The **Extended Morning Program** has a weekly Focus Book that expands on the Pre-School theme of the month. The teachers support the stories through related activities that include experiences in each of the Developmental Domains. The story is further enhanced by experiences in our make shop, with wood working, and cooking activities in the kitchen. We also enjoy daily music with Mrs. Bird. A brief description of the focus book is included in each Monday's email, and a list of available activities each day. The newsletter for each theme recaps the related activities through text and photographs, with captions highlighting the developmental emphasis.

**January Pre-School Theme:** Desert

A picture is worth a thousand words. These photos tell the story of our Storytelling theme at the Children's School and express just how much we learn from our explorations!

**Focus Books**

**Extended Morning Teachers:** Mrs. Bird, Miss Dzina, Mrs. Loomis and Mrs. Opferman
Nicolas shows persistence as he builds a vehicle from the gear set.

Marina and Nalu cooperate to paint a large Saguaro Cactus shape.

Archie is happy to show how his roadrunner mask disguises him!

Friends are careful to keep their bodies tight to the circle as they play a run and chase group game of Lizard, Lizard, Roadrunner.

David has to use fine motor control as he makes the texture of a cactus with paint and a plastic fork.

Peter puts his fingers on the pencil with an “alligator grip, close to the tip,” to be able to sketch a Little Brown Bat with control.

Poppy tells her version of “There Was A Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea.”

Felix draws illustrations to match the words in his desert story of “There Was A Coyote Who Swallowed a Lego.”
Chloe experiments with how the MagnaForms magnets fit together.

Noah practices how to blow a bubble using his breath. He had to blow hard like the coyote did in the story of the Three Little Javelinas (a desert version of The Three Little Pigs.)

Will discovers that the air he blew into the bubbles comes out as he pops the bubbles with his finger.

Atticus sorts items into big, medium and small categories.

Ada counts the number of spaces she needs to move the coyote closer to the roadrunner.

Nalu follows the pattern that he made with Unifix Cubes to color a pattern on the snake.

Brandon works with gray clay, a common building material in the American Southwest Desert.

Jacob decorates a fancy boot. Boots are foot protection from hot ground and some dangerous animals in the desert.

Simon looks at pictures of different deserts as he creates his Desert Scene.
Mio works hard using a lemon squeezer to make some fresh lemon juice for the salsa.

Rowan gets an up-close look at the pattern on a scorpion’s back.

Masaki dribbles colored sand onto the glue design he made.

Jamie Ann makes the X mark of a Roadrunner’s footprint in sandy, brown paint.

Wally carefully places cactus spines into his model of a cactus.

Simon keeps bundled up on a cool, Extended Day Outside Day.

Betty Lou tastes the salsa she helped to make in the school kitchen.

Circle Time friends watch a video of a bird making a nest in a Saguaro Cactus.

Nevin uses a spoon to cut and smash some avocado for making guacamole.