Dear Extended A.M. Families;

We have just finished a month in our Extended A.M. program. The books used during this time were chosen to enhance the theme of this month. The first group of books are shown above. The teachers chose these four books to learn about a new year in school, our surroundings, friendship, and all about each other!

We all have been getting acquainted with one another. The children have been learning the rules for cooking in the kitchen (washing hands, not touching our hair or nose, etc.). They have been introduced to using a hammer the correct way and how to use a manual hand drill in the woodworking area. Safety First! Everyday a teacher guides the children through the classroom, choosing an activity related to the story of the week. The group then gathers altogether to sing in the Red Room before lunch.

This growing experience involves learning how to socialize with peer and with those who are older and younger. This interaction happens throughout the program, but especially during lunch. The children are working on being independent, learning how to pack up their own lunch and being responsible by placing the lunch box into their backpack. This process fosters self-esteem and confidence.
The following books have been brought alive through the activities listed below, for the children to enjoy!

“Corduroy Goes to School” by Don Freeman
This book was about one of the children’s favorite bears “Corduroy” and what he experienced going to preschool.

Here are some of the children’s activity choices:
1. Exploring the classrooms-Green Room, Red Room, Kitchen, and Discovery areas that are used during extended time.
2. Painting at the easel, pouring at the sand table play, building with blocks, and cooking in the kitchen.

These are the things that Corduroy did when he went to preschool.

“Franklin’s Neighborhood” by Paulette Bourgeois
This book was about a turtle called Franklin and he wanted to draw a picture about something in his neighborhood but could not decide what to draw. He took a walk through his neighborhood and thought about all of the favorite things he liked best (the park, pond, fire department, etc.).

1. The children acted out the story using puppets and props.
2. They played a turtle crawling game.
3. They made German pancakes.

“If You Take A Mouse to School” by Laura Numeroff
If you take a mouse to school, he will ask you for a lunch box and pencils and note book etc.

1. The children created art designs using cheese cubes and toothpicks.
2. They played a game of hide and seek using the picture of the mouse in the story. Each child took a turn hiding the mouse pictures and then the group of children had to find the pictures.
3. They built a house for a mouse out of the cardboard blocks and used small mice.
4. We played pin the tail on the mouse.

“All The Colors We Are” by Katie Kissinger
The book talked about looking at the beautiful diversity of human skin color by looking at our hands and feet. It offered a scientifically accurate explanation for how we get our skin color and how pigment called melanin works.

1. We traced hands.
2. We spray painted with water colors onto paper dolls.
3. We did taste testing of foods that are different colors.
4. We did wood working.
5. We mixed paint to create skin tone colors, which we then weaved together into a quilt.
Enjoy the following pictures of your children exploring, creating, socializing, singing, cooking and smiling!