

## King Street Co-op Preschool Curriculum

### October 2013: Tree Homes

For the first month of school, we focused on getting acquainted on many levels: learning each other's names, expressing and interpreting feelings, building trust with each other, learning about the school spaces and equipment, learning routines and rituals, taking risks with our bodies and finding ways to feel safe. And we continue to do this work. With the coming of autumn, we now shift our focus to the changing trees around us and the animals who make their homes there. We will also spend the final week of October exploring Pumpkins and Halloween.

#### Questions to Explore:

- What are the parts of a tree and what is their purpose (roots, trunk, branches, leaves, fruit, seeds, bark)?
- Which animals make their homes in trees? Which part? What are the homes made out of?
- How do these animals feel safe? What do they do when they are afraid?
- What makes a home? Who lives there?

#### Art/Science:

Exploring texture – soft/hard, smooth/rough, flat/bumpy, etc.; looking closely at tree parts and nests, creating nests from different materials, weaving, and printing

- Sensory Table – leaves (fresh and crispy), birdseed, pine branches/needles, textured fabrics
- Crayon leaf rubbings
- Leaf printing
- Creating individual nests and a group nest
- Painting without a brush – using sticks and pine needles to explore texture and brush strokes
- Bird feeders
- Getting to know our stick bugs and what they need in their “tree home” habitat. How can we take care of them? How do we keep them safe?

#### Mathematics:

Exploring relative size (small, medium, big), sorting and categorizing, matching/go-togethers

- Cardboard Tree Home with bears of various sizes
- Stuffed animal sorting (by size, type of animal, color, etc.)
- Pinecone sorting by size
- Plastic colored bear counters
- Animal and home matching game (face up matching for younger children, memory game for older children)
- Felt leaf patterns and sorting
- Sorting items - What comes from a tree? What doesn't?

#### Literacy:

Enjoying literature, exploring rhyme and repetition, storytelling

- Songs: Brown Squirrel, I'm a Nut, And the Green Grass Grows All Around, Acorn Song, I Went Walking in the Woods Today, The Apple Tree
- Storytelling with the puppet theater and animal puppets
- Story Stones
- Books: [Leaf Man](#); [Red Leaf Yellow Leaf](#); [The Giving Tree](#); Need a House, Call Ms. Mouse; [Where Would I Be in an Evergreen Tree](#); [The Tree](#); [Whisper from the Woods](#); [A Tree is Nice](#); [Pictures of Home](#)

**Physical:**

- How do animals move? Running, Climbing, slithering, etc.
- Yoga Tree Pose – how do we balance? How does a tree balance? Roots!

**Social/Emotional:**

- Making parallels to people homes – What is your home made of? Who lives in your home? Where do you sleep? What do you need in your home?
- Creating a King Street Family Tree Wall – sharing your family picture with the group, listening and speaking skills, who is in your family? Who lives in your home?
- Class Nest – What do you need in your nest? The children will be creating a large class nest together. Please help your child bring in something that fits into the bag we provide.
  - It must be something that your child thinks is important to have in our class nest.
  - Make sure it fits completely in the bag provided (nothing sticking out).
  - Our plan is to leave these items at school for the month and give children turns to share their items with the group during a circle time.

**Halloween:**

- Books: [The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything](#) (acting out the story with props); [What Was I Scared Of?](#)
- Songs/Fingerplays: 5 Little Pumpkins
- Art/Science: Pumpkin guts in the sensory table, roasting pumpkin seeds
- Toilet Paper Extravaganza! All families are invited to join in a toilet paper tossing and wrapping extravaganza at 12:15 on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. If your child is not enrolled on Thursdays, you are welcome to come with your child at 12:15 in costume to join in the fun!

**How You Can Help:**

- Please bring in a family picture for us to hang on our class tree (by Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>).
- Help your child pick an item for our class nest (we will alert you when we send the bags home).
- If you have a snack shift this month, notice with the children any food items that come from trees and their purpose, or which animals like to eat them.
- Items we need: boxes (1 large box ~2 ½' cube, 1 medium box ~1 ½' cube, and 1 small box >1'), pressed leaves, paper towel tubes, tree parts (leaves, seeds, pinecones, bark, etc.) especially if they show signs of animals visiting.