



Homelinks

Connecting Home and School

Teacher: Kaitlyn O'Halpin

Week of: 9/16/19

Our Current Study: Beginning the School Year

Focus Question of the Week:

What should we do if we get sad or scared at school?/What are our rules?

Daily Questions we explored:

Have you ever been sad?

Have you ever been scared?

What makes you happy?

Did you wash your hands when you got to school today?

Would you like to paint today?

What we learned this week:

This week our main focus was for the children to feel comfortable at school and learn the routines! Which they did beautifully! The children were introduced to our Second Step curriculum and our listening rules: **Eyes are watching, ears are listening, voices quiet and bodies calm.** They've been answering questions, making friends, drawing and most importantly: PLAYING!

Second Steps Lesson: Welcoming

This week our lesson was **Welcoming**. Building children's welcoming skills creates a sense of connection and comfort in the classroom community.

Skills we practiced:

- **Recognizing our name:** the first step to writing your name is being able to recognize it! The children use their name all over the classroom: when they arrive at school, to sign in (they put their name on the board), and when they move from area to area during choice time. We have paired a picture with your child's name to help them to recognize it easier. For example: Fred would have a Fish paired with his name. The first letter of their name is also highlighted all throughout the classroom to help them to recognize the first letter in their name.

Focus Question we will explore next week:

What should we do if we get sad or scared at school?/What are our rules?

Daily Questions we will explore:

Have you ever been sad?

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What makes you happy?

Did you wash your hands when you got to school today?

Would you like to paint today?

Things to do together at home:

Create a journal for your child. When they arrive home from school, ask them one thing they did at school and have them draw it in their journal. Model writing what they tell you and have them copy it if they would like! It may be difficult at first but even if they tell you all they did was "play," it's perfectly fine! Playing is learning in preschool.

Things to bring to school:

Be sure to check to your child's mailbox or book bag for our weekly Homelink activity!