Farm and Food Theme

During our Farm and Food Unit, we identified farm animals, and their sounds and also discussed what the animals give us. We explored farm equipment, and shelters and also compared farms around the world. We finished our unit learning about the food grown on a farm and the job of a farmer.

We began our unit by asking the friends what they know about farms. Most of the responses focused on the animals on the farm. During circle time, we read, My Farm Friends by Wendell Minor and Barnyard Banter by Denise Fleming, and we learned about the animals and their sounds on a farm. Singing “Old McDonald Had a Farm” helped reinforce farm animal names and their sounds. We sorted farm animals from animals that do not live on a farm. We stamped farm animals and practiced writing their names. After reading Moo Moo, Brown Cow, Have You Any Milk? by Phillis Gershator and discussed what the farm animals give us, the friends pretended to be a farmer and experimented with “milking a cow” using a rubber glove and paint. We also experimented with shaking whipping cream in a glass jar to make butter. Laurie Berkners song, “I Know a Chicken” reminded us that chickens give us eggs as we practiced shaking the eggs to the music.

Next, we learned about the shelters on a farm. We looked at photographs and created pictures of a barn, silo, chicken coop, stables, and farm house. We created a map of a farm that included these structures. Farm equipment was added to our classroom as we learned about the machines that work on a farm. Fantastic Farm Machines by Cris Peterson allowed us to look at photographs of farm equipment, learn the names of the equipment and understand how each machine works. An irrigation system was available in the water table to help demonstrate how the crops are watered. Discussions and photographs of farms around the world helped us understand that not all farms look the same, and not all farms have a big red barn! Photographs from farms in Germany, Ireland, and Japan showed vast differences in landscape and landmarks found on the farm.
We ended our unit by discussing the job of a farmer and discovering the food grown on a farm. *Vegetables! Life on a Produce Farm* by Ruth Owen, reminded us about the process of planting a seed, what it needs to grow, and how the farmer cares for his crops. Changing our Dramatic Play area into the Green Room Farmer’s Market allowed us to practice buying, sorting and working as a farmer selling the crops grown. We discussed how our food goes “from farm to fork” and spent time in the kitchen preparing the food found on a farm. We learned how to use a juicer and turned oranges and carrots into a delicious drink. We sliced and baked apples, and prepared applesauce for everyone to enjoy.

Lena builds a barn using Lincoln Logs.

Tripp and Tayshawn play The Orchard Game.

Rhiannon, Elena, Natalie, Jackson and Emma experiment with shaking whipping cream to make butter.

Arnav, Sam, Joya and Sally discover the finished butter product.

Lynn and Nika work on their farm book.

Andres and Rocco shop at the Green Room Farmer’s Market.

Tayshawn and Lola work at the Farmer’s Market selling their crops grown on their farm.

Yasmin and Vivian sort farm animals.

Jane, Julia and Simone chop carrots to add to the juicer.
Included in our month were activities that supported our skill development. Our interaction and cooperation skills were reinforced while playing The Orchard Game, Barnyard Boogie Woogie, The Farmer in the Dell, and when working in the Green Room Farmer’s Market. Our observational and reasoning skills were needed when sorting farm animals, sequencing farm story boards and comparing and contrasting farms around the world. Our physical skills were used when tracing farm animals, creating “My Farm Animal Book” and working together to complete a 24 piece farm puzzle. Exploring how cows are milked, watching whipping cream turn to butter by shaking it, and experimenting with an irrigation system in the water table allowed us to wonder and discover.

It was a busy month filled with excitement, learning and lots of farm animal sounds!
Birthday Celebrations

Lorelei, Ailee, Jane and Felicity celebrated their birthdays this month in The Green Room. We enjoyed celebrating with a special birthday snack.

Special Visitors

During our unit, we welcomed several special visitors who shared experiences and facts about Farm and Food. Becky Turner, from Turner Diary Farm helped us understand life on a diary farm and explained the process of the milk traveling from her farm to our stores. Kara VanHoudnos (James) shared a story and talked about her family’s potato farm. Miss Debbie, from the Carnegie Library shared some farm books and songs. A special thanks to our visitors who helped enhance our learning!

Run for the Hungry/Cans Across the Cut

The Green Room friends helped run a total of 996 laps around our playground! Their effort and family donations of non-perishable items and cash helped support the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.
Good Bye Miss Florek

Sadly, we say Good Bye to Caitlin Florek. Miss Florek, a student from The University of Pittsburgh’s CASE program, is leaving to continue her student teaching experience at a new school. We thank her and wish her continued success in her future.