

Dear Families,

For today's nature chat, we talked about leaves and how they change colors this time of year. I began our chat by asking the children what color tree leaves are. Just about everyone answered green. I then asked them if all of the leaves are green right now. One child said, "no they are changing!" We then shared what color leaves we've seen such as orange, brown, red, yellow, and dark purple. I reminded the children that these festive leaves used to be green.

We learned that leaves are green because of chlorophyll. All leaves are naturally colorful but the chlorophyll is what makes them green. We learned that chlorophyll is like food for the leaves. Just like us and other animals, leaves need food to stay healthy and to grow. I then told the children that there is something big and yellow in the sky that helps leaves make their food. Just about everyone said, "the sun!" This is why leaves are green in the summertime when the sun is most active. I told the children that we get chlorophyll when we eat green fruits and vegetables. The kids then listed off different examples such as broccoli, green beans, kiwis, lettuce, peas, and apples. We then discussed what's happening in the fall season. Aside from the leaves changing colors, it is getting colder and the days are getting shorter. We have less sunlight in the fall, so the plants have less sunlight to make food to keep their green color. The trees will then drop their leaves to save water and nutrients for the fall and winter. I then asked the children if all trees change color in the fall. Some kids recognized that not all of them do! Evergreens, like Christmas trees, have a waxy coating to store all their food and nutrients to stay green all year long.

We concluded our nature chat by starting a science experiment. We collected different colored leaves from outside and ripped them into three different jars. We have green, red, and yellow leaf jars. I then poured some rubbing alcohol into the jars. The final piece to our experiment was placing a coffee filter into the jars to absorb. I asked the children to predict what they think will happen. One child guessed, "the liquid will change colors!" Another child thought, "Maybe the leaves will lose color!" These are all great predictions! We will observe our experiment over the next week and record what happens. Stay tuned!

Until next time,

Ms. Kristen