

# APPLES

from ACORN 9/29/23

What fun it was to learn about apples at Lost Acres Orchard last week! We have continued our investigations about apples through this week, and, just as in our learning about ants, integrate our lessons over the developmental domains. Let's take a look to see how!

Inquiry: KWL (What do you know about apples? What do you want to know? What have you learned?) Some of our friends went to Lost Acres last year, and it was especially fun to see what they remember! In this "What do you know?" segment, children are learning from one another and one thought may trigger another idea to share. As we continue learning and responding to the KWL queries, children are learning to reflect on their learning process.

Physical development and health: Being outside for exploration and play is a healthy end in itself.

Language and literacy: Reading about apples; learning names of kinds of apples; learning descriptive words such as 'sour', 'sweet', 'crunchy'; talking about what we have learned.

Creative arts: The arts promote symbolic thinking. Through painting children will find multiple ways to express what they are learning about apples. One example is when two children spontaneously "played beehive". They had remembered the connection of bees to apples, and created an imaginary beehive with sand from the sand bit, and then, as King Bee and Queen Bee tried to immerse themselves within the hive. Acting out what they are learning through drama helps them to apply what they have learned, and practice the concepts and knowledge through their imaginary play.

Science: In the science developmental domain we have been exploring taste of different apples and making hypotheses about which might taste better.

Mathematics: We count, divide/share, compare sizes and colors, sort and measure. Making applesauce involves peeling, cutting, measuring, stirring and cooking. These are all developmentally appropriate skills that are seamlessly integrated into our lessons about apples. An extension might be to add

cinnamon, sugar and/or salt to our applesauce samples to determine (and tally) which one tastes and/or smells better.

**Social Studies:** Apples are social foods. They ripen just as the air gets more crisp and the weather makes us feel good all around. Going on an adventure to an apple orchard brings everyone together in a feel-good kind of way. Sharing the experience with classmates, family and a community orchard has countless social benefits.

Learning about apples through multiple domains unfolds naturally - in small time segments, experientially, and spontaneously. There is a balance between child-centered exploration and structure of an investigation. Teachers may provide the environment and begin with a query like "Which of these apples do you think might taste better?" and let the children take it from there.