



# Room 109 Weekly Update

October 20, 2023

**Heggerty** - We are continuing to show growth with our skills in Heggerty. This week, we continued to work on words that rhyme. We have been listening to more beginning and ending sounds that are not just a single letter sound, but are 2 letters that make one sound together. These are called digraphs. We have been able to auditorily discriminate the sounds of sh (as in ship), ch (as in chin) and th (as in thumb). Our ability to segment these sounds and blend them is growing as well!

**Fundations** - This week we finished Unit 2. We have focused a lot of the tapping and spelling 3 sound or CVC words. We have been continuing to work with sentence dictation as well, using our knowledge of trick Words as well as words that we can encode (sound out). We have also been working on how to stretch out Unfamiliar words. In our classroom, we write a squiggle line under "words that we are not experts at spelling." This helps us to not perseverate on spelling words we don't know, but we take a guess, underline it and then move on so that we can keep our train of thought. We can always go back and edit/revise it with a teacher's guidance. We have also been adding many new words to our reference books so that we can also start to look for words that we are unfamiliar with. We have been very busy creating tools and learning how to use them to help us to become more independent readers and writers.

**Reading Workshop:** During Reading Workshop, we continue to build our reading skills through word work and independent reading activities. Our trick word vocabulary continues to grow, and our reading stamina and use of technology skills is growing as well. This week, we were introduced to a reading platform called Epic. This platform requires us to use our skills of manipulating reading websites. So far, we have been using Storyline Online as a way for us to listen to stories and build our listening vocabulary and model fluent reading. Epic is another way for us to read and listen, but now we can have more individualized experiences as teachers can assign stories that support our content (such as apples or fall) as well as books that are at differentiated reading levels. We will be starting more exploration of this website next week.

**Writing** This week, we have continued to have writing conferences. In addition to writing biographical stories about ourselves, the back portion of our writing journals is saved for mathematical writing. This week, we also took some time to write math story problems. During our Number Flight sessions, we talk a lot about different elements of the calendar, we practice counting, as well as introduce and review lots of numeracy skills. We have been creating a lot of oral story problems using pictures that support the part-part-whole model, and this week, we got to write our own!

**Math** - This week, we have been exploring how different tools can help us to solve addition and subtraction story problems. We have used counters independently, as well as counters with a ten frame and the rekenrek tool. We have also been introduced to some of these tools using a visual application called Brainiac. Seeing how we can use tools flexibly helps us to better solidify our concept of number sense and overall understanding of the addition and subtraction process.

**Other news** - In addition to starting off the week with the Fire Safety program, we also started this busy week getting to know our new student Loudjuna (pronounced Loo-gee-na). Although we have only been in

school for 32 days, we have already learned so many routines and procedures and have become experts in helping Loudjuna manage buying lunch, lining up and getting to our specials or recess, opening routines for getting our day started as well as end of day routines. The class has also been learning more Spanish as Loudjuna does not speak English, so we have using Mrs. Fuller's knowledge from previous Spanish classes as well as tools to help translate. The class has been very patient and helpful, and I know that we will be good role models in helping her to acclimate to our school, our community, and our English language!

I hope you all have a great weekend!

April Fuller