

Spring Specials Update

Music with Ms. Elena

Ah, the rain. It lends itself so well to musical activity! Tapping on our ears, stomping our feet, and creating sirens with our voices to mimic raindrops, thunder, and wind allow young children to internalize rhythm and pitch. Naming a movement in song as we do that movement also reinforces vocabulary.

Fingerplays provide this benefit, too. They promote self-expression, improve oral language, and help train the ear by listening for specific rhythmic words. The twos and threes are learning the words to one of our favorites, Ten Wiggly Fingers:

*Ten wiggly fingers
wiggle from side to side.*

*Ten wiggly fingers,
Going for a ride*

*Ten wiggly fingers
Wiggle up and down*

*Ten wiggly fingers
Go walking into town.*

*Ten wiggly fingers
Wiggle round and round*

*Ten wiggly fingers
Don't make a sound.*

*Ten wiggly fingers
Playing hide and seek.*

*Ten wiggly fingers,
Now they're gone!*

...don't you peek!

As children reach “up” and “down” and “round and round” their brains map these directions on their bodies and once again reinforce vocabulary. A finger play like this is also perfect for “waiting times”, i.e. in line at the store, at carpool, or in the doctor's office. True story: I used this to get my daughter Emilia, currently in the Frogs classroom, to stop asking me for a lollipop. (Well, it worked temporarily!)

The 4s and 5s are learning the classic call and response song “This is the Day” for their spring celebration. It can be tricky to know when to respond and when to sing all together. To internalize this contrast in our bodies, we stood still on the call and response section, then marched as we sang the middle of the song together. Call-and-response songs help the children sing in tune, with correct rhythm and good diction. They quickly invite participation, becoming favorites. I'm sure many of you fondly remember learning this tune as a child:

*This is the day (this is the day)
That the Lord has made (that the Lord has made)
I will rejoice (I will rejoice)
And be glad in it (and be glad in it)*

*This is the day that the Lord has made,
I will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day (This is the day)
That the Lord has made.*

We look forward to sharing our music with you! Mark your calendars for our spring celebrations:

Frogs and Bunnies: Wednesday May, 15th at 11:00am in the Lewis Room

Turtles and Cubs: Thursday, May 16th at 11:30am in the Lewis Room

Pandas, Otters, Owls, Dolphins, and Eagles: Friday, May 17th at 10:30am in the church

Yellow Puppies: Wednesday, May 22nd at 10:45am in rm 34

Red Puppies: Thursday, May 23rd at 10:45am in rm 34



Creative Movement with Ms. Lisa

I continue to work with the children on gross motor skills as well as following directions, both verbally and by observation, hand-eye coordination, and ball skills.

Some of the things we have been doing in Creative Movement:

Scoters: We have learned the safe ways to move around on the scooters using our feet and arms, forward and backwards. We have learned to ride on our bellies using our hands to move about as well as using our legs to move about. The children have played scooter soccer and hungry hippos.

T-ball: We have learned how to hold the bat and swing using an 8" foam ball to hit.

Giant Beach Ball Fun: We have played abbreviated team oriented games such as volleyball and freeze tag.

Obstacle Courses have consisted of bean bag toss, ring toss, jumping through hula hoops, going over and under bars at different levels, stepping stones, balance beam forward and side steps and crawling through tunnels, as well as balancing dino eggs on a spoon.

Once our time is up the children line up and get a stamp before returning to the classrooms. They always leave with a smile. It is a joy to work and play with your children each day!

*****Parents please remember to dress your children in sneakers (rubber soled shoes) on Creative Movement days. This is so they can run and play and use the equipment safely.***



Spanish with Ms. Marla

Hola, Familias de San Raphael! Hello, St. Raphael Families! *Llegó la Primavera!!!* Spring is here! Your children have learned a lot since our last newsletter.

We continue to repeat a lot of what we have learned at the beginning of the school year. I enjoy doing some of the action words and they can tell me the Spanish word for what I am doing.

We learned about “*un muñeco de nieve*”-snowman and “*Qué tiempo hace?*”- What is the weather?

Hace frío- it's cold

Hace calor- it's hot

Hace viento- it's windy

Esta soleado- it's sunny

Esta lluvioso- it's rainy

During Valentine's week we learned how to say *corazón*-heart and *te amo*- I love you. We found and counted all the *corazones* in Spanish on a worksheet and practiced cutting *un corazón*.

We are beginning to learn about “*Animales en la Granja*” (Farm Animals). *Pollitos*-baby chicks; *caballo*-horse; *vaca*-cow; *oveja*-sheep; *pato*-duck; *perro*-dog; *gallina*-chicken; *granjero*-farmer; *cerdo*-pig

We are also practicing animal sounds, so if you ask them “*Los pollitos dicen.....*” They can respond by saying “*pio, pio, pio.*”

Los pollitos dicen- pio, pio, pio

El caballo dice- Ney, ney, ney

La vaca dice- mu, mu, mu

El pato dice- qua, qua, qua

El perro dice- ruff, ruff, ruff

La gallina dice- cluck, cluck, cluck

I will be teaching a new song called “*La Vaca Lola.*”

La Vaca Lola, La Vaca Lola (A cow named Lola, A cow named Lola)

Tiene cabeza y tiene cola (Has a head and a tail)

La Vac Lola, La Vaca Lola (A cow named Lola, A cow named Lola)

Tiene cabeza y tiene cola (Has a head and a tail)

Y hace muuuuuuu! (and she goes mooooooo!)

I will also be introducing family members, “*La Familia*” (the family)- *papá*- father; *mamá*- mother; *hermano*- brother; *hermana*- sister; *bebé*- baby; *abuelo*- grandfather; *abuela*- grandmother.

I will introduce a song to practice these family words (To the tune of “Where is Thumbkin”)

El papá, el papa (Father, Father)

¿Dónde está? Aquí está. (Where is he? Here he is.)

Gusto saludarte. Gusto saludarte. (Pleasure to see you. Pleasure to see you.)

Ya se va. Ya se va. (Now he leaves. Now he leaves.)



The rest of the year we will continue to practice the different songs, counting to 20, items found in the classroom, Mother's Day and more!