

February 2020

Paper Dreamcatchers



"I'm going to put this next to my bed so I never have any nightmares!"

"I want mine to have a big heart in the middle"

This activity had the children use various materials, such as pipe cleaners, paper plates, string, and yarn, to create dreamcatchers. The children made their dreamcatchers using different materials and methods, making each one unique to each child. The methods used also reflected their own personal interests and strengths. One child who spent more time drawing and colouring made her dreamcatcher using a paper plate that she drew on and cut out. Another child who often spent her time gluing different craft supplies together to make different objects and projects instead tied together pipe cleaners to make a dreamcatcher with a heart in the middle, while tying yarn to the bottom of the piece.

Doing this activity helped the children to realize their own strengths and interests, strengthening their sense of self-concept and positive attitudes towards learning (ELECT 2.1, 2.6).

Snowball Shop



"I'm going to open a snowball shop!"

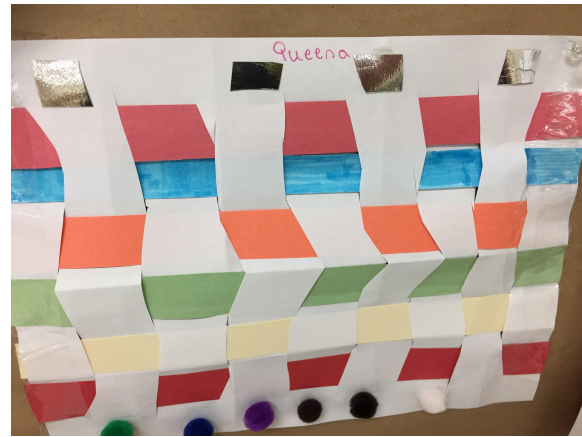
"I wanted to have all the perfect shaped ones here"

"I made this snow into a shoe"

When playing outside in the snow, the children had started making snowballs. After a while, they started putting them into piles and organizing them by different shapes and sizes. The children then had the idea to open up a "shop", where they would trade each other their snowballs for other snowballs or snow shapes. The children were able to turn the fun of making snowballs into a game of trading and forming their own little "economy".

This completely child-led game fostered the children's co-operation and representation, as they worked together to create their own imagined stores with their items having their own value and worth (ELECT 1.3, 4.3).

Paper Weaving Mat



To do this activity, children cut slits through a blank piece of paper, and then cut out strips of construction paper to the proper length. They then weaved the strips in and out of the white paper, creating a woven look. After they finished with the weaving, they were able to decorate the paper. One notable aspect of this activity is the fact that although the children had plenty of construction paper colours to choose from, there was no blue construction paper to use. However, since the children wanted to include blue in their projects, they took strips of white paper and coloured them blue instead.

This craft activity involved the children using problem-solving skills, in addition to measuring length and patterning (ELECT 4.2, 4.7, 4.8).

Cardboard Paint Mixing



"I wrote a message in the painting, it says hi"

"What colours do I need to mix to get black?"

"I'm going to mix all the colours together!"

Leading up to this activity, the children had been spending quite some time painting different things. Eventually, they started to experiment more with different paint colours, leading to this activity. This painting activity, while simple, was able to get the children thinking about different colour combinations and predicting what the outcome would be. They took the colours of paint that were available to them, and combined them to make various new colours. Using these created colours, they painted patterns onto the cardboard.

This painting activity allowed the children to experiment and work towards a goal, trying different options until they got the desired result. This fostered the children's problem-solving skills as well as their inquiry (ELECT 4.2, 4.5).