All ABOUT BUILDING

The extended morning team decided to emphasize building using books that have animals who build their homes.

The first book, “The Great Fuzz Frenzy” by Janet Stevens, was a fun and silly story. The animals in the story were prairie dogs who live underground. A dog passing by drops a tennis ball into their home. The family of prairie dogs was frightened at first but then decided to investigate. They were curious and began to pull all of the fuzz off the tennis ball and wore it as a hat, beard, scarf, tutu, etc.

In our small groups and through the activities, the children pretended to be prairie dogs living underground using puppets, crawling through a tunnel, hearing what a prairie dog sounds like and how they communicate with the colony that there is danger.

The children learned how to saw a slit into an old tennis ball to make a mouth and then added eyes and a nose. The teachers showed the children how to squeeze the ball to open and close the mouth to use it as a puppet. This process helps develop the child’s grip for holding a writing utensil.

The second book, “The Honey Bee's Hive” by Joyce Markovics, is full of factual information about how honeybees gather pollen, build their hive and the different jobs the bees perform. The children danced the figure eight dance that the bees do to tell the worker bees where the flowers are located. The activities they enjoyed were making honey smoothies, chopping fruit for salad, which is produced from pollinated flowers. They learned the anatomy of the bee, made bee wings to wear, painted to the music “Flight of the Bumble Bee” by Rimsky-Korsakov, and built with architecture blocks to create a beehive!
The third book, “Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse” by Lindsay Barrett George, is about two mice who go on a trip. They traveled up, down, across, around, through, between, over, and under until they met each other in the middle. We took this story and concentrated on learning opposites.

The children moved to a CD by Hap Palmer bending down low/standing up high etc., built with planks making mouse mazes, created mouse art and moved through a maze (obstacle course). The cooks made toasted cheese sandwiches, taste testing different breads and cheeses. We want to say thank to ben Hocquet’s mom, Sarah, for coming to make cheese crepes with the children.

The fourth book was “Beaver’s Lodge” by Ingrid and Dieter Schubert. This book was a story about friendship. Beaver is fixing his home when he falls off and injures himself. His friends come to his rescue and all beaver is worried about is his home, which fell apart. The friends-bear and hedgehog-decide to build beaver a new home and what a lodge it was! It had mud, grass and all different kinds of things built into the lodge.

The children made beavers to add to the large beaver lodge mural they were creating throughout the week. Those who cooked made edible lodges. They also played a hedgehog math activity.

The Extended A.M. team:
Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Loomis, Ms. McMichael, Mrs. Opferman and Mrs. Tomer

Creating a beaver’s lodge
Edible lodges

Painting to “The Flight of The Bumble Bee”

Playing the opposite mouse game

Collecting pollen using static electricity

Mouse maze obstacle course

Sawing a tennis ball to make a puppet