During our Farm Unit, we identified farm animals, their sounds and their jobs on the farm. We learned about the food grown on a farm, the job of a farmer, and the unique equipment and buildings on a farm. We finished the unit by delving deeper to learn details about some specific farm animals.

Our Favorite Theme Books

Circle time is a great time to hear stories that help friends learn more about our theme. This month our favorite books were:

I Spy On The Farm by Edward Gibbs
Stanley the Farmer by William Bee
On the Farm, At the Market by G. Brian Karas
The Scarecrow’s Hat by Ken Brown

Mango Monkey Says…

Our wise puppet friend visited the friends this month with his friend Shy Squirrel, to talk about Saying “No, Thank You.” We shared the book, The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf to remind the friends that if they do not want something, they can say, “No, thank you.” In the story, Ferdinand does not want to be rough like the other bulls. He just wants to sit under the cork tree and smell the flowers. Ferdinand is able to show that being brave was about letting others know what he needs. The friends helped Mango Monkey teach his puppet pals when and how to use their words and bodies when they do not want to play or if someone is too close to them. They discussed how Shy Squirrel was able to put her paws up and say No, thank you” and “Stop” when she did not want Andy Alligator to hug her so tight.
We began our unit by asking the friends what they know about farms. Most of the responses focused on the animals on the farm. During circle time, we read a variety of books about farm animals and books such as Barnyard Banter, by Denise Fleming, to learn facts about the animals, their families, their sounds, and their jobs on a farm. We sorted farm/zoo/pet animals, made a barn scene for our locker tags, and began our Farm Mural Project by painting land and sky. Some friends made pretend mud from cocoa, water and cornstarch for our pig figures to enjoy! Puzzles, Loose Parts, Singing Time and the books in the Library Center all helped to reinforce the content and added to the fun.

Weeks 2 & 3

Buildings, Equipment and Harvesting

We explored the different shelters on a farm, such as a barn, silo, chicken coop, stables, and farm house. Farm equipment was added to our classroom as we learned about the machines that work on a farm. Fantastic Farm Machines by Cris Peterson and Farming by Gail Gibbons allowed us to look at photographs of farm equipment, learn the names of the equipment and understand how each machine works. We cut out and added a barn and some stamped animals to the Farm Murals, painted with toy tractors, and made working silos. The books On the Farm, At the Market, by G. Brian Karas, and The Year at Maple Hill Farm, by Alice Provenson, gave us a look into what a harvest is, where our food comes from, and what happens through the seasons on a farm. Changing our Dramatic Play area into the Green Room Farmer’s Market allowed us to practice buying, sorting and working as a farmer selling the crops grown. The area was guarded by the scarecrow we built.
Animal Focus:
Sheep, Cows, Chickens, Bees

Our focus animals for this week were Sheep, Cows, Chickens and Bees. The Dramatic Play Center became a Sheep Pen, an area to explore some wool sweaters, blankets, scarves and mittens. The wonderful photographs in From Sheep to Sweater by Robin Nelson showed the step by step process of making a sweater. The friends all used real wool wrapped around a stick to make a sheep in the Make Shop. After reading The Milk Makers by Gail Gibbons, the friends pretended to be a farmer and experimented with “milking a cow” using rubber glove “udders” full of a water/white paint mixture. We also experimented with shaking whipping cream in a glass jar to make butter. It tasted so good on crackers at snack! Laurie Berkner’s song, “I Know a Chicken” reminded us that chickens give us eggs as we practiced shaking musical instrument eggs to the music. We investigated and tasted real honeycomb, made pretend honeycomb cells and baby bees to fit in them. An adaptation of the song Baa, Baa Black Sheep included all of the focus animals and the products they provide for us. We finished the Farm Mural Project by adding more stamped animals and a toothpick picket fence, and we dictated and illustrated Farm Stories.
Make Shop Experiences

This month in the Make Shop, we focused on sewing and textiles. The children made small holes in wood shims with the hand drills, then practiced beginning sewing skills by weaving craft wire in and out of the holes. We made model sheep from sticks and clothespins, then wrapped them in real wool. As an added bonus, the children had an opportunity to build with the large architecture blocks.

Music Experiences with Mrs. Hraber

Mrs. Hraber integrated music into our Farm theme this month. We sang songs about the different animals that live on a farm and the different noises that those animals make. We used instruments like castanets for the duck's quack and cowbells for the cows. We also sang songs relating to the different things that grow on a farm, and the equipment needed to operate a farm.

Center Spotlight: The Science Center

The Science Center offers the friends opportunities to explore theme-related or seasonal items, experiment with materials on their own or with teacher guidance, and observe natural processes. It is home to our pet betta fish, Half Moon, and our pet worms. The children help to care for the fish by feeding it daily as a part of the Weekly Helper Jobs. The pet worms help us all by eating and processing food scraps from snack, providing amazing fertilizer for our garden, and being an animal ambassador to help children learn respect for small animals.
Birthday Celebrations and Special Visitors

Sing helps his parents talk about a favorite story for his birthday.

Slava’s mom played the Accordion for Slava’s class to help celebrate his birthday.

Brandon’s mom reads a story at Circle Time to celebrate Brandon’s birthday.

Becky Turner from Turner Dairy Farm shows the friends a part of a cow milking machine.

Maggie and her mom play with the Magna-tiles on Maggie’s birthday celebration day.
Our Month in Photos
Our Month in Photos
Outdoor Adventures
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