



Rain Forest Room

September 28, 2007

Greetings Rainforest Parents,

Well, we are off and running in the Rainforest Room. The first weeks of school brought about many "getting to know you moments," as well as the development of new friendships (ongoing). Areas were introduced and explored: Language Arts, Math/Building, Imagination/Dramatic Play and the Art/ Science Area. Routines were established from morning circle: "Who's Here Chart," Calendar, Days of the Week, new songs and the Rainforest Agreements (**respect** each other and our materials, resolve situations with words). During closing circle the inhabitants reflect on what they did during the day and share their thoughts.

In the last week of August the inhabitants familiarized themselves with what a Rainforest is, its flora and fauna. They learned the importance of trees and how it relates to our planet. As homage they painted their own "Visions of a Rainforest" with water colors and Q-tips. We delved right into the September/October theme, "All About Me" by drawing a picture of ourselves and dictating stories. We shared how old we are, the color of our eyes, our favorite food and who we love (you will be happy to know it was you). The inhabitants made "Mini Me dolls" out of cardboard and used fabric and yarn to dress them up. They had great fun adding accessories and details and were surprised to see how they looked.

Language Arts Area

The inhabitants have also been practicing identifying/writing their names by piecing and gluing the letters of their names in-order. They have been working consistently on adding their names to every masterpiece they create and feel very proud when they see their names in print. WAY TO GO INHABITANTS!!

We officially began the weekly Rainforest News where each child draws a picture and relates a story or an event that has happened or will happen. So read all about it - they are posted every Friday by the Dramatic Play Area. The Reading Area has been very popular as we listened to many great books: "*I Like Me*," "*A lot of Otters*," "*The Way I Feel*," "*A Bad Case of Stripes*" and "*George Washington's Teeth*" (ask your child, "what happened to his teeth?").

The Math/Building Area has seen some amazing construction work. The inhabitants are quite the architects and work well at building some complex block structures. They have also explored the straw connectors and have made some "cool" three dimensional creations. We have created colorful patterns with unifix cubes and then graphed it on paper to see similarities in pattern choices. The kids have begun to explore the board games and particularly like the Gem and Strawberry counting game with rolling dice. A Rainforest favorite is the hammer/nails shapes kit. The inhabitants create some very abstract configurations. We have also been playing Number BINGO (1-20). The kids have been practicing hard at recognizing and matching the card numbers with the board numbers, and it seems that many are hooked on BINGO.

Preschool, Pre-K 215A Blackfield Drive Tiburon, CA 94920 (415) 381-8181

K-8 70 Lomita Dr. Mill Valley, CA 94941 (415) 381-8183 Fax (415) 381-8484

In the **Art/Science Area** the inhabitants have explored different mediums of drawing- from wet chalk, markers, crayons, colored pencils, tempera paint, fabric paint and water colors. They have used Q-tips to paint and fingers to create insect shapes for their "All About Me, All About Us" quilt. They have explored their own faces/features and used pencils to draw themselves: eyes, nose, mouth/teeth, lips, ears and even moles and scars.

The inhabitants have created three dimensional art by adding stacked up beads and cut out straws (sticking up) to their collages. Finally, the kids teamed up and worked together in painting a Rainforest Mural (to be on display soon). They focused very hard on respecting each other's painting space and art work. It was a great way of experiencing teamwork, of fostering respect and unity within the room.

Rainforest Parents, a few reminders: our first field trip will be in October to Nicasio Valley Farm. Please check the room calendar for the date - more info soon to come.

We look forward to seeing everybody at Back to School Night. Big thanks to our Room Parent, Jennifer, and to the Families who brought in Birthday treats.

THE RAINFOREST TEACHERS, Vanessa and Bernie

Preschool, Pre-K 215A Blackfield Drive Tiburon, CA 94920 (415) 381-8181

K-8 70 Lomita Dr. Mill Valley, CA 94941 (415) 381-8183 Fax (415) 381-8484