“I believe that children are naturally creative and eager to learn,” says Eric Carle “I want to show them that learning is really both fascinating and fun.” (Quote from Biographical notes for Eric Carle, www.eric-carle.com)

Eric Carle has always been a fascinated observer of nature, and he shares his enthusiasm with his readers in many of his beloved picture books. Our first selection was Mister Seahorse. In this story, Mr. Seahorse is an excellent father who floats through the sea finding several other kinds of fish fathers caring for their young. Mr. Tilapia keeps his eggs safe in his mouth while Mr. Kurtus keeps his safe on top of his head. On his way, Mr. Seahorse passes by a scary lionfish and other camouflaged creatures. But, before long, Mr. Seahorse meets a pipefish who carries his babies along his belly. Soon Mr. Seahorse births his own seahorse babies by wiggling and twisting this way and that. The babies tumble from Mr. Seahorse’s pouch and swim away. One baby turns around and tries to come back into the pouch. “Oh, no!” said Mr. Seahorse. “I do love you, but now you are ready to be on your own.” During this week, we jumped into activities such as: sponge fish painting, gluing tissue paper pieces to create brightly colored sea horses, making bread dough seahorses in the kitchen, and playing a counting game with seahorses. In circle, the teachers introduced some fascinating, factual concepts about all the fish mentioned in our story.

Next, we enjoyed From Head to Toe. This book introduces children to an array of animals that move in different ways. The text includes a challenge to the reader to move in the same way as its characters, including: a penguin turning its head; a giraffe bending its neck; a buffalo raising its shoulders; and a monkey waving its arms. At the end of the book, a boy wiggles his toes and a lively parrot says, “I can do it! I can do it!” The activities for the week included: playing an active game of Duck, Duck, Goose using different animals, making a giraffe with a bendy pipe cleaner neck, doing the Hokey Pokey Dance, playing animal lotto, and playing charades by acting out animals from the story.

Born in Syracuse, New York, Eric Carle received much of his education in Germany. He is a graduate of the Akademie der bilenden Kunste in Stuttgart, where he learned about Goethe’s color theory. His chief inspiration for Hello, Red Fox came from his talks with young children who were surprised and fascinated by his demonstrations of optical illusion color opposites. Some children believed this was magic. Eric Carle assured the children that it was not. There is actually something taking place between the eye and the brain called “simultaneous contrast after-image.” In Hello, Red Fox it’s little frog’s birthday and Mama Frog gets a big surprise when the guests show up for his party - all the animals are the wrong color! Our activities included: ribbon dancing; mixing colored water; playing with colored rings; spin art; playing twister; looking at optical illusions; and in the kitchen, preparing ribbon jello.
Investigating the tadpoles... Boden and Agatha building at the light table.
Puzzles are fun to do with friends!

Mrs. Tomer asks the friends to carry their beanbags on different parts of their body like the father fish does with his eggs.

Bread dough is fun to shape into seahorses.

Artist drawing from the book “Head to Toe”.

Miss Furman showing Greta how gently to handle her pet gecko.

Water color painting is everyone’s favorite activity.

Playing body parts bingo with friends.
Jane making the letter S for Seahorse.

Dobbers are great to use in Art.

Working as a team is always more fun.

Zane sponge painting with fish using green and gold paint.

Chase reading facts about seahorses.

Ben ready to enjoy art!

Tissue paper seahorses looking fine!

Learning the body parts before playing the game Bingo.

Rolling and twisting bread dough takes skill.
In the kitchen, Ms. McMichael and friends prepare brownies.

Simon practicing to use tools in woodworking, with teacher assistance.

Elisabeth shows a lot of interest in building... maybe a future architect?

Broden likes the feel of floam.

Eric concentrating on when to start gluing.

Alexander is in place to play Body Parts Bingo.