

DISCOVERING H₂O

An Ongoing Water Study

Different experiences emerge as we embark upon our water study. How exciting it has been to have hands-on experiences with water within our classroom community. So much exploration, experimentation, observation!

SINK OR FLOAT



Sink or float was a fun experiment that the children explored with Mrs. Walter. The children searched for different materials that were put to the test. Would they sink or would they float? Some items chosen were paper tubes, feathers, milk cartons, empty water bottles, pieces of wood, etc. As they placed the different materials in the water, they watched to see what would happen. The children observed... the heavy items headed straight to the bottom, and the light items staying afloat. The children loved this experience. Sink and float is now one of our favorite games to enjoy throughout the day.

WATER MOLECULES-H₂O



The children have been referring to water as “H₂O” in our classroom. We broke the concept down and looked at what a water molecule is actually made of. The children discovered that a water molecule contains the following elements: 2 Hydrogen and 1 Oxygen. They explored this concept by putting together little ping pong balls with “H” and “O” written on them. They enjoyed this activity that reinforced scientific concepts that they will continue to build upon in years to come!

COLLECTING WATER SAMPLES

Throughout the past few weeks we have been collecting different water samples for our classroom. Here are some of the samples:

PUDDLE & RAIN



The children worked in small groups on a rainy day to collect samples of rainwater. We placed a cup in front of our school building to collect rain that was falling from the sky. We were so surprised to see how fast the rain filled the cup ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup of rainwater only took 5 minutes) . As we waited for the cup to fill, we collected samples of puddle water. Some of the children liked to refer to this as “mucky,muddy water!” The children discovered a difference in the samples. The rainwater was clean, and the puddle water was dirty! As Aidan told us, “It’s because it touched the ground. The ground can be dirty!”

WATER FROM OUR SCHOOL PIPES: SINK WATER



A small group of children took a trip to the bathroom sink to collect sink water. The children were trying to figure out how the water comes out of the pipes? They also wanted to know if they could drink this water? These are lots of great questions that we are looking to explore in the coming weeks!

WATER FOUNTAIN



The children collected additional samples of water from our school water fountain. This was a tricky one. The children needed to work together to get the water into the bottle! Lots of teamwork went into this as the water sprayed out at them!

SALTWATER FROM TROY'S CITY ISLAND



Our class has been fascinated with the idea of our friend Troy living on an island.... City Island to be exact. They are eager to learn about how close Troy lives to "sea water." The children like to call it "Troy's City Island." One day, Troy brought in saltwater he collected at a beach close to his house. The children were amazed by this, and enjoyed listening to Troy tell the story of how he was able to bring us such a big saltwater sample! The children wanted to know, "How close is your house to the saltwater?" "Do you go swimming every day?" "Can we drink this water?" The children decided together that saltwater is not drinking water. Many of the friends told us that it is too salty!! Thank you Troy for sharing saltwater with us!

OBSERVATION TIME



Now that we have lots of different water samples, we look to explore and observe them. The friends have been taking a closer look by using magnify glass. They have been noting similarities and differences between all the different types of water. Some of the friends have been shaking the water samples to see if they can note any change when the water is moving.

SHARING TIME- TREASURES FROM THE WATER



Jacob discovered a whelk egg casing at a beach in Connecticut that he frequents with his family. He shared it with the class in small groups. Whelks are big snails that live in the ocean. He told the friends, "If we open up the casing, we can find small shells inside." Sure enough, we did! We opened it up, and what do you know, we found little tiny shells! The children were so fascinated by this discovery. Thank you Jacob for sharing this treasure from the sea!

PLANTING AND WATER



We planted some grass seed this week and created paper vases. The children followed the papermaking process and picked their own colors. We talked about the importance of water in planting and how water and sun are the food that will make our grass grow. We have been watering every day and will be charting the growth of our grass weekly.

DRIP & DROP-A PRESENTATION ON WATER



The Rye Garden Club visited our classroom this week and presented lots of information on water. They talked to our class about the importance of water conservation and how to keep our water clean. They also reviewed the water cycle through a story about two little raindrops, Drip & Drop. We even learned a water related song that goes to the tune, "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." The children prepared several questions for the presenters. They asked questions related to water with great confidence and listened attentively for the answers. What a great way to research!



We are enjoying watching the friends discover H₂O. We look forward to sharing more experiences as we continue on this journey!