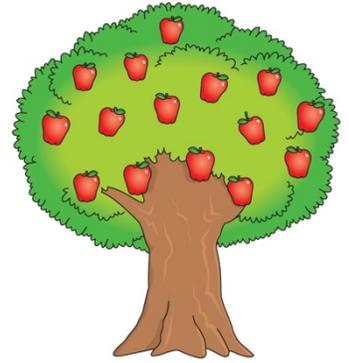


September Newsletter

We have just finished our "All About Me" unit. During this unit, the children learned about how to treat their friends, found out a lot of information about their friend's families, and increased their knowledge of body parts such as elbows, shoulders, hips and ankles. They have worked on many self-help skills such as proper handwashing techniques, putting on their own shoes and pulling up and down their pants.



For the next 5 weeks, we will be studying apples using our five senses. We will read books about how apples grow and how they move from the orchard to our tables at home. We will taste green and red apples and decided which we liked best. Then we graph our results with a picture graph. The graph lets the children practice counting and comparing numbers.

The theme will be infused into all the learning centers. For example, the children will be encouraged to "bake" apple pies and "make" apple sauce while playing in the housekeeping center and while working with playdough.

In the block center, they will be provided with materials to build apple orchards and "pick" apples to take to market using the trucks. While playing farmer, they will improve their social skills of using words to communicate their needs, sharing and waiting their turn. Their vocabulary will increase as they used theme related words such as orchard and harvest.

During small group time, children will count and sort "apples" and use sequence cards to depict the life cycle of an apple. To increasing their fine motor and coordination skills, the children will make paper plated apple by tearing red paper and gluing it to a paper plate. We will also make an apple tree for the door using bingo markers to make the apples. This activity will exercise their fine motor skills and improve their color recognition.

Circle time is one of the children's favorite activities of the day. Theme related and loved books are read and many songs are sung. "Little Pig Takes a Bath" is currently one of their favorite's. It's a simple book about a muddy pig taking a bath which they have memorized. This allows them to participate in "reading" the book. Ask your child about Little Pig's bath and I'm sure they will be happy to share the story with you! "Three Little Apples Hanging from a Tree" is a song which helps the children learn to count backwards, improves fine motor skills and memorization. Later in the month, ask your child about the farmer who "snatched that apple right out of that tree" and get ready for them to start singing!

On Friday, October 5 at 3:30pm, we will be having an Apple Party. One family member will be invited to come and share a variety of apple snacks and songs with us to celebrate the end of our unit.