



The Jones Journal

November 19, 2021



Jaelynn, Reynolds, & Tripp work at our new, shortened art table.

THE PAST TWO WEEKS...

...we have been focusing on rhyming words. We have read tons of big books during Shared Reading to practice this skill. Children's ability to hear rhymes (knowing that *cat* rhymes with *hat*, but not with *bag*) is an essential skill for learning to read because it means that they can discern the differences among individual sounds (or phonemes). Playing with rhymes trains their ears to hear the differences and similarities in how words sound. To help with mastering this skill at home, parents can...

1. Find lots opportunities to sing to and with your child
2. Seek out high-quality rhyming books
3. Combine rhyming and rhythmic clapping or movements
4. Encourage wordplay using poems, rhymes, or songs

...we read IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE, IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PANCAKE, IF YOU GIVE A MOOSE A MUFFIN, IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PARTY, and IF YOU GIVE A CAT A CUPCAKE. We discussed ways these books are the same and ways they are different. This week we completed a venn diagram comparing IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE and IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PANCAKE. We even discussed a triple venn diagram on 3 of the books.

FYI

I am sending home two handwriting packets in today's Friday Folders (even though I usually only send one on the opposite week of our classroom

newsletter). I thought if anyone needed an activity during the Thanksgiving break next week (or for a long car ride) these would be perfect. I will not be sending home Friday Folders next Tuesday in hopes it is one less thing you have to keep up with over the break.

NEEDED

*We need gallon-sized plastic jugs (e.g., gallon milk containers) for an activity we will be doing later next month.

*Since the cooler months are here, I think it would be a good idea for everyone to send in a warmer change of clothes to have at school. I'll make sure to return the clothes I currently have, from the beginning of the year, when I receive a new set from you. When spring gets here, I'll put another reminder in the newsletter about swapping again. Also, please make sure jackets, sweaters, pullovers, mittens, scarves, etc. are clearly labeled with your child's name. This helps out tremendously if they are ever misplaced!

PARENT READING

This week's reading is an article titled *The New First Grade: Too Much Too Soon*, that I found several years ago. It's about an increasing problem observed in kindergarten classrooms across the country. The article is attached to the same email as this newsletter. It can also be found on our classroom's blog (mrssjonesclass.blogspot.com) on the right side under *Suggested Parent Readings*.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 24-26 – Thanksgiving Holidays
December 3 – November journals go home
10 – Winter Program @ 12:15 (virtual)

ONE LAST THING

I want to thank everyone for surprising me with such wonderful birthday gifts and treats! I am lucky to have amazing parental support and am extremely appreciative of each and every one of you!!!

I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday! ~S. Jones