

Classroom Energizers – November 2010

It's **Harvest Time** and we've been very busy talking about food – where it comes from and how it ends up at the grocery store. Our field trip took us to a farm where we saw how food grows, and another trip took us to a local grocery store where all the harvested food ends up.

Throughout **Harvest Time**, we have been able to explore all kinds of foods and ingredients. We used a balance scale to discover weight differences between cooked and uncooked macaroni. Some children felt the cooked macaroni and observed that it was “squishy” because they could “feel the water.” We also had a great time decorating cupcakes with icing and sprinkles before enjoying them as an afternoon snack. They were yummy and delicious!

But the best activity was making playdough! We were “scientists” and worked as a team to measure out the ingredients we needed for our recipe. Joshua and Zander measured the flour, Ava and Kailee measured the oil, Jesse and Zoe measured the salt, and finally we added water. We all took a turn stirring the mixture. Zander noticed the bottle of food coloring on the table and said, “We’re going to make green playdough.” Each child added one drop of food coloring to our mixture and we continued to stir. We placed some flour on the table and dumped out the playdough. The children each took a small amount of playdough to explore and here are some of the comments we heard.

- “This is so gooey!”
- “It’s squishy like a gooey monster.”
- “I just made a playdough ball. It’s a biscuit, Ms. Cindy.”
- “My hands are sticky.”
- “I’m making a worm.”
- “I made a sticky cat.”
- “I made a snake. Sssssss”
- “We’re using our imaginations!”

The children had so much fun exploring the homemade playdough that we sent home a small ball of dough to share with families and continue the exploration.

– Ms. Iris & Ms. Cindy

