

~Toddlers~

Celebrating Irish and Easter traditions were highlights of fun in March. We went on shamrock and egg hunts. We danced jigs, plucked strings, and hopped on two feet. We began observing seasonal changes in nature. We noticed emerging life like bud bursts and migrators returning to nest. We grew in awareness of major events that affect the life cycles of plants and animals like: temperature, availability of water, and sunlight. We learned new vocabulary including the word "phenology". It is the study of the timing of natural phenomena and questioning the environments affect on them. This study will open Earth Day activities in mid April.

It might be a stretch to approach the early development of language acquisition and literacy with a "phenological" format. However, they each do follow a similar sequential progressive process (step upon step). Support for how language development transpires to reading is our direction in April. Language acquisition is a more natural process. We will encourage sound awareness as babbling turns to imitation to uttering single words, then combining two words to phrases and sentences. We'll use elements of interaction, conversation, repetition, and memory to practice. Literacy is linked to reading and takes a more intentional pathway of support. Our toddlers will have ample opportunities to appreciate books and print through a Book-a-thon and a 100 day book challenge. Our toddlers will be asked to point to pictures, find and identify letters, find titles, interact and retell stories. Rhyming verses excite the senses. They provide fun by manipulating letter sounds, beginning and ending sounds, and repetitious sounds. We will also work on writing and making books. Activities will create experiences and motivations for reading as a foundation for literacy. Building towards literacy is only one of the ways we embrace the marvels of early childhood development, which we celebrate during the Week of the Young Child April 6-10. Please join us every step (and space in between steps) of the way. Together we CAN effect the outcome phenomenally.

From Your Bookworm Friends,

Your Toddler Team