



The Cows/ Ha Parot ~~ Oct 10-12, 2011

It's Sukkah Time!

I'm building me a sukkah,
my hammer never stops'
bang, bang, bang, bang.
To the sukkah I will bring
bright red berries on a string,
tie them tight and hang them high,
through the branches see the sky!

Sukkot is considered the most joyous time of the year. It is the third pilgrimage festival. We celebrate the harvest and the fulfillment of God's promise to bring us to Israel after years of wandering.

The joy of the holiday is experienced through the mitzvah of constructing a sukkah, a temporary shelter which recreates the experience of living in the fields as the farmers did during biblical times. Guests were invited and food was shared. It was even used for sleeping while the stars shone through the opening in the roof. The sukkah was decorated with pictures and hangings.

We have a beautiful sukkah in our classroom that was carefully made by Miss Jacki, thank you Miss Jacki. Please stop by and see our wonderful sukkah.

Developing Skills

Math

Using the second week of the October calendar, the children observed that numerals larger than 9 have two digits taking them into the teen numbers and that also as the numbers increase so then does the quantity or amount increase.

This is challenging because children at this age have not yet mastered the developmental skill of one to one correspondence. This is the ability to assign a number value to each object counted (within a group of objects) and arrive at a group count while not repeat counting the same objects over and over again resulting in an incorrect total of the group.

Lining objects up, touching each object and counting slowly can be a big help with this but this is still a matter of a developmental process that needs time to come about.

Literacy

We had a special guest reader visit our class to read Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney. Firefighter Kevin was quite impressive as he read this book and got the children involved in the story. Our school participated in this event along with thousands of childcare providers, parents and adults to help beat a world record and support early childhood literacy.

Afterwards, the children discussed where their favorite place to read a book was within their homes. We got some interesting responses!

We also read the book Mysterious Guests, A Sukkot Story by Eric A. Kimmel. This is a story about two brothers and each built a sukkah. Each brother is visited by mysterious guests that leave unusual gifts that honor the generosity of the heart.

Science

To better understand sukkot, we discussed the meaning of the harvest and the growing process of fruits and vegetables from seed to plant and that plants need fresh air water and sunlight to grow. The children then told us about their favorite fruits.

Each child brought in some fruit and we prepared a fruit salad to share in the sukkah. This involved their senses to see, feel, smell and taste a variety of fruits.

Gross Motor

In the classroom the children had fun and did lots of movement using beanbags to a special song. This involves listening to the directions and coordinating their bodies to follow the directions. They also ran off a lot of energy outside. They have been into balls lately so it's been fun to watch them try to kick and chase them. Also we have been playing ball toss with the children.

Fine Motor

We did a few projects for sukkot that the children liked very much. They used a marble and some paint in a tray to paint their fruit/veggie to hang in the sukkah. They also cut colored paper to make chains for more decorations. Glue and a small brush was used to hold the chains together.

Social-Self Help

We're encouraging the children to become more independent to learn how to zip/unzip their lunch boxes and backpacks. We also review the class rules regarding sharing toys and using your words to express yourself.

Judaic

In addition to the many stories, songs, projects and discussions we have had in regard to sukkot and the sukkah, we also had the opportunity to visit the sukkah outside the temple near the playground. We were very fortunate to have Mr. Elliot come out and speak to us. He showed us the lulav and the etrog and how to shake them east, west, up and down to show that God is everywhere. We will make more trips to the sukkah.

Study Words: fruit-perot, invitation-hazmana, vegetables-yirakot

Coming Up: Sammy Spider will be visiting our class next week, be on the look-out!

A Reminder:

Please label your child's name on his/her snacks, thank you.

Also please be sure to return your child's plastic folder, thank you.

Shabbat Shalom,

Morah Fran and Morah Jacki