Rice & Ocean Exploration
Tuesday August 27th, 2013

Color Rice!

Continuing with our sensory activities we put rice in our sensory table!

To add to our rice activity we decided to color the rice blue! Jacob and Mateo took turns pouring the paint into the rice! We then stirred and mixed the paint into the rice!

And the rice turned Blue!

We also welcomed our new friend Adam to our class! Adam’s big sister Marisella is in Pre-K1! We are so happy to have Adam join our class!
Wednesday 8/28/2013

Exploring Blue Rice...

Continuing with the rice exploration, the rice was placed in clear containers in the light table along with the picture of some sea-related animals. Children explored by finding the animals that were hidden in the rice, which also enhanced their fine motor skills and sensorimotor development.

Jacob and Mateo practiced their verbal skills by being introduced to new words and simple word repetition. New friends like Marcus, Simon and Sam were introduced to the texture of rice. Charlotte S. pushed the rice over one side and said “I am making a blue house”. Then, she stuck in a sea star.
Thursday 8/29/2013

Exploring Blue Rice...

Continuing with the rice/sea exploration, the children have been reading the OCEAN BOOK that was also placed in the light table. As Jacob read the book, he kept pointing at the whale and saying “Willy”. The teachers expanded on his interest by talking about whales and letting Jacob choose some pictures to be added in the rice bins.

Thursday & Friday 8/30/2013

The children have been exploring the rice bins throughout the day, and a lot of interest has been observed toward the ocean book. Simon likes scooping the rice, Charlotte D. enjoys hiding and looking for the sea animals... And Marcus has been looking for sharks...
Thursday 9/4/2013

Friday 9/5/2013

Other Sea Animals!

Most of the children have continued with the rice exploration, which has also helped them in their adjustment to the classroom. On 9/4/2013, Lily Martin said “I saw a sting ray at the aquarium”, which sparked an interesting conversation. She also said that she wanted to add “dolphins” and “sea horses”.

The action of scooping rice is great for fine-motor development (e.g. holding the spoon, balancing the spoon so the rice does not spill, having precision to put the rice in a cup, etc).

On 9/5/2013 Ms. Martin added information on Lily’s conversation by saying that they also saw dolphins at Long Beach. Then, Lily selected the images of the dolphins and sea horses that she wanted to add. She was very excited to show them to her friends.

In addition, the teachers prompted the children to add some sand and to mix it with the rice. The children explored a new texture, which also added up to their sensorimotor development.
Continuing with the rice-sand exploration, the rice and the sand were placed in the water table. Blue water was added along with the sea animals previously explored.

Some children said that “it looked like the ocean” and engaged with the animals and the water toys. Lily Martin said “it was like the beach”.

Clear contact paper –sticky side up- was placed on the light table. Then, the children used some of the items collected during the summer to create a collage including the rice and the images of the sea animals.

Lily Martin said “It’s very sticky in my hands” while exploring the texture of the contact paper”.

Light table: Ocean Collage.
Once the summer collage was finished, the teachers folded the contact paper closed. This is what some of the Toddlers discovered:

Lily Martin: “it sounds like the ocean”
Olivia S: “Yes, Ocean”
Tuesday 8/27/13

Making Color Rice!
Wednesday 8/28/13

Sea-related animals and rice exploration.
Wednesday 8/28/13

Sea-related animals and rice exploration.
Thursday 8/29/13

And the whales?...

Here they are...
Perfect!

Marcus: Shark?...
Thursday 9/4/2013

Other Sea Animals!
Friday 9/5/2013

Let’s mix sand and rice.
Tuesday 9/10/13

Water table: Ocean Exploration.
Thursday 9/12/13

Ocean Collage!
Thursday 9/12/13

Light table: Ocean Collage.