



We are having a great time in our Pre-k-licious class getting to know each other and building our community!

The vocabulary we are using in our classroom is based on empathy. We are reading books related to that. We will continue to emphasize the word throughout the year 'til the children understand its meaning.

I think they're starting to understand though. For example, while we were dancing around in the classroom, Sophia tripped and fell and started crying. Everybody froze and stared at her while I attended to her. She kept crying while I was comforting her. I asked the children -- what do they think Sophia was feeling? Why was she crying? What can/are they going to do about her situation?

Some were still frozen, not sure what to do. Raylan went to Sophia and asked if she needed a hug. I explained to them that Raylan was showing empathy to Sophia. She was concerned, and she offered help and comfort. Of course, while this was happening Ms. Emily came running in the classroom with a worried face to see what was going on? Empathy!

Something magical is happening in the woods, our new outdoor space next to the playground. I was sitting with few friends on the benches and we were bored. I heard them saying the woods is boring ... there's nothing to do. And I agreed.

That's when my light bulb started flickering ... there are NO such words as "boring" and "nothing to do" in Reggio! Reggio is about exploring, creating, designing, imagining and being inspired. So, I said "let's find some sticks and build a tent." "And we can build a campfire," Clara added. 😊

That's how it all started. We ended up building a camping site with a campfire. Some of the sticks wouldn't hold on while we tried to build our tent, and Clara suggested that we dig a hole first to put the sticks in, so they wouldn't fall.

Our construction activity started attracting more campers, and we were joined by Reed, Sophia, Raylan, Isaiah and Carly, with ideas flooding in. "We need camp chairs to sit on," Reed said. Then, we went to find tree stumps and rolled them to our campsite. Clara said, "now we can sit and roast marshmallows and hotdogs!" She put a leaf through a stick, pretending it was a marshmallow. We all sat around the campfire and roasted our marshmallows.

The next day we continued to explore and talk about our campsite. Carly found a box and brought it next to the campsite and crawled inside. She said, "I found a sleeping bag!"

On the third day we were joined by Sammy who found two rocks and a leaf and decided to make a pretend sandwich with them. He put the leaf between the rocks and enjoyed his sandwich by the campfire. 😊

Before I explained to them about camping and why some people love it, I asked them if they'd gone camping before, Micah said, yes, he camped in a car and the rest said they've NEVER gone camping!

😬 This was my face, a very proud teacher! To be continued ...

On the other side, Aryn, Benjamin and Isaiah found a rotten tree stump with a hole in the middle and they pretended it was a big pot. They started cooking soup for the campers. A lot of ingredients were added to it, like spiders, vanilla ice cream, noodles, mint and even chocolate. We are still not sure what the soup is called, but there were names like chicken noodle soup, chocolate noodle soup or spider chicken soup to choose from. 😊

Are these munchkins learning anything from these experiences? What are they learning?

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Ciao!!