Green Room Newsletter

Community & Recycling

During the month of October, we learned about our community and the people that work together in a community. We grouped some of our community helpers into 3 categories:

1. **Helpers**: police officers, fire fighters, EMS
2. **Healers**: doctors, nurses, dentists, veterinarians
3. **Workers**: garbage collectors, construction workers, teachers, store clerks

Also, throughout the month, we talked about the way we keep our community clean and why recycling is important. It was a fun-filled, busy month full of learning, role playing, and skill building.

Our Favorite Theme Books

Circle time is a great time to hear stories that help friends learn more about our theme. This month our favorite books were:

- **On The Town: A Community Adventure**
  by Judith Casely

- **Fred The Firefighter**
  by Jo Litchfield and Felicity Brooks

- **Policeman Lou and Policewoman Sue**
  by Lisa Desimini

- **Where Does All the Garbage Go?**
  by Melvin Berger

- **Stuff! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**
  by Steven Kroll

Mango Monkey Says…

Our wise puppet friend visited the friends this month to talk about **Manners**. We shared the book, **Mind Your Manners B.B. Wolf** by Judy Sierra to give the friends a gentle reminder about using their manners. In the story, B.B. Wolf practices using his manners at a tea party with his friends, Red Ridinghood, The Three Little Pigs and the Gingerbread Boy. The friends helped Mango Monkey teach his puppet pals when and how to use their manners during the day.
What is Community?

We began our unit by defining Community as “a place where people live, work and play together”. As a group, we brainstormed the places in our community and the people that live and work in our community. We discussed our Children’s School Community and the people that work and play together at school. The Block Center allowed us to build a community, including houses, people and businesses. We introduced our community play rug and the friends matched the helpers with their building and vehicle. The Dramatic Play Center was transformed into the Green Room Post Office where mail was sorted, stamped and delivered by the mail carriers.

We asked, “Where does all our garbage go in our community?” The words, “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” were identified and defined.

Helpers: Fire Fighters, Police Officers and EMS

Next, we introduced the helpers in our community that help to keep us safe. The Dramatic Play Center became the fire station and the friends worked together to build a fire truck in the block center. When the fire call came into the fire station, the fire fighters put on their uniforms, gathered equipment and climbed on the fire truck to race to the fire. We practiced letter recognition and naming when playing the ABC Firetruck game. The “Call the Police” game strengthened everyone’s memory and recall skills. We practiced naming and identifying shapes before combining the shapes to make an emergency vehicle.

Gathering the various recycling containers helped us practice sorting paper, plastic and compost.
Healers: Doctors, Nurses, Dentists, Veterinarians

The healers in our community help keep us and our pets healthy. We pretended to care for babies in the Green Room Doctor’s Office, care for our teeth while brushing and flossing pretend teeth, and treat animals in the Green Room Veterinarian’s Office. The friends were introduced to the tools that our “healers” use, such as a stethoscope, x-ray machine, thermometer, bandages and a blood pressure cuff. Everyone worked together to build a hospital in the Block Center. We sorted food that is healthy for our teeth and bodies vs. food that is not healthy for our teeth and bodies.

Gathering used scrap paper and reusing it to make paper sculptures reminded us of one way to reduce, reuse and recycle paper.

Workers: Garbage Collectors, Construction Workers, Teachers, Store Clerks

We ended our unit by thinking about other workers that contribute to our community. The Dramatic Play Center transformed into the Green Room Farmers Market. The friends worked together by taking turns being the workers, shoppers and cashiers. Construction vehicles were used to haul blocks to construction sites so that the workers could build structures. The green rug became a road that garbage and recycling trucks traveled on to collect an assortment of garbage and recycling. The friends practiced being teachers when performing their circle time jobs of calendar helper, weather helper and number helper.

Playing the Recycling Game helped the friends sort various recyclable materials into the proper container. We sorted items into paper, plastic, aluminum and compost categories.
Make Shop Experiences

The hand drill and hammer were tools introduced in the Make Shop this month. The friends were taught to always wear their safety goggles before using tools, and they were shown the proper way to handle each tool so that they are safe. Hammering nails into the hammering log and drilling holes into thin wood planks allowed the friends to practice using the tools safely.

Thinking of new ways to use recyclable materials helped us create art in the Make Shop. Paper sculptures were made using scrap pieces of paper from the classroom. We re-used containers, lids, corks, wrapping etc. to create recycle art.

Music Experiences

with Mrs. Hraber

Mrs. Hraber taught us new songs about our community helpers and recycling. Using various instruments including shakers, bells, drums and sand blocks, she is teaching the friends how to keep the beat to the songs. Pete the Metronome returned dressed up like a firefighter, police officer and a recycling can! Mrs. Hraber showed us how to re-use materials to make musical instruments. A cereal box and rubber bands became a guitar, an empty water bottle filled with pebbles became a shaker, and a container and a stick became a drum.

Center Spotlight: The Art & Writing Center

The Art and Writing Center offers the friends opportunities to strengthen their fine motor skills as well as practice their creativity. The Art and Writing Center is stocked with paper supplies, various writing utensils (markers, crayons, pencils), scissors, hole punchers, and stencils. Letter and name guides are available for friends interested in writing their name or words. This month, we began practicing recognizing and writing letters. Each week, we focus on a letter. After we practice naming the letter, we identify the lines that make up the letter (straight lines, diagonal lines or curved lines). Each friend has their own “letter journal” where they keep their letter writing practice pages. Check our weekly blog for the focus letter of the week. We are beginning with the letters that are made using straight lines (H,F,T,L,E,I).
Miss Debbie, the Carnegie Librarian, shared books about Community and Recycling.

Officer Campbell and Officer Moran visited to tell us about their job as CMU police officers.

Becky from Turner Dairy Farm visited to tell us about working on a farm.

Eric talked to us about his job as a garbage collector.

Firefighter Billy visited to talk with us about fire safety, his job and his equipment.
Our Month in Photos
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