Storytelling at the Children’s School

Over the past three weeks, the three-year-old classes explored storytelling! We read stories, turned stories into plays, and of course created our own stories. We explored the following questions- Who tells stories? Why and how can we tell stories? What makes up a story?

To get started with storytelling, we started by reading many stories-- mostly fairytales. The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Three Little Pigs, and Goldilocks and the Three Bears were particular favorites. We read some stories based on fairytales but with different characters telling the story from their perspectives. In one story, the Big Bad Wolf wasn’t really mean. He went home to his family and tickled his wolf cubs. We also read different versions of a fairytale with changes to the characters, setting and other details in the story. After reading the Three Billy Goats Gruff, we read, The Three Cabritos.
We told stories in many ways throughout the unit. We acted them out, painted pictures to create a story, and put on puppet shows. We also learned about being a good audience. We practiced putting bubbles in our mouths (when it was someone else’s turn to tell a story), listening to one another’s ideas, and taking turns. Sometimes we even experimented with using the flip video camera so we could observe ourselves telling the story.
We participated in activities throughout the unit that supported our story explorations. We created headbands we could wear when reenacting stories or creating them. We played with dolls, puppets, and other characters. We also created new settings for imaginative play to take place- with blocks, a pop-up castle, a bridge and a boat.
Take a look at some of our recent experiences in the Discovery Area and on the playground.
A thank you to our many visitors! Felix’s mom continues to come and do French with the Red and Blue Rooms. She also came to share a story as we celebrated Felix’s Birthday. Greta and Emma also had their moms come to share a story and help celebrate their birthdays. Alexander’s mom came and made pizza with friends. Naveen’s dad came and read a couple stories, and Brady’s sister and brother (graduates of the Children’s School) came and read and played guitar for us. We loved having you all!
During the past several weeks, we also took some time to learn the basics of woodworking and opened that part of the Discovery Area frequently. We put on our safety goggles and drilled holes, hammered nails, screwed screws into wood, and put together nuts and bolts.