



Mitchell, 7 years old



Madeleine, 6 1/2 years old

"Imagine That!" Session

From fairy tales and magic star wands for younger groups to puppet-making, acting and stage craft for older groups, it was exciting for everyone this week. Our imagination ran wild as we discovered our own talents and interests. Whether we were watching a performance, or creating one, we had a wonderful time!



Zoie, Chloe and Ashlee participated in Preschool Small Group Time by demonstrating new rakes and shovels. They shared proper use and storage of the tools and emphasized rules to ensure safety.



The children "dug" right in with their brightly colored new tools!

Children Tap Into Their Vivid Imaginations

Infants

Our theme this week was "A Camouflage Adventure." We focused on the color blue this week (or Azul, Spanish for blue). Many of the musical instruments used during Small Group Time had the color blue somewhere. We used bells, tambourines and rhythm sticks. The infants fingerprinted and colored butterflies with markers (some blue).



Two of the books we read this week were "Garden Families" and "Clifford's Peek-and-Seek Animal Riddles." We played with butterfly puppets after reading the books.

The Infants looked around the Nature Explore™ Classroom for the butterflies they made. We also visited Courtyard Lounge and talked to, looked at and touched the flowers and trees that were planted there.

Contributed by Joleen Podtburg and Denise Topil

Toddlers

This week flew by in Toddler A as we studied butterflies. We decorated our own butterflies to play hide-and-seek on the Nature Explore Classroom. When we went



outside the wind helped our butterflies to fly to their hiding spots. Then we looked for where they landed. "Mine flied!" exclaimed Ella. The butterflies twisted and twirled in the wind. The children also experimented with releasing the butterflies from many different places on the outdoor classroom. Keira smiled and clapped her hands as she released the butterflies standing on the stump jumpers.

Books like "Where Butterflies Grow" and "Amazing Butterflies & Moths" helped us learn about the growth of butterflies. We turned our bodies into caterpillars and crawled around the room. Our bodies stopped and curled up so we could become chrysalises. After being very still for a few seconds, we slowly climbed out of our chrysalis and pretended to fly, just like butterflies! The books also showed us the

many different kinds of butterflies." That butterfly looks like a crocodile," said Rory



when he saw an owl butterfly.

After looking at butterflies and their different colors, we painted our own

butterflies. Everyone was so focused on painting the only sound heard was a request for a new paint color. When the butterflies dried, we taped straws to the back so we could make our beautiful butterflies fly.

Contributed by Katie Sharp and Joy Ritchie



Toddler B has had lots of fun learning about butterflies! The books we've been reading, full of lots of information, are "Butterflies;" "Butterfly Colors;" and, "The Butterfly Hunt." We've learned about how butterflies grow from the egg to hatching into a caterpillar, into a chrysalis and finally into a beautiful butterfly. We discovered that butterflies are insects that like to drink the nectar from flowers. We discussed how butterflies can be many colors and are not the same. They can have patterns on their wings that are dots or stripes, or they can be one color only. We also learned that butterflies have four wings and that their wings match.

We used watercolors to paint our very own special butterflies. We even talked about butterflies matching their colors with the flowers they land on to eat. We used markers to color on little butterflies and then took them outside. We matched the colors on our butterflies with the colors in nature like green leaves or pink flowers. It's been a busy week. Please talk with your children and give them an opportunity to share the information and new vocabulary they learned about butterflies!

Contributed by Amy Jensen



Dress-Up, Face Painting, Magic Wands, Fanciful Artwork Contribute to Week of Make Believe

Preschoolers

Imaginations were overflowing for the Preschoolers this week!

- Small colored blocks turned into castles
- Dressing up at Work Time gave Kinsey the idea to “have a fashion-model show!”



- Faces were painted: Olivia became a princess; Burk was Cinderella; Cole and Will were Lightning McQueen; Zachary and Aquiles were tigers; and, Kinsey was a cheetah.

During Circle Time the children created Magic Wands (with glitter!) and took turns changing their friends into different insects and animals.

Miss Roit and Mrs. Guess’s group created a Dance Studio in the Block Area.



Miss Roit asked some of the children “What is Imagination?”

