. Now let’s explore some of the reasons why science education is so important in Early Childhood, and how you can support Science at home.

I. It can foster a lifelong love of science

Children are programmed to explore and experiment right from the start, even as babies. On the other hand, research suggests that by the age of 7, most children have developed either a positive or negative attitude towards science education that will remain entrenched. So by tapping into their natural predispositions early on, during this key developmental phase, we can nurture and establish a positive approach to Science education that will stay with them into the future.

2. It gives a basic grounding in scientific concepts and scientific thinking

Even the very simplest activities can introduce children to scientific concepts and stimulate scientific thinking. Early Childhood science education can provide a strong foundation in terms of both what is learned, and how it’s learned, that will stand them in good stead. By encouraging and directing their natural curiosity, and familiarizing them with basic scientific vocabulary, Early Childhood educators can help children begin to make sense of the world around them, and gain some understanding of how things work.



3. It supports the development of other skills and attributes

Science education activities provide children with opportunities to develop and practice many different skills and attributes. These include communication skills, collaborative skills, team working and perseverance, as well as analytical, reasoning and problem-solving skills. Help them expand their vocabulary by using scientific terms that are appropriate for their age group. Encourage them to extend and embed their learning through related literacy, numeracy and creative activities.

Taking the right approach:

- **The process is more important than the results:** although it's really valuable for the children to gain some scientific understanding along the way, finding the 'right' answer should not be your topmost objective; the main goals are to channel their curiosity, and to foster their investigative skills.
- **Be open to child-led discovery:** as well as organizing specific activities for your child to participate in, try to look out for spontaneous, daily opportunities for scientific discovery, guided by you but ultimately led by the children. Encourage them to always experiment and ask questions, and make sure you have plenty of resources available for them to use.
- **Offer active, fun, hands-on experiences:** most young children love physical exploration - the messier the better - so if you can tap into this, their favored learning style, you'll find it much easier to engage them and maintain their interest. Keep activities short and varied, and always make sure that there is plenty of opportunity for active and first-hand involvement.

