



Room 109 Weekly Update

October 13, 2023

Heggerty - We are continuing to show growth with our skills in Heggerty. This week, we focused on creating words that rhyme. While creating rhymes with the word "he", not only did students come up with words like "she, we, me," but this also helped us to revisit the concept of homophones (words that sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings). This was noticed when a student mentioned that there is the word "be" but there is also the word for the buzzing insect "bee." I love that they are making these connections!

Foundations - The work in Heggerty really solidifies our learning as this week in Unit 2, we focused a lot on how to tap and blend words. We learned the strategy, "If you know _____. It helps you to know _____." For example, as we were tapping and spelling the word "cat", by knowing "cat," we can change just the beginning sound to spell "hat, fat, sat, mat," etc. We have also begin our first dictation. In sentence a day, we create a sentence together and I model how to spell/write words (unless it is a word wall word and then the class helps me spell it). But this week, for dictation sentences, I give the class a sentence, and the students will help me count out the number of words in the sentence and then they need to write the sentence. We are getting pretty good at spelling words with 3 sounds (or CVC words). However, many children still need reminders about how to start a sentence with a capital letter and also use ending punctuation. Again, in sentence a day this is modeled for them, but Foundations is a time when I can see what they can remember on their own. We are working on applying these skills in all areas, and not just in isolation. Throughout the year, we will continue to practice this usage and I know that we will become much more automatic with these sentence mechanics!

Reading Workshop: During Reading Workshop, we continue to build our reading skills through word work and independent reading activities. With our continued practice of trick words both at school (and for homework) and our knowledge of how to blend words, we are becoming more fluent readers! Learning these trick words automatically helps us to be able to spend more energy figuring out words that are much more difficult. We have been doing a lot of "Trick Word" hunts in our reading of poetry, fiction and non-fiction books and we are noticing that many of our words have been hiding all around us! See what trick words your child can find in his/her reading!

Writing This week, we have started to have writing conferences. Writing journals are another opportunity for students to show what they know about writing. At times, there is a given writing prompt for students to address, but there are also times where students can independently write a true story about themselves. So far, we have been working really hard on writing 1 good sentence which should start with a capital letter, tell a complete thought, and have punctuation. As we become more proficient, we will be starting to move into 2 complete sentences by the end of the first trimester and by the end of the year, we will be writing about 5-8 complete sentences (a paragraph)! It takes little steps, but by solidifying each step, our foundation in writing becomes strong!

Math - We have been continuing to work on how to organize story problem information into a Part-Part-Whole or Number Bonds organizer to help us to physically manipulate items the addition/subtraction strategies needed to solve the problem. We have learned that good problem solvers always "Start with what you know." Using the concrete information, we can then use our physical tools to "prove" our thinking.

Other news - We had another short, but busy week! Lots of learning in such a brief time. Homework expectations will increase next week, so be on the lookout for more information going home on Monday.

Thank you so much for Mrs. Hindin, Mr. Saitgareev, and Mr. Hartford for chaperoning our field trip to Carlson Orchard. I now have almost everyone's photo release so I can start posting classroom and field trip pictures, but only for students that have completed the beginning of year permission forms for pictures, computer use and confirmation of student handbook expectations. Be on the lookout for these pictures soon!

Have a great weekend!

April Fuller