Ray: *You do things that are pretend*

Chloe: *It’s not really real*

Eva: *You play something using your head*

Cassie: *It’s something you don’t really have*

Contributed by Cindy Heinzman and Kristine Roit

Kindergarten – First Grade

“The Octopus’s Garden” song by the Beatles inspired an exploration of the oceans and seas. Monday the K-1 morning group looked at ocean and sea animal books and used those as a basis for water color seascapes.

Tuesday, they added foam sea animals for two dimensional artwork. Using toothpicks and glitter glue, the children gave their



seascapes a “water-sparkle.” The next day, the children began making costumes and masks for their performance of “The Octopus’s Garden.”



On Thursday, the “ensemble” (a new word we learned about working together) completed costumes, masks and scenery for the play and then

rehearsed their performance in preparation for Opening Day. Friday they will stage their performance for Preschoolers, families and other children. *Imagine That!*

Contributed by Kathy Marshall and Cami Burchett

The K-1 afternoon group has been learning about sea creatures. We used recyclables to create our own sea monsters. Some people created alone, by twos or even a group of six! The group made an 8-foot long sea monster that they named “Unknown King Under the Sea.” They taped boxes, lids, streamers and cardboard on a long box and decorated it with markers and paint. Carson B., Karson H., Bailey, Cory, Preston and Brody were the creators. It was a two day project!

We also played the ABSeas fishing game and worked on costumes for a party.

Contributed by Linda Maack and Kathy Marshall

Second – Fifth Grade

Silent Walk: noun, an act of traveling while observing without speaking, relying instead on senses and perceptions.

The older children began *Imagine That!* Week with a Silent Walk through the garden area of the Nature Explore Classroom. The intent was to become more receptive to our senses and aware of alternative perceptions. Most of the group thought it was difficult to observe and share without using speech. The children compensated by relying on facial expressions, hand gestures and tugging on sleeves or tapping on shoulders. Zoie said it was hard to wait patiently for someone to be open to something she wanted to share. Logan thought it was interesting.

Tomato plants provided a variety of observations for the group. Jacobsen noticed the tomatoes were hard and bumpy and that the cherry tomatoes had a pattern of two tomatoes side by side instead of randomly spaced. Zoie pointed out how hairy and prickly the tomato plants were. Chloe joined the group after the walk started. She soon realized that no one was talking. Her observations included the large orange flowers on the pumpkins and smaller flowers on the tomato plants. Mrs. Murdoch observed excited eyes and smiles as the

children participated in the Silent Walk.

Jackson made a small brick “oven” during the week. The oven grew into a fancy French restaurant, “Emerald’s Kitchen.” The children drew from personal experiences such as eating in restaurants, stories shared by relatives from France, and knowledge learned from books. Prop boxes of materials, cardboard bricks, the texture table, large pieces of cloth, tables and more provided the backdrop for the restaurant. Furniture was rearranged to achieve a comfortable feel. Waiting guests were provided books and games. Additional entertainment included a dog to serve drinks to children and to clear the tables, and a cat to greet customers (painted faces indicated who was the dog and who was the cat). The children added fresh flowers in vases on the tables and Logan and Zoie built a five-foot Eiffel Tower in the corner for a focal point in the restaurant.



The older group immersed themselves in the conceptualization of the restaurant. Some of the skills they used included designating jobs, collecting materials, learning to focus, and using complex communication and clarification to achieve their goal of “Emerald’s Kitchen.”

Contributed by Holly Murdoch

Summer Sessions Bookshelf

Garden Families by Anne Geddes

Clifford’s Peek-and-Seek Animal Riddles by Norman Bridwell

Where Butterflies Grow by Joanne Ryder

Amazing Butterflies and Moths by John Still

Butterflies by Melanie Mitchell

Butterfly Colors by Helen Frost

The Butterfly Hunt by Yoshi

Various versions of *Cinderella*

Staff Birthdays

Barb JensenJuly 15

Denise TopilJuly 21

Kathy TichotaJuly 22

Tara HildAugust 7

Kristi ReitzAugust 13

Chris DickhautAugust 16

Sue ErdkampAugust 17

Ann WattAugust 19

Photographs contributed by Denise Topil, Katie Sharp, Cindy Heinzman, and Beth Pauley.

Nature Explore™ Classrooms are part of a national initiative that we are working with in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation.

Newsletters and Program information can be found on-line ...

www.dimensionsfoundation.org or www.firstplymouth.org