

# Hey Sprout parents!

The last month has gone so well! We finished up the last few weeks of October with pumpkin painting and lantern making (if you were unable to make the Harvest walk event let me know if you want a lantern!) and Halloween! It was so fun to see the kiddos in their costumes and “trick or treat” in class! We made monsters with googly eyes, played with pumpkin guts, and made monster treat bags for our treasures we chose at the end of class. The past few weeks, though, we have been talking about the weather! Here are some things we have been up to.

## ***What's the Weather?***

We started off our first class talking about the sun and sunny weather. We talked about how the sun keeps us warm and how it helps plants grow. This led to our experiment for the day—plant sun catchers. Together we put a wet paper towel in a plastic zip-lock with a lima-bean seed. We taped them to the window and for the past few weeks we've been able to watch them grow from the water and sunshine. One got leaves really fast! Our craft this day was a colorful sun catcher where the kids placed orange and yellow tissue paper to tape in the middle of a colored paper plate.

The next class we talked about clouds. We performed an experiment making a cloud with a jar, hot water, and ice. We made condensation in the jar and then got to see a cloud come out of it! We learned about how clouds cover the sun by gluing cotton balls over a yellow sun on a blue piece of paper and looked outside to see if we could find clouds.

Then we learned about wind. We talked about when there is too much wind and how it can make tornadoes. After spinning around like a tornado, we got to watch one in water with 2 two liters fitted together and a tornado between them when it was flipped over. We even put little houses in them to see how a tornado could pick up a house! After this, each student was able to make a kite to pull behind them in the wind.

After this class, our class learned about rainbows and colors. Each student met with a teacher to practice matching colored clothespins to a piece of wood with rainbow colors on it. Then, we used our fine motor skills to glue colored pom-poms onto a colored rainbow. I asked the kids to watch for rainbows after it rains and tell me if they ever see one!

Then rain! We learned about how the rain helps plants grow by planting seeds into a planter and each taking a turn to water them. We made rain sounds by turning rain sticks and then paper mache' our rain sticks for the next class.

Then we made a thunderstorm. We used the rain sticks and other instruments to make a really loud thunderstorm in our classroom. We even turned the lights on and off for lightning!

That wraps up our time talking about the weather. During thanksgiving class, the last one for the month of November, we made turkey paintings with our hands and talked about what we are thankful for.

### ***Movement...***

You may have noticed the word Movement up on the board outside the classroom as part of the daily schedule. This has been looking like a couple of different things. We have been dancing during this time using dancing ribbons. We have been crawling like a slow turtle and hopping like a fast rabbit. We have been shaking shakers, tossing scarves, and just having SO MUCH FUN. We'll try new stuff out here and there, like playing musical instruments or freeze dance, and will probably be doing this more and more as the weather gets bad.

### ***Speaking of outside...***

We have been playing games outside like sharks, and red light green light!

### ***The month ahead...***

December brings us to winter! I plan on having many sensory items like ice and snow and moveable snowmen for the windows and talking about the changing season. For crafts and some more theme, we will be focusing on shapes and making winter crafts around shapes, such as star decorations and triangle deer.

There will be an all Sprout winter celebration in February. I will keep you posted as to whether or not we will be having a class celebration before winter break.

### ***Birthday!***

There are no birthdays this month.

### ***Foster boxes***

The Southwest Community Center will be collecting supplies and boxes for Foster Boxes, or a welcome box for children being placed into foster care through the Department of Human Services. It is a very special and neat project that we get to do as a community. The other Sprout classrooms will be participating in this as classes. Our Two's classes will not be as our class may not understand the concepts being taught through this giving experience. I would, however, like to invite you to participate either with the Center or as a family. I will also be accepting items for boxes as well, if you would like to bring them to class. There will be more information provided on this at drop off.

### ***Conferences***

We will be having conferences over Winter Break. These will be 20-30 minutes each and are optional, although recommended. We will talk about your child's experience in school so far and how we can continue to educate your child as the year continues. Please look for a sign up list at drop off.

### ***Support...***

Over the last two weeks or so, some peanut butter snacks have made it into our class. Although we have no current allergies to peanut butter, we still are a peanut-free classroom. My husband is allergic to peanut butter and he swears that honey flavored soy butter is very similar to the taste and look and I personally love sunflower butter, if you need some suggestions for alternatives!

If your kiddo has grown sizes since the start of school, it might be worth changing out the clothes in their cubbies before or after winter break so that their clothes still fit if they have an accident. This has not been an issue, but I know they grow really fast!

Also, please take a moment to check on what clothes are in their cubbies before winter break. Some kids are running out of pull-ups or clothes and I suggest stocking up either before or right after break.

### ***At home...***

I will be sending home the color sticks and clothespins. Have your child practice naming and matching their colors at home with you! Some of the clothespins are harder to open than others, but each child was able to open them in. The tricky part was attaching it to the stick, but many were able to do it after some assistance. Holding the paint stick out and asking them the name of the color, asking them where it matched, and helping to guide the paint stick to the open clothespin worked best for me in class. They are all really good at it though!

Keep talking about the weather! We spent a lot of time talking about it in class so they might make a lot of connections to what's going on outside to what they learned in school.

***Thank you!***

**Have wonderful holidays and breaks!**



