

GROWING TOGETHER

GNP NEWSLETTER

September 2, 2022

OUR THEMES THIS WEEK

**Transition to school.
Getting to know one another.
Getting to know our environment.**

WELCOME! and NOTIFICATIONS

What a wonderful first week of school! Your children are cooperative, curious and observant! 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.

REMINDERS

Children need to dress for the weather, and have an extra set of clothing, and indoor and outdoor shoes. Long pants are encouraged.

Monday September 5 – no school

Friday September 16 – Morning visit to The Barn by Granby’s EMT

Thursday night September 22 – parent curriculum night for adults only; Time TBD

INVESTIGATIONS IN NATURE

Why? We want children to go beyond basic facts and knowledge (which are at the bottom of the thinking skills continuum) to wonder, question and hear new perspectives in order to gain deeper understanding of themselves and their environment. We want our children to expand their thinking about what they see, hear and feel, to realize (and give words to) the many ways we gather information and to also go beyond words to express their understanding through art, music and movement.

How? Our thinking routines have included:

What do you see?

We have seen a dragonfly, some turtles (and we speculated on what they might be doing on a log), a hole in the ground (who might live there?) a mushroom, clouds (what shapes do you see in the clouds?), shadows (what do you suppose happens when the sun goes behind a cloud?)

What do you hear?

crickets, the breezes, machines (what kind of machine might that be?), an airplane (how high do you think it is?)

What do you feel? How does it feel?

the breezes, the prickly grasses, the inside of a milkweed pod,

We will continue to expand our thinking in the weeks to come with additional prompts such as “Why do you think that?”, “What else do you wonder about that?” “What else do you think that could be used for?”

Our Thinking Routines are inspired by the Project Zero initiative at Harvard University.