Games

Extended Morning has a weekly Focus Book that expands on the Preschool theme of the month. The teachers support the stories through related activities that include experiences in each of the Developmental Domains. The story is further enhanced by weekly Cooking Projects with Mrs. Loomis, Large Motor activities with Ms. McMichael, and daily music with Mrs. Bird. A brief description of the focus book is included in each Monday’s email, and a list of available activities is a part of each day’s email. The newsletter for each theme recaps the books and related activities through text and photographs.

For this month, our books are focused on Games. We learned about how to take turns during board games, ways to practice math, reading, and following directions, all while having fun! The children sorted items, made comparisons, and combined ingredients to create nutritious snacks.
Our first week's focus book was “Hide and Snake” by Keith Baker. The beautifully patterned snake in this book plays a Hide and Seek game with the readers on each page.

We did many wonderful activities to express our inner artist, expand our knowledge, and engage our memories. Such activities include strawberry-banana snakes, cutting out spiral snakes, playing Tic-tac-toe, weaving yarn through burlap using large embroidery needles, creating patterns, manipulating clay into snakes, practicing measuring, playing “Hiss”, and singing “I’m being swallowed by a boa constrictor”.

Happy faces are on Tyler and Roxy as they crawl through the tunnel like a snake.

Every day Brylie, Lily, and Leeza have an opportunity to strengthen their fingers with play dough.

Zahra’s model magic snake.

We used stencils to make animal prints.

Gwendolyn and Maeve practiced weaving through burlap.

Parker and Dominick prepare snakes in the kitchen.
You Can’t Catch Me by Martha Vandalay

The focus book during our second week, “You Can't Catch Me” by Charlotte Doyle, takes the readers on a fun game of chase with animals. At the end, the child is caught up in a wonderful hug by a grown-up. The rhyming text can also be sung to the tune of Farmer In The Dell (with a little variation). Activities we enjoyed included: several games of Animal Dominoes, putting together Cooties, using sequence cards to make different outfits for bears, creating pictures from tangrams, making ants on a log, making shadow puppets, playing animal sound lotto, and playing “Duck, Duck, Goose”. We played the large motor game, "What Time Is It Mr. Fox?" in the Red Room. In this fun game, friends inquire about the time of day to Mr. Fox. The children take that many steps toward Mr. Fox. When everyone gets very close, Mr. Fox shouts out, "Time for dinner!" and turns around and chases them back to their home spots.

Ryan, Tyler, and Nola practice their balance.

Friends practicing weaving.

Nola is using scissors for trimming to make a delicious snow flake in cooking class.

Tomer concentrates on his bingo game.

Plastic scoopers teach friends how to catch and toss.

Ryan is selecting balls to scoop and toss.
I Spy: Fun House by Walter Wick and Jean Marzollo

Friends were learning about the game: “I Spy”. In the book, every page has many different objects to search for, as well as fun rhymes that help to narrate each scene. We spent time playing “I Spy” in different ways: cooks used different cereals and snacks to play “I Spy”. They made patterns and used tweezers to select the different snacks and sort them into muffin cups. Friends made an “I spy” board using 3-D objects and attached them to a large poster board with tacky glue. Miss Stevens designed a Close-Up “I Spy” game. Textures don’t always look the same when examined up closer. The object of the game was to identify the corresponding items that match with these close-up photos.
Berenstain Bears: Ready, Set, Go by Stan and Jan Berenstain

This bear family has many adventures in the various books by Stan and Jan Berenstain. The children enjoyed comparing sizes, heights, distances through the characters in the book.

“READY, SET, GO!” by Stan and Jan Berenstain was our focus book choice. "We all have something we do the best - a little bit better than the rest.” This quote is on the title page of the book and is the message of the story. During the Bear Family Olympics, each member of the family has strengths in different events. For example, Papa is fast, Brother is faster, but Sister is the fastest in the running race. At the end of the story, after all of the events, Brother and Sister take turns being the best. Papa Bear is the one that is best at sleeping the longest!

The activities that supported the story were: building ramps that are steep, steeper, and steepest to experiment with race cars moving down the ramps; painting small wood cookies gold, silver, or bronze and stringing them with ribbon to be worn as award medals. The cooks made citrus salad with honey sticks in the kitchen. In the Red Room, we practiced jumping, running, and hopping, in and out of small hoops in team formation.