Our first focus book was *The Crayon Box That Talked* by Shane DeRolf. The colors in a box of crayons were not getting along. A girl decided to draw a picture with all of the crayons. When they worked together, the crayons began to recognize their unique differences and realize that they made a beautiful “big picture” together! This story helped us reinforce color identification and cooperation skills. We practiced cooperation and interaction skills when we played Red Light, Green Light, Candyland and Color Bingo.

We worked together to create a beautiful garden mural using all the colorful crayons in a crayon box. Mixing primary colors to create secondary colors helped us identify color names. We experimented with colors when practicing crayon resist and crayon rubbings. We explored light and color when we learned about prisms and rainbows. During our sing along time before lunch, we learned sign language for the color names as we sang, “I Can Sing a Rainbow”. In the kitchen, the friends created rainbow sandwiches using various flavors of colorful jelly.

Yesterday we read *Yesterday I Had the Blues*, by Jeron Ashford Frame, reminded us that moods change from day to day, and you never know what tomorrow will bring. One thing’s for sure; when you’ve got love all around you, the blues won’t stick around long. We explored how colors make us feel while we played the Moody Monster memory match. The color blue was highlighted in activities, including finger painting with the color blue, creating a collage using various blue materials, and playing the memory tray game with blue items. Other colors were present when we played Twister, danced with colorful ribbons and scarves, and went on a color scavenger hunt. In the kitchen, the friends worked throughout the week to make a rainbow cake. Each group mixed different colors of cake mix together and combined the colorful mix. The result was a beautiful rainbow cake that we all enjoyed! (The recipe for Rainbow Cake is on the last page of the newsletter.)
We ended our theme by reading *The Lizard and the Sun*, a folk tale from Mexico by Alma Flor Ada. In the story, the sun disappeared long ago. It was very dark all the time and everyone was afraid. After searching everywhere for the sun, the animals all gave up, except for the lizard. One day lizard came upon a glowing rock. He soon discovered that the sun was sleeping inside the rock. With the emperor’s help, the lizard soon brought the light and warmth of the sun back to the earth. During the week, we explored various inside and outside light sources including the sun, light bulbs, and flashlights. Spending time in the Black Light Lab allowed us to learn about black light and items that glow. We created lizards and birds similar to the ones represented in the story. Using flashlights, we worked together and went on a scavenger hunt. In the kitchen, the friends made rainbow jello, which we all enjoyed on the last day of Extended Day!
Rainbow Cake

Ingredients:
One package white cake mix
1 1/4 cups water
1/3 cup vegetable oil
red, yellow, blue and green food coloring
butter or shortening
2 T flour
vanilla icing

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. In large mixing bowl, prepare the cake mix according to the directions on the package. Pour equal amounts of the batter into six small bowls.
3. Use 4-6 drops of food coloring to color each portion of batter a different color—red, orange, yellow, blue, green and purple. To make orange, use 3 drops each yellow and red. To make purple, use 5 drops red and 1 drop blue. Mix thoroughly.
4. Grease Bundt pan. Spread the purple batter evenly on bottom of pan. Carefully spread blue batter on top of purple; then spread the green on top of the blue. Continue spreading the yellow on top of the green, then the orange and finally the red. Do not mix the batters together.
5. Bake cake according to directions on the package. Spread a thin layer of icing on top and sides of cake.

We wish you a wonderful summer filled with laughter, sunshine, and great books!

Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Loomis, Ms. McMichael, Mrs. Opferman and Mrs. Tomer