

The Little Flower

News from the Coordinator

Spring is always especially wonderful when seen through the eyes of 3-year-old children. Imagine, only one year ago most of these children were still learning how to talk and just beginning to investigate the wonders of nature. Now that they are three (and some are getting closer to four!), a whole new world is opening up to them after a long, cold winter: green sprouts and tiny buds call their attention as we play outdoors, small bugs hold an immense fascination for them, as does the red cardinal who sings his song of spring from the treetops. Blue skies and soft fluffy clouds remind them of their favorite poems of spring (and one that they insist on reciting every day during our noon get-together):

Two little clouds one April day
Went sailing across the sky.
They went so fast
That they bumped their heads
And both began to cry.
The big round sun came out to say,
"Oh, never mind, my dears.
I'll send all my sunbeams down
To dry your fallen tears."

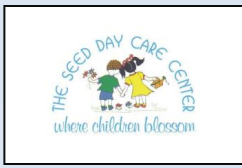
The Little Flower children are truly enjoying spring, and so are we, their teachers, as we see the new signs of life through their observant eyes and their delighted expressions of wonder and joy.



Tyler

You are 4 now!





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The Woolly Lambs

The month of April has been a wonderful time for this class of young children: We welcomed a new friend, James, who is so much fun to play with. We love playing outside every day and seeing new flowers on the magnolia tree, as well as daffodils, crocuses, and forsythias.

We are also learning a lot about birds this month. Our favorite puppet, Mama Duck, has been a regular guest in our class. She told the Woolly Lambs about all her colorful cousins: blue jays, cardinals, robins, ostriches, eagles, woodpeckers, and parrots. We enjoyed reading our favorite books about birds: **This Way, Ruby, Daisy and the Egg** and **Hello Spring**.

Learning about plants and seeds is also a popular spring theme in class. We planted carrot seeds and loved watching them sprout. We sorted small seeds and big seeds. We sorted seeds by color. And every day we enjoy drawing the colors of spring, using colored pencils, oil pastels, markers, and crayons.





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The Canopy Critters

The “Critters” have welcomed a new friend to the Canopy. Her name is Annie, like our teacher! We now have five children in the group whose names begin with the letter **A**.

With the start of April our rainforest research has begun. Alex, Alison, Andrew, Anna, Annie, Evan, Darin, Nadia, Penny and Tyler have been enjoying playing with rainforest figures. Choosing their favorites from jaguars, snakes, butterflies, monkeys, macaws and crocodiles is so much fun to sort and identify; especially when we take a watering can to create a rain shower. The “Critters” enjoyed rolling out a piece of brown kraft paper and dividing it into sections to represent the top, middle and bottom layers of the fascinating canopies of the rainforest.

We discussed the importance of being a friend to the Earth and how what we do now effects what happens later. Our focus has been on water and the ways we can use only the amount we need. Hands-on recycling of cans, plastic containers, Styrofoam packaging, milk caps and cardboard tubes sparked the imagination of these future environmentalists. Did you know that milk caps inside empty wipe containers make wonderful maracas? Add some corrugated cardboard and a few paper towel tubes and the rhythm is contagious!



Books we have discovered this month: The Great Kapok Tree, Rain Forests, Recycle Everyday, The Little Raindrop and It’s a BIG, BIG World.

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The Busy Bugs

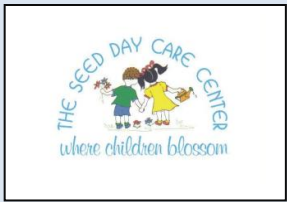
During the Book Fair this month, we discovered the wonderful stories of Dr. Seuss. In class together we read **The Cat in The Hat**. We made red and white hats just like the cat, and we learned NEVER to let the Cat in the Hat in when it is raining and no one is home!

Our favorite book, however, was **Green Eggs and Ham**. We learned about trying new foods, and how many times we will find out we like it! One day we put on our aprons, mixed eggs, milk and green food color together and took turns stirring. We even dyed some ham slices green. Miss Peggy cooked it while we watched a Dr. Seuss video. When it was done we shared it with our friends (those that wanted to try it) and, surprise! In just a few minutes it was all gone! We also enjoyed **Horton Hatches the Egg** and had lots of fun painting Horton and then putting him on the nest and the branches. It is all on our bulletin board if you would like to see our artwork.

We are doing a great job with our letters and numbers. In fact, the "Bugs" ask for them every day. They like to find their names and count how many letters there are in them.



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Fun with Art

During the month of April, the Seedlings enjoyed something new: creating their own individual art projects. All kinds of ideas were discussed, from a house and a hot air balloon to a spaceship and a tree house, and just about everything else in between. Even when two kids wanted to make the same thing, they used different materials and so each project was their own “unique creation.”

Drawing flowers with different media was also a special art activity, as was free painting with tempera, which is one of their favorite art activities.

Blot painting is another favorite: the technique includes folding the paper together after painting colorful blots on it. It’s lots of fun to discover what the picture looks like after it is opened up again. Now we feel like folding all our paintings!

The children also had lots of fun celebrating spring and bunnies by making a bunny ear headband. The fuzzy headbands made the Seedlings feel they were bunnies themselves. They just loved hopping around with their bunny ears on. We heard that some of the kids even wanted to sleep with their bunny headbands at home!

We are looking forward to May and many more creative art projects together.

