Our first week’s focus book in Extended Morning was "Little Cloud" by Eric Carle. The story is about a little cloud that drifts from the other clouds and becomes a sheep, an airplane, a shark, trees, a rabbit, and a clown. He then joins the other clouds, and they turn into one big cloud and then it rains. The children enjoyed making sponge print clouds, drip painting, using tape to wrap rain sticks, gluing cotton balls onto cloud shapes, creating stenciled clouds, playing in shaving cream clouds, and blending ingredients to make “Sky Jello”.

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.
No More Water in the Tub! by Tedd Arnold

The focus book for the second week was "No More Water in the Tub!" by Tedd Arnold. In the book, the main character, William, insists that his bathtub be full of water. What he didn’t expect was that his bathtub would overflow with water while he is in it. He finds himself riding down through his apartment building, taking William and his unsuspecting neighbors on a great adventure. During this week, we did many fun and educational activities such as: practicing sequencing with figures in the tub, creating monstrous bowls full of bubbles that were used to produce beautiful art work, displacing water to test density, bathing dolls with soapy water, and using a fun kitchen gadget called a "SodaStream" to make special bubbly treats like Root Beer Floats (made with our homemade Root Beer and frozen yogurt), and Shirley Temples (made with our homemade Ginger Ale, and Maraschino cherries).

Froggy Learns to Swim by Jonathan London

Our next week's focus book was “Froggy Learns To Swim” by Jonathan London. Froggy is afraid to learn to swim. After finally learning to swim with encouragement and help from his mother, he doesn't want to get out of the pond!! We really enjoyed learning about water through the activities that went with this story. We used colored pencils to design bathing suits, played “froggy dress-up”, used some school-made catapults to fling froggy through the air and into “the pond”, painted froggy feet that were suitable to attach to our feet and hop around, and jumped over one another in a game of “leap frog”! What a busy week!

King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub by Audrey Wood

Our final book in the water unit was, “King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub” by Audrey Wood. It is a wonderful story about a King who won’t leave the bathtub. No matter how many people try, he won’t get out of the bathtub. The knight, queen, the king’s court and several others try whatever they can to get him out of the tub. The king, and whoever is trying at the moment, have wonderful adventures such as fishing, eating dinner, having a battle, and dancing in the tub. It isn’t until the page boy finally decides to take some action of his own and takes the plug out of the tub, that finally the king comes out of the tub at the end of the day. We enjoyed playing with small people figurines in the tub, we enacted the story with props, cut and colored paper crowns, made pipe cleaner bubble wands, played with kings and castles, and prepared cucumber bathtubs for snack.
A messy day at school is a great day at school!
The world of make-believe comes to life with a few figurines at our fingertips.
Various art techniques, tools, and media set the stage for creativity!

Stretch from corner to corner to create unique designs.
Our college helpers are so talented. The children benefit from all of their abilities.
Mixing, measuring, and scooping ingredients is a regular occurrence in the kitchen!

Observing butterflies is a wonderful spring activity!

Frozen bananas, chopped and put in a blender, become a smooth textured, healthy ice cream!

Good friends building patterns together!
Roll, roll, roll, the paint… gently through the green…
Ring toss is a fun way to practice judging distance and throwing strength.

Smiles are common during activity time in extended day!

Blowing bubbles, squirting food coloring on top, then gently pressing construction paper into the bubbles creates colorful patterned artwork.

Discovering density through water displacement…

Practicing puzzles - improving each day!

Washing babies squeaky clean!

Taking a closer look with a teacher’s help…

We’ve got a ringer!

Ready… Set… Launch!