

Frogs and Toads  
Nature Chat  
Family Letter

Dear Families,

During today's Nature Chat, the children learned about African dwarf frogs and American toads. We have two African dwarf frogs named Freddo and Froggo at school. These frogs originate from rivers and streams in central Africa. Our frogs are fully aquatic amphibians, so they live their entire life in the water. One child mentioned, "It's hard to see our pet frogs". Good observation! That's because they are dwarf frogs. They are smaller than usual and hide by the rocks. Despite their small size, they have a large appetite! Our frogs are carnivores and love an occasional bloodworm as a treat. Another child asked, "Are they swimming?". Yes, they are! African dwarf frogs have longer legs to swim. When they swim a lot, that means they are enjoying their habitat! We love that they don't feel the need to hide all the time.

In contrast, American Toads have shorter legs to help them crawl and jump. Rather than smooth and slimy, toads are dry and have warty skin. After a rainy day, the children and I see lots of baby toads in our backyard. Their favorite spot to hide is under the stairs by Rocky-Look-See! The toads are looking for small insects, slugs, and worms to eat. Some frogs and toads have glands that produce toxins, so we only look with our eyes. We learned the toxins are how they keep predators away. While we enjoy watching them, we always leave our baby toad friends to play in our backyard!

As an activity, the children made green hand prints, which they made into frogs and toads. We reviewed what we learned with a photo matching activity too! The children did a wonderful job remembering the differences between frogs and toads. We did swimming motions for our aquatic frogs and jumped for our toads. The children were so ecstatic to showcase their ribbit sounds. We can't wait to ribbit with the toads when they visit our yard!

Until next time,  
Ms. Tracy