

Friday, September 18, 2009

Dear Parents:

This week we began the unit Me and My Five Senses. Each day this week we learned about one of the five senses. The students then wrote about what they learned in their journals. Each student “wrote” at his or her developmental level. Some drew pictures, some scribbled, some wrote letter-like shapes, others wrote letters that they knew, and a few wrote words. It is important that the children believe they are writers. Please accept your child’s writing at their developmental level and celebrate their growth as they mature in skills during the school year. After the end of the three-week unit, the students will bring their journals home to share with you.

We also began working with the reading program this week. Our Read Aloud book this week was Mice Squeak, We Speak. Our math link book was Let's Play. The Big & Little books were My Five Senses, and We Are The Kinderfriends.

The math unit is Numbers 1-5. Your child is learning to count objects and write the corresponding number correctly. This is new to many and is a challenge! Try practicing counting at home.

Besides having your child read to you, it is important to read TO your child regularly. Did you know that the American Academy of Pediatrics encourages pediatricians to prescribe reading activities at well-child visits and strongly recommends daily reading to children from six months of age onwards. Studies have consistently shown that children who are read to from an early age are more successful in learning to read.

Reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading!

After reading, have the student record what was read on their reading log. Please return the reading logs to school **each Friday**. We will have a celebration for all students who return their reading logs. I will send home new reading logs with each Friday's note. Extra reading logs are always available in my classroom.

We are now making weekly visits to the school library. S/he was able to check out a book from the library to bring home. S/he can keep the book for one week at which time s/he can return it and check out another book for another week. Past experience has shown us that it is a good idea to keep library books away from younger siblings, pets and food. This is a wonderful chance to teach your child about personal responsibility.