Theater

During the month of December, the friends have been learning about the theater. We’ve focused on some different stories and the friends have been learning to play different roles to help tell a story on the stage.

Stories on the Stage

There are many different ways to tell a story. In the three weeks we spent together learning about the theater, the friends had an opportunity to hear stories and retell stories in a variety of ways. We read stories from books, listened to stories on CD’s, told stories with shadow puppets and the shadow screen, and made our own puppets and used the puppet stage to share the story. Our largest focus in the last couple of weeks was retelling stories on the stage with the children being the actors. Once the friends fully understood the story, they were ready to become actors. Friends learned what a costume is and how costumes can help you feel like you are someone or something else when you are on stage.

We focused on theater vocabulary words like character, setting, plot, props, costumes, set, stage and audience. We also used each of our focus stories to determine what happened in beginning, middle and end.

To encourage acting and role playing during free choice time, the friends enjoyed playing with the castles, doll houses and puppets. At the art and writing center, the friends worked on making colorful masks. Games like “Barnyard Boogie Woogie” were played to encourage children to act like different barnyard animals. Dress up clothes were available for the friends to explore and create new characters.

Friends were asked to draw themselves on a stage for the December locker tags. Friends enjoyed drawing themselves singing, dancing or acting on the stage. Friends also added to the “Green Room Stars” wall of fame. Each friend made a star by gluing their photograph and adding glue designs around the photo. Then they sprinkled glitter to cover the glue.
Week of Three’s

During our first week of theater, we used fairy tales that were familiar to many of the friends so that they would feel comfortable when it came time to enact the stories on stage. Our Fairy Tale stories were: Goldilocks and the Three Bears, the Three Little Pigs and the Three Billy Goats Gruff.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Friends were excited to take the stage and play the part of Goldilocks, Papa Bear, Mama Bear or Baby Bear. Friends wore costumes and used a variety of props to tell the story. The audience watched curiously. Some friends volunteered to be in charge of the lights and used small flashlights to draw attention to our actors on stage. Friends also told the story with puppets.

The Three Little Pigs

We decorated the houses of the Three Pigs using sticks, straw, and paper bricks. We practiced writing the words on top of each house. On the stage, friends became one of the three little pigs or the big bad wolf. Each pig had a prop house to stand while delivering the line, “Not by the hair on my chinny, chin, chin.”

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Friends were eager to take a turn acting as the troll from the “Three Billy Goats Gruff” and recite the line in their meanest troll voice, “Who’s that tripping over my bridge?” The smallest, medium and largest billy goat were also characters that the friends took turns playing. The friends had the opportunity to make their own troll character out of a paper towel roll so they could tell the story at home.
The next two weeks we focused on stories that the friends were not as familiar with: “Abiyoyo” and “Delicious.”

“Abiyoyo”

“Abiyoyo” is a South African lullaby, folktale and a story song by Pete Seeger. Friends worked together to paint the rolling hills back drop that was placed behind the stage. The friends made their very own wand props and musical instrument shakers to enhance the story. The friends were introduced to the shadow screen during the week of “Abiyoyo”. Each of the friends had an opportunity to make and design shadow puppets and use them to tell the story of “Abiyoyo” on the stage. Later in the week, the friends enacted the play on stage representing the boy with the ukelele, the dad with the magic wand or the giant “Abiyoyo”. The afternoon friends did a shadow screen performance for the kindergarten friends.

“Delicious”

During our final week in learning about theater, the friends heard the story of “Delicious, A Pumpkin Soup Story.” The friends took the stage again this time as either the cat, the duck or the squirrel. They made their own character masks to take home. The friends had the opportunity to taste the vegetables that are in the story like, zucchini, carrots, beets and mushrooms. The friends made their own stick puppets and used them with the puppet stage. They also made the vegetable props for our stage production with model magic.
Birthdays, Special Visitors and Goodbye!

The librarian shared some fairy tales with the friends.

Marley’s family visited to celebrate her birthday.

Jacobo’s Mom and Dad joined the friends to celebrate his birthday.

Sara’s parents helped celebrate her birthday.

Hudson’s family shared a story for his half birthday.

Jillian’s Mom visited to celebrate Jillian’s birthday.

Maeve’s Mom joined the friends in celebrating Maeve’s birthday.

Judah’s Mom shared a story and Hanukkah activities with the friends.

The friends said goodbye to Mrs. Kirschenmann, our student teacher from University of Pittsburgh. We wish her all the best!
David, Nick, Roxie and Charlotte are enacting the “Three Little Pigs.”

Emma, Jemma, Roxy and Ryan are proud of their building.

Hudson, Judah, Mira and Max are playing Barnyard Boogie Woogie.

Ethan is making a house of sticks.

Owen is taking his turn as the troll.

Avery, Ethan, Camryn and Marley are putting Humpty Dumpty back together again.

Rhys, Saatwik and Gwendolyn are practicing with scissors.

Campbell and Sardor are playing with the castle.

Max is comparing big items to little items.
Mattias, Mira and Asher are making “Abiyoyo” shadow puppets.

Finn is sequencing the pages of the “Abiyoyo” story.

Jacob is building a house in the water table.

Ryan, Brylie and Max are making the background for the “Abiyoyo” set.

Sahil and Tyler are exploring the musical instruments.

Nola, Gwendolyn and Maeve are making their magic wand props.

Sammy, Daniel and Charlotte are making their “Delicious” masks.

Maeve, Jack and Jillian are enacting the “Delicious” story.

Hudson, Rhys, Emma and Jemma are making props for “Delicious.”