

GROWING TOGETHER

GNP NEWSLETTER

September 23, 2022

OUR THEMES THIS WEEK

Introduction to Apples
Learning about our Farming Community
Signs of Autumn

NOTIFICATIONS

Thank you to our wonderful parents for helping us out this week both with the children (Jenn and Emily) and in providing refreshments (Colleen) for our gathering. We are also so pleased to see you all embrace our first Immersion Excursion off campus. Learning together about who we are within the rich community of our exceptional part of the world brings so much more meaning for your children.

In our daily comments home we have mentioned some of the many activities we did this week. This newsletter is to share some insights into the “**why**” and “**how**” we engage in our experiences. We include research-based best practices from renowned educational institutions and educators.

REMINDERS

Please remember to schedule, get and notify us that your child has received a flu shot. This is to assure a safe environment for us all.

INVESTIGATIONS IN OUR FARM COMMUNITY

Why? Learning within our own community and using our farms and nature sanctuaries as our classrooms creates greater appreciation of the immediate environment of our children and, while allowing for deeper awareness, is also a fun and meaningful vehicle for introducing basic concepts and skills.

How?

This week we took our first Immersion Excursion to Lost Acres Orchard in North Granby. We have welcomed parents into our learning environment to further deepen the learning experience through sharing, and by learning together about apples at a local orchard. We are incorporating math skills as we count, describe and sort different kinds of apples, and discuss patterns we see when cut cut cross sections.

We are inspired by the concept of Place-Based Education developed by David Sobel, educator, researcher and author.

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Why Mindfulness learning helps children go deeper into their understanding.

How We continue to develop routines for practicing Thinking Skills by “Slow Looking”. Over the last couple of weeks as we continue to practice mindful exploration we have seen your children looking more closely, and for longer periods to find more variety of insects, plants and habitats, and to appreciate the deeper insights they have gained. They are developing connections among themselves and their world. We have made connections about the signs of Fall and the changes in the weather. As we discuss the weather each day, we are beginning to use a more expansive vocabulary to explain different kinds of rain, cloud formations, weather and objects we see in nature.

Our Close Looking and Thinking Routines are inspired by Project Zero out of Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

ALL ABOUT ME & OUR COMMUNITY

Why? We continue to build on being a member of a community and develop self-regulation skills which are foundational to democratic living.

How?

Reading about and learning what makes a family, and how families are alike and how they are different. Your children are exploring among themselves, and creating connections by inventing games and other activities. They are learning to be considerate within these new contexts, to give and take, and how much fun it is to have friends. This comfort level is building confidence and autonomy. Our reflections each day including on our moods, feelings and what we liked the best are developing mindfulness practices.

We are inspired by the program developed by “Responsive Classroom”.