



Creating Jack-o-lanterns

Pretend play in our "bakery" dramatic play area

Patterning with squash and gourds

"Baking" play dough muffins



## Prompting our play...

- ❖ Green play dough and muffin pans
- ❖ Shades of orange construction paper and tissue paper and scissors for creating jack-o-lanterns
- ❖ Flannel board with felt ghosts, gourds, squash and pumpkins for patterning
- ❖ Color Ways bean bag dolls
- ❖ Bakery items added to dramatic play and the sand table (Thanks to Heather Terry for providing us with some of the props.) Color Ways bean bag dolls

## What we read...

- ❖ THOSE MEAN, NASTY, DIRTY, DOWNRIGHT DISGUSTING BUT INVISIBLE GERMS (with and without stick puppet props)
- ❖ HARRIET'S HALLOWEEN CANDY
- ❖ GERMS ARE NOT FOR SHARING
- ❖ GROWING VEGETABLE SOUP
- ❖ VEGETABLE SOUP
- ❖ BIG KICKS (thanks to Sam and Polly Wells)
- ❖ SHEEP ON A SHIP (Thanks for the pirate hats Sam and Polly!)
- ❖ TRASHY TOWN (thanks to Natalie Stern)

## Dear Parents:

Our class was naturally very excited about Halloween, so we shared some related stories without books, *THE DARK, DARK WOODS* and *THE LITTLE ORANGE HOUSE*. The children also shared their stories of their Halloween adventures with us. The day after Halloween, the book *HARRIET'S HALLOWEEN CANDY* helped us begin a discussion about sharing the candy collected to avoid tummy aches. That, in addition to the children's continued interest in *A BAD CASE OF STRIPES*, which inspired us to sample lima beans, led us into the exploration of germs, health and nutrition. The Color Ways bean bag dolls were added to our classroom to help the children learn that colorful foods are the healthiest. Children played with the dolls and checked out the accompanying card showing foods of that color. Each doll has a name that relates to the color of food that they want children to eat, such as Raoul Red who encourages children to eat red fruits and vegetables. Children created vegetable prints using vegetables and special paints encouraging more discussion about which vegetables each child likes. Playing in the sand table with measuring cups and spoons allows for self-directed play, experimentation and problem solving. Our kindness jar is slowly filling up with pennies and seems to be a strong motivator for kind behavior in the classroom. If you would like to reinforce this at home, feel free to send in a penny or two with your child when they've done something kind at

# Continued...

## In Our Own Words...

Children told us something they learned about germs or an experience they had had with germs in the past.

Magdalena-"The throw up germ has 20 arms. It makes me throw up on my bed."

Lena-"I had the throw up germ. I just waked up and it didn't come again."

Charlie-"The sun one is the fever germ. Wash your hands."

Gilbert-"You wash your hands like this because you have germs."

Teddy-"The hammer germ looks like this and it goes bang bang. This is the headache one."

Maxine-"The throw up germ is the scariest."

Connor-"The fever germ said, 'Whoa!' when she went round and round down the drain."

Xander-"When she got the headache germ, she washed her hands."

Zara-"Germs can give you a headache or the throw up germ."

Felipa-"Wash your hands."

Caroline-"The fever germ said, 'Yikes!' as he went swirling down the drain."

Bailey-"Hand washing gets rid of germs."

Caroline arranges the Color Ways dolls on their corresponding cards. Xander and Teddy make 3-D germs, inspired by Connor who had made one at home.



In the gym, children played a parachute game. They sang a song about vegetables as they circled with the parachute and named a vegetable of a given color when one of the bean bag dolls bounced off the chute.



Building on the children's natural excitement about Halloween, we read HUMBUGH WITCH and extended the story by having the children participate in a music and flannel board activity. As we sang each verse, children helped to dress Humbugh Witch in her very special attire. The large motor game "Hocus Pocus Alakazam" was another extension of that story. The teacher waved "her magic wand" to turn children into a variety of animals.



We read VEGETABLE SOUP and GROWING VEGETABLE SOUP. The children used those books as inspiration to decide what vegetable to bring in to contribute to the vegetable soup they helped make for snack. Maxine and Lena ate it all up! Special thanks to Gilbert for supplementing our snack with homemade pumpkin muffins!



Love,  
Sue and Clarissa