

In the Garden

Our gardens are filling up with vegetables & flowers, and we are enjoying the tastes, smells & sights within them. The brassicas & New Zealand spinach have been providing daily treats for children on the playgrounds and the toddlers have been enjoying sweet little strawberries. We still have lettuce in shadier locations & raspberries are ripening. We are experimenting with a late planting of corn and are excited about the bean plants that are growing around our cucumbers (we'll be planting more beans this month to insure a long supply of these tasty treats). We will be watching the progress of our melons in the cold frame greenhouses, as well as our tomatoes swelling on their vines. We will also continue to enjoy the succession of annual & perennial flowers throughout the gardens. We've had ladybugs & bees to observe moving about our plants and we'll watch for butterflies on the milkweed. Many cabbage butterflies have been present (their caterpillars feasting on a few of our brassicas)—the older children have been chasing these little white butterflies off to save the kale for themselves.

In the classroom

July 1-5 – Reptiles: lizard, iguana, chameleon

Activities

- Discuss what reptiles are, their traits & needs & where they live
- Observe photos of lizards, iguanas & chameleons
- Identify reptile photos interspersed with photos of other animals
- Investigate reptile specimen jars
- Discuss similarities & differences among lizards, iguanas & chameleons
- Read The Mixed Up Chameleon
- Lizard song with Twos & Tods

Vocabulary (English & Spanish)

- Lizard
- Iguana
- Chameleon
- Reptile
- Skin
- Shed
- Egg

Objectives

- Identify reptiles in a mix of animal photos
- Relate traits of reptiles
- Provide examples of animals that are reptiles

July 8-11* – Reptiles: snake, crocodile, turtle

Activities

- Review what a reptile is
- Discuss snakes, crocodilians, turtles & tortoises, as well as similarities between them and the reptiles studied the previous week
- Color & paste sea turtle craft
- Investigate reptile specimen jars

Vocabulary (English & Spanish)

- Snake
- Turtle/tortoise
- Crocodile/alligator
- Reptile

Objectives

- State differences between various reptiles
- Participate in a sea turtle craft or reptile coloring pages
- Identify toy reptiles in a group of various toy animals

* No garden class on July 12th



July 15-19 – Emotions

Activities

- Group discussion: what are emotions/ feelings?
- Emotions poster with English & Spanish language labels
- Emotion coloring sheets (colors associated with emotions)
- Song: *If You're Happy and You Know It*

Vocabulary (English & Spanish)

- Happy
- Sad
- Proud
- Afraid
- Excited
- Shy
- Embarrassed
- Sorry
- Nervous/anxious
- Angry

Objectives

- Give examples of emotions
- Identify emotions on images of faces
- Associate emotions with colors
- Describe emotions as feelings

July 22-26 – Habitats, introduction

Activities

- Read *A House Is a House*
- Discuss habitats as places where people, animals & plants live
- Build structures with blocks, sticks & various objects

Vocabulary (English & Spanish)

- House
- Shelter
- Habitat
- Needs

Objectives

- Acknowledge that a dwelling can come in many various forms
- State differences in “houses” for various creatures
- Build structures individually or cooperatively