

Yellow Room Hot Topics (April 2018)

As we dive into Spring, our adventures and discoveries will take us into the natural world for our lessons this month, focusing on animals, insects, and weather, as well as cultures and people around the world. Our students have shown great excitement in the reawakening of the animal and insect kingdom, the plant world, and our own capabilities outside. The creek bed, for instance, has us wondering about what sorts of creatures might live in such a habitat, what activities we can do with water and dirt, and how weather might affect our new feature; our lessons this month will complement those curiosities and discoveries.

With center lessons this month, we will be practicing our observation skills, building on our fine motor skills and coordination, and exploring more advanced levels of play (such as Stage 5 block play and constructing habitats). Our materials will incorporate more natural materials, such as water, shells, sticks, and sand; likewise, we will be incorporate more Science experiments, like observing a live butterfly garden and taste-testing foods from around the world. Mr. Tyler will continue to pick thematically-similar poems and activities for “Friday Poetry Time w/ Mr. Tyler,” and Ms. Dafne’s motor skills and music lessons will reinforce many of these concepts as we build a connection between the students and the world around them.

Our outside play will also connect to these activities and skill sets, introducing like materials in the sensory table and in the creek bed. The students will work on gross motor skills, emotional and social self-regulation, and cause/effect skills as they climb, dig, collect, and explore together on the playground. We continue to be impressed with our class’s growth and maturation, and we are confident these lessons and activities will give each student the resources, opportunities, and support to continue to develop into their best self.

Chapel

At the beginning of the month, we will be having our Easter lesson. As the month progresses, we will be studying Jesus through the eyes of people in his life—Thomas, his students, his flock, and a lost son. These lessons will be accompanied by the songs “Down in my Heart” and “Rejoice in the Lord Always,” along with a selection of previous weeks’ songs.

Parent Education

As we said above, our work this spring will be building upon the various skill sets we have established in the beginning part of the year. Two significant parts of that development, at this age, are social and emotional skills. NAEYC has offered a compact list of simple opportunities for such practice families can do at home, including puppets, bed time stories, and games. Read the entire article here: <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/building-social-emotional-skills-at-home>

Parent Reminders

- With the new creek bed on the playground, the unpredictable weather of spring, and our hands-on methods of discovery, please make sure there is a variety of extra clothes, including water shoes and hats, in your child’s cubby each day.
- We should be up-to-date on Permission Forms regarding sunscreen and bug spray. If you need to send more, please label it and give to Mr. Tyler, who will put it in your child’s outside bag. Please apply sunscreen and bug spray, as necessary, in the mornings before school; we will reapply during Fun Zone.

Important Dates

Apr. 3&4 -- School Picture Day

Apr. 4 -- PTF Meeting (Kleberg Hall @ 8:30 am)

Apr. 20 -- St. George’s Day (Slaying of the Dragon @ 9:00 am)

Apr. 22 -- Knight for St. George’s (Colleen’s Kitchen)