

large variety of media including paint, crayons, markers, glue, glitter, paper, felt, tinfoil, feathers, clay, cotton balls, and an endless source of everyday items.

### **Large Motor Activity**

These activities often involve games, which help to develop the children's running, jumping, catching/throwing, balancing, climbing, and general coordination. We also have a variety of special climbing equipment, both indoors and outdoors, which helps with large muscle development. Along with movement games, we often do daily exercises to instill healthy habits.

### **Small Motor Activity**

In addition to the daily art project, we plan a special activity each day to help in the children's small muscle development. This activity often includes playing with a variety of manipulatives such as bead stringing, lacing cards, legos, puzzles, playdoh, and pegboards. This activity may also be a fingerplay that corresponds to our weekly theme.

### **Songs/Fingerplays**

Popular children's songs, nursery rhymes and fingerplays are repeated everyday throughout the day. Besides adding fun to the program, they help to develop language, rhythm, balance, coordination, and small motor skills.

### **Storytime**

The teacher reads to the children from books or tells the story with puppets or pictures. As often as possible, the children participate in and discuss the story of the day. This storytelling builds a strong foundation of the children's language development.

### **Dramatic Play**

During dramatic play, the children often act out a story, event or natural occurrence (ie. "pretend you are a leaf blowing in the wind.") These activities serve to strengthen a variety of skills such as imagination, creativity, problem-solving, large motor and social. Most importantly, the children love it!

### **Learning Centers**

This portion of our program is a "structured freetime" where the children move from center to center, interacting with a variety of learning activities. The different areas may include dramatic play, construction, manipulatives, art, and investigation. The teacher frequently changes the materials, and monitors the children's investigation. The teacher frequently changes the materials, and monitors the children's interactions in the centers.

### **Cooking, Painting, Science Projects**

Each week we plan a special cooking painting and science project. These "experiments" provide the children with yet another concrete learning experiences