During the month of November, it was time to leave the building unit and start thinking about our new theme: Trees! As always, our learning was rooted in literature, investigation and play. Using books such as “We Planted a Tree” by Diane Muldrow, “The Tiny Seed” by Eric Carle, and “Life in a Tree” by Melvin Berger, we discussed the parts of trees, the idea that trees grow from seeds and are alive, and that trees are home to many different animals. We supported the friends’ learning by creating opportunities for them to engage with the information, both individually and socialy, through dramatic play, artistic expression, observation, investigation, music and movement.

Addy using the pulley on the play tree house.

Ava coloring the sky on her tree artwork.
To begin, we learned that trees have four main parts: roots, trunk, branches and leaves. Our rooms were filled with real examples of leaves, stumps, and sticks and we incorporated them into our art and play. Our song, “Roots, Trunk, Branches, Leaves” helped us to remember these parts by using our bodies as a reference.

For the next two weeks, we talked about the fact that trees sprout from seeds, and that in order to grow they need food, water, and sunlight. The children looked at seeds that have hard shells and seeds that “fly” in different ways so they can find good places to grow. We used scissors to cut seeds from pods, made art with an osage orange fruit or “monkey ball”.

Many animals make their homes in trees and, during our last week, we took a closer look at a few of them. We talked about owls and other birds, squirrels, and some of the critters that take advantage of the protection of a fallen tree or log.

Silas and Alice K. covering the paper mache owl with feathers.
LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Sammy painting his stick that will be part of a Red Room mobile.

Russell planting a lima bean sprout into fresh soil.

Mollie adding leaves to her collage.

Livanya, Alice, and Jason weaving just like weaver birds do.

Elliot and Isabelle creating a jungle scene.

Rowan painting his wood sculpture that he made in the Make Shop.
Malina spraying our lima bean plants to help them grow.

James skipping through our obstacle course.

Fitz and Jacob identifying parts of trees that we learned at circle time.

Emmet painting with a "monkey ball".

Atlas using a pine branch as a brush.

Drake testing the bridge on the tree house.
OUR NEXT THEME IS STORYTELLING!

Paloma preparing fruits and vegetables for the juicer.

Thanks to the Kindergarten for inviting us to see their production of “Mrs. Wishy Washy”.

Thank you to Mrs. Rosenblum for reading her favorite story, “Caps for Sale”, to the threes.