Our last weeks in the Green Room were spent exploring, learning about, and having fun with water! We focused on the amount of water on our Earth, properties of water, uses of water, the water cycle, and ways to conserve water.

**Water is Everywhere**

We began our water theme by talking about how water covers over 70 percent of the Earth’s surface. We looked at maps and globes to find and identify the world’s oceans. We also talked about water sources that we find locally in Pittsburgh, like the water in the three rivers.

**Properties of Water**

Next, we focused on water in its three states: solid, liquid and gas. We painted with ice cubes to explore solid water. We poured liquid water into different containers and watched it take the shape of that container. We used a dehumidifier to see how liquid water can turn into water vapor or water in its gas form. “Amazing Water” by Melvin Berger was a great introductory book that we used to talk about water in its states.

**Water is Useful**

During circle time, the friends brainstormed a variety of great ideas of the many uses of water. We focused on the concepts: water is a habitat for many living creatures, we need water to drink, we use water to clean, and it can also be used for recreation.

**The Water Cycle**

There is the same amount of water on earth today as when the earth was formed. The friends have learned that the water gets recycled in a process called the water cycle. We learned a water cycle song that reinforced the vocabulary words evaporation, condensation and precipitation. The friends worked together with the 3-year-old friends to decorate water cycle pieces for our bulletin board.

**Water is a Precious Resource**

Although we began the unit talking about how much water our planet has, we used our final focus week to discuss water as a precious resource. We discussed what we can do to conserve water and keep our lakes, rivers, and oceans clean. We read “Saving Water” by Charlotte Guillain and “Where does all the Garbage Go?” by Melvin Berger to start the conversation.
Water Activities

Here is a closer look at some of our favorite water activities, games and experiments that we have enjoyed during this theme.

Walking Water

The friends loved participating in the walking water experiment. First, we set the stage by filling three jars with water and some food coloring. We placed these jars on a set of blocks. Then, three empty jars were set directly below the filled jars. A strip of paper towel was used to make a path for the colorful water to walk from the top jar to the bottom jar. As we did this experiment, we talked about absorption and gravity.

Solid/Liquid/Gas Sort

In the solid/liquid/gas sort, friends took turns choosing a picture card. The card had a picture of water in either a solid, liquid or gas state. The friends had to study the picture and decide in which column to place their card.

Does it Dissolve?

In the “Does it Dissolve?” experiment, friends first predicted which items they thought would dissolve in water and which would keep their shape. Some items that were tested included: goldfish crackers, marshmallows and coffee grounds.
In this activity, friends used eye droppers to add water to a variety of objects. Some items absorbed the water, while others repelled the water. The friends tested cotton balls, fabric, buttons, aluminum foil and more!

.. or more of a transplanting activity. The friends decorated flower pots for Mother’s Day. They then worked to put soil and a beautiful flower in their pot. We watered our plants so that they would be strong and healthy to give to mom!

During the Water Unit, the friends played a variety of games. In the picture, you see the friends fishing for alphabet fish. The goal of the game is to find the letter in the “ocean” that also appears on your card. We also enjoyed playing the card game, Go Fish and the recycling game- Recycle Sort.

The friends have been caring for our outdoor tulips by giving them lots of attention. We use water from our outdoor water table to nourish our plants and to conserve our precious resource by recycling.
Our Favorite Activities

Gwendolyn is painting the Earth with blue paint for water and green paint for land.

Brylie is adding collage pieces to our sun for the water cycle bulletin board.

Ryan, Jillian and Jemma are playing “Dont Break the Ice.”

Tyler and Roxy are washing dishes in the dramatic play center.

Daniel does an ocean puzzle for daily work.

Charlotte, Daniel and Beau are pouring water into the clouds to make it rain.

Roxie and Sammy are doing the “Does it Dissolve?” experiment.

Ryan, Finn, Owen and Nola are playing the ABC fishing game.

Judah and Max are guessing how many plastic ice cubes are in the guessing jar.
Our Favorite Activities

Sammy, Ethan and Marley are doing the water resist activity.

Sara and Tyler are playing with the penguins on ice cubes.

Owen and Tyler are observing the walking water experiment.

Brylie, Jack and Asher are taking a turn in the rocking boat.

Sahil and Maeve are blowing bubbles.

Roxy, Matti, Jillian, Mira and Sahil are painting with paint cubes.

Ethan and Avery are using wet chalk on the outdoor chalk board.

Finn, Tyler, Rhys, Sara and Hudson are playing the recycle sort game.

Jacob and Avery are working in their number journals.
Special Guests and Birthdays

Owen’s grandparents visited Owen’s circle time friends.

Mira’s Mom came to celebrate Mira’s birthday.

The librarian shared water stories like “The Pout Pout Fish.”

Ethan’s Mom and sister joined Ethan to celebrate his birthday.

Miss Lauren turned the parachute into the ocean’s waves for our music lesson.

Brylie’s parents joined her to celebrate her birthday.

Daniel’s parent’s celebrated his birthday with us.

Sahil’s Mom shared a story to celebrate his birthday.
End of Year Fun!

Thanks for a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Opferman, Mrs. Solomon and Mrs. Wendolowski