

A FOCUS ON AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

LEO LIONNI

December 2015



• (TOP) SLEEPING FISH IN THE MORNING BLUE ROOM! "THE GOLDFISH SONG" WENT WELL WITH LIONNI'S FISH-THEMED STORIES.



• (RIGHT) THE AFTERNOON BLUE ROOM LISTENING TO LEO LIONNI'S, IT'S MINE WHICH QUICKLY BECAME A FAVORITE.

December brought our focus to the stories of Leo Lionni, who wrote and illustrated over 40 highly acclaimed children's books. We often talked about the words **author** and **illustrator** and the children began to recognize Lionni's styles. His books quickly became requested favorites during free choice time.

We shared and delighted in It's Mine, A Color of His Own, Fish is Fish, Frederick, and Swimmy. The themes of friendship, teamwork, feelings, color, oceans and animal life found in these beautiful stories gave us an opportunity to build upon ideas naturally interesting to young children and were a starting place to develop skills such as interaction, cooperation, individual differences and communication. As

young children explore the world around them and build upon knowledge frameworks, children at the preschool age are able to make connections to their own life by observing animal life.

We extended Lionni's ideas by exploring other stories with the same themes of colors, feelings, and ocean life such as Blue Chameleon by Emily Gravett, Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss, Verdi by Jannell Cannon, and Into the A. B. Sea by Deborah Lee Rose.

Mrs. Hraber shared the classic fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare" and brought Pete the metronome decorated with those characters. The children were given the opportunity to

explore further the ideas of individual differences and persistence that were introduced in Lionni's book, Frederick.

In gym, teamwork made it possible to cross a pretend vat of hot chocolate using our own "marshmallows" (circle mats) and those of our friends. When we worked together, we could make it happen! This was much like "Frederick" the mouse working with his mouse family to



COLBY CAMOUFLAGES THE YELLOW CHAMELEON ON A YELLOW BOOK.



SLOANE, JOSHUA AND ALISA LISTEN INTENTLY TO A STORY AT SNACK TIME.



JOHN AND BENNY HAVING FUN WITH MAGNIFYING GLASSES.

Lionni's books gave us much to explore!



Sydnee sorts yellow, red and purple things. We explored color often as we expanded on ideas we read about in Lionni's book about a chameleon, [A Color of His Own](#).



Colby creating his jelly fish. We enjoyed learning about ocean life this month and creating ocean creatures.



Joshua shares enthusiastically and with gestures during an egg exploration after reading, Lionni's [Extraordinary Egg](#).



Maxwell and Dash at the light table building with the clear, colored Lego bricks.



Josie shows off her shape creation on the peg board.



Sidney painting her feeling fish.

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!



Benny and Adler pretend with the Lego tractor and farm animals.



Conor counting goldfish during a math snack.



Joshua, Alisa and Siobhan put together an ocean life floor puzzle.



Benny is using his hand eye coordination by water color painting his feeling fish yellow.



Maxwell is tickled with his shape creation.



Josie is ready for a game of catch.

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR VISITORS!

We appreciate our visitors and the experiences they shared with us that enriched our days. Thanks to Elijah's mom (morning Red Room), Alexandra, for reading *Frederick* to us in Spanish. The Blue Room friends joined in for this special experience. Thanks also go to Conor Handron's mom, Kerry, and brothers, David and Ryan, who visited the Red Room to share outer space activities with us. Evren's dad (morning Red Room), Paul, came to help us understand a rover on Mars. The afternoon Blue Room friends enjoyed a story time with Julia's dad. Thanks also to Lexi, a work study student, who brought her guitar for a sing-along. Afternoon Blue Room friend Connor's grandmother recently shared a story with us and we thank you as well.



Evren's father telling us about a rover on Mars.



Lexi leading us in a sing-along.



Elijah's mother reading *Frederick* in Spanish as Mrs. Tomer read the English version.



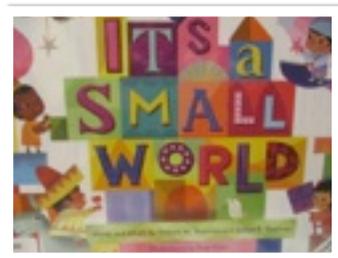
Juliet's father sharing a story.



Conor (Red Room) and his family add to our outer space experiences.

Looking Ahead

In January we will focus on "Children of the World." We will talk about babies, houses, clothing, food, celebrations and games in many cultures. The children will explore similarities and differences and build upon their beautiful, natural acceptance and curiosities about others. Our stories, music and play will relate to the themes found in the ideas of diversity and multiculturalism.



Mrs. Tomer

Mrs. Marshall

Mr. Salinetto

Mrs. Loomis