



### **The Elephants / Ha Peleem**

**Week of January 30th – February 3rd, 2012**

**This week we talked about the holiday of Tu B'Shevat. It is the birthday of the trees. We read books, sang songs, and had open ended discussions about trees, how important they are to us, and what they give us. We talked about it being a commandment from god to plant trees and a mitzvah to do good things for the earth.**

#### **Literacy**

- Read books about Tu B' Shevat and trees
- Literacy chart- I am Thankful for trees because...
- We sang songs about planting and about Tu B'Shevat
- Discussed how trees and plants grow
- Discussed what trees give us
- Discussed keeping the trees safe and keeping our earth clean
- Identifies letters and sounds while reading A is for Apple and All Things That Grow
- Found names during morning circle(some our children can already recognize their letters in their name and we moved on to last names)
- Identified the letters and sounds of the letters in our names during circle
- Recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang Hatikvah during circle
- Found letters around the room during transitions

#### **Math**

- Counted how many seeds we put in our cups when we planted popcorn kernels

- Sequenced the lifecycle of a plant
- Counted to the date during calendar
- Recognized numbers during calendar
- Counted to 10 in Hebrew and English before snack and lunch

### **Science**

- Discussed the lifecycle of a plant
- We talked about the parts of a tree (roots, trunk, branches, leaves)
- We talked about the things trees and plants need to grow (sun, water, soil, and love)
- We did a celery experiment and put a piece of celery in water and added blue food coloring- we made an educated guess on what would happen to the celery on a literacy chart. Only one child guessed that the celery would turn blue. This experiment was a good way to show the kids how the plants drink the water through the roots. Try it at home with carnations or celery the kids loved it!
- We planted pop corn kernels in a cup and will be watching those carefully each day
- We discussed the weather each day
- We discussed the new month at calendar time/sang the 12 months of the year song

### **Gross Motor**

- Danced the Animal Action, Freeze Dance, and other body movement songs
- Explored the play ground – bikes, houses, slides, trucks, rock climbing wall, playing chase, air boat, ball( catching and throwing)
- We had music with Miss Beth and sang Tu B' Shevat songs and used the parachute
- We practiced our Yoga moves to stretch out and then played T-ball in Gym with Miss Alisa
- Danced and sang with Cantor Zach and learned Tu B' Shevat and Purim songs

### **Fine Motor**

- Explored with a variety of materials in the art center
- Practiced their cutting skills by cutting out of magazines things that come from trees
- Painted a class tree and glued the cuttings onto the tree

- Practiced their cutting skills by cutting out the lifecycle of a plant and then gluing them in sequential order on the paper
- Practiced writing their name on their work
- Created tall towers and bridges with blocks
- Feed the Bunny game- taking tweezers and picking up carrots to feed the bunny
- Played with puzzles
- Played with Legos and other manipulatives

### **Social/Self Help**

- Continued to work on unpacking backpacks, sorting snacks, throwing out trash, packing up and proper hand washing skills.
- Cleaned up after centers
- Practiced using our words with our friends- at home if they are whining ask them to use their words so that you can understand their needs, role model proper words for them to use when in a conflict with their siblings or friends

Shabbat Shalom,

Morah Sheri

**Please remember to bring Tzedakah each Friday. Some of the children have already lost their envelopes that were made in the beginning of the year or I keep forgetting to place them in your child's back pack, either way you can place the coins in a zip lock bag with their name on it! Thanks!!!!**

**We participate in a program that collects ink cartridges and old cell phones. When we send them in we accumulate points, these points allow the school to purchase new materials. Please keep that in mind when upgrading your phones or changing the ink! Thanks!!!!**

**Sylvia Rouss author of the Sammy Spider books is coming to Temple Torah. The date is Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 10 to noon. The price is \$20 for a member of Temple Torah and \$25 for non-member this includes a family of four, lunch and a book for Sylvia to sign.**

