

## An Animal Study in the 2 ½ year-olds class

The 2 ½ years-old class showed an interest in animals. We set up an animal hospital in our classroom. Dramatic play took place in our "animal hospital."



Language Arts: 4.B.EC Communicate needs, ideas, and thoughts.

5B.EC Relate prior knowledge to new information.

Fine Arts: 26.A.ECb Drama: Participate in drama activities.

Social/Emotional Development: 32.B.ECa Engage in cooperative group play.

32.B.ECb Begin to share materials and experiences and take turns.

## Elephants



Mrs. Giammarino asked the children, "What animals would you like to learn about?" One of the animals they choose was an elephant. We looked at pictures of elephants and determined that elephants have wrinkled skin. The children took a paper bag that was cut into an elephant shape and crumbled it up to create wrinkles. They then wet it with water. Once the paper was dried, the children sponge painted it.

Fine Arts: 25.A.ECd Visual Arts: Investigate the element of visual arts.

26.A.ECd Visual Arts: Participates in the visual arts.

26.B.EC Use creative arts as an avenue for self-expression.

What do you know about elephants?

They have a trunk.

And ears.

They have a back.

They have eyes.

They have a trunk and they can hit people with things outside their mouth.

They would hit you with their trunk.

No I think they don't hit.

I want to feed them.

Give them peanuts.

And then they won't hit you.

## Snakes



Children used watercolors to paint a wooden snake. (right picture)

After the children learned about snakes, they painted a huge snake (left picture). We used a brayer to put paint on bubble wrap and then pressed the bubble wrap onto the snake to make the snake look like it has scales.

What do you know about snakes?

Snakes eat milk.

Snakes eat frogs.

Snakes eat peanuts.

Snakes eat fish.

They eat birds.

Eat water.

Water.

They eat food.

They creep.

Yeah they do this (child demonstrates how a snake moves).

They jump up higher.

They are trying to escape.

They eat animals.

They have hard skin.

They eat people.

They are white and red.

I like butterflies.

They have good eyes.

They have sharp teeth.

They have a nose to sneeze. They have a mouth to eat and bite.

When they are thirsty they drink water from the fountain, then they bite.

They go to the water fountain and drink water and then they spit it out.

They have eyes so they can look for bugs.

They throw a book at somebody.

They can bite with their sharp teeth.

That they are small then they grow big.

Snakes have snakey tongues.

White snakes.

*Language Arts: 4.B.EC Communicate needs, ideas, and thoughts.*

*5.B.EC Relate prior knowledge to new information.*

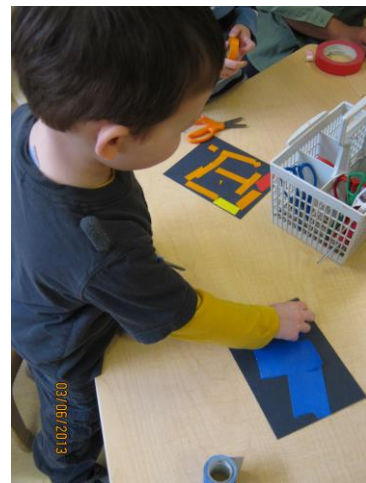


While practicing their cutting skills, some of the children spontaneously decided to create snake pictures.

"The snake goes here and there and here."

100 Languages: Exploring the language of cutting tape.

"I'm making echo snakes. It is a book about echo snakes."



These are just two of the many animals we studied.