In the Extended Afternoon Light and Color unit, we focused on books and activities surrounding colors, color mixing, rainbows, light, associating colors with feelings, and the sun as a light source.

**Week 1: A Rainbow of My Own by Don Freeman**

In the story, a child spots a rainbow after a storm and is disappointed when it disappears. He then imagines what it would like to have his own rainbow to climb on, chase, and play hide and seek with him. He is delighted when he discovers that the sun shining through his goldfish bowl makes a real rainbow on the wall in his house!

During the week, we explored rainbows created by prisms and looked through kaleidoscopes, found rainbows in bubbles, and decorated windows with window color markers. We experimented with color mixing by mixing colors on wood shapes. We also danced with colored ribbons, mixed rainbow colors on coffee filters, and used the projector and colored shapes to make ourselves rainbow-colored. In the kitchen, we made rainbow fruit salad and mixed six flavors of jello to create a rainbow.
**Week 2: The Crayon Box That Talked by Shane DeRolf**

In this story, a box of crayons just can’t seem to get along. The crayons begin to see their differences as strengths when a girl draws a beautiful picture using each and every color. The big picture that they create together is much more interesting than any picture one of them could create on their own.

Throughout the week, we created rainbows using yarn and liquid starch, made crayon rubbings, created rainbow pictures with crayons tied together with a rubber band, and made crayon resist artwork.

**Week 3: Hailstones and Halibut Bones by Mary O'Neill**

This week's book was a poetry book about colors. During the week, our activities included creating our own color poems, mixing and pouring colored water, playing Color Bingo, and using the computer photo booth to take self portraits. We also created sun catchers, experimented with stamp art, and baked rainbow muffins in the kitchen.
**Week 4: Yesterday I Had the Blues by Jeron Ashford Frame**

This book beautifully explored the relationship between colors and feelings. An excerpt from the book jacket reads, "Moods change from day to day, and you never know what tomorrow will bring. But one thing's for sure: when you've got love around you, the blues won't stick around long."

Our activities for the week included colored spray art, painting to the blues, making colored ice cubes in the kitchen, and exploring our black light lab. We also drew with wet chalk, painted with the colored ice cubes, and painted oatmeal boxes to use as drums.

![Image of children engaged in art activities]

**Week 5: The Lizard and the Sun by Alma Flor Ada**

This folktale is about the necessity of the sun. In the story, the sun disappears. All the animals decide to go find it, but none of them succeed so soon they give up - all but lizard. Lizard keeps looking. He finally finds the sun and it wakes up after the animals start acknowledging how special it is.

Our activities for the week included painting rocks in the black light lab, crawling like lizards across the rug, visiting a real gecko, creating sand art, and making lizards out of dough in the kitchen.

![Image of children engaged in activities related to the folktale]