

March 2026

General Reminders

With Spring always comes the changing of the clocks for Daylight Saving Time. Please remember to turn your clocks **ahead one hour** at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, **March 8, 2026**.



Enrollment has begun for the 2026-2027 school year. If you have friends or neighbors looking for a preschool for their child or children, please pass on our information to them. We would love to have them be a part of our family here next year!

Our all preschool program "Sonshine Farm: Growing Where God Plants Us" will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2026 in the auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. All preschool classes will sing a variety of songs as well as a picture slideshow for your family's entertainment!

Illness Policy for Sonshine Preschool

If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, symptoms of COVID-19, pink eye, heavy greenish nasal discharge, persistent cough, chicken pox, hand, foot, and mouth disease, or has been vomiting, **please keep your child at home until he or she is symptom free for 24 hours before returning to class. This means symptom free without Tylenol or other symptom reducing medicines.**

As a staff, we are encouraging all children to wash their hands regularly and frequently with soap and water. The teachers are continuing to spray/wipe down all activities with Lysol between morning and afternoon sessions as well as at the end of each day.

If you need to get a hold of the preschool during the daytime hours, please call 463-7513 for the preschool office.

You can leave a message on the machine or call Mrs. Smith on her cell phone at 714-8429. Your message will then be relayed to the classroom teachers.



Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent and Teacher Conferences will be Thursday, April 16, 2026 during class time.

The conference times list will be sent out in early March 2026 for parents to confirm their given time and to confirm or decline child care needed during their conference time. If you need to change times, please email Mrs. Smith to arrange a different time or trading spots with another family. If you have more than 1 child attending Sonshine Preschool, your children's conference times will be back to back to accommodate your schedules.



Please continue to use caution when entering, and exiting the parking lot as families are crossing the area. Please also use caution when pulling into and out of your parking space as children may not be in your line of vision.

Preschool Registration for 2026-2027 School Year

Pre-registration for the 2026-2027 school year began on Monday, February 16, 2026 for currently enrolled families within our preschool classes. The registration fee is \$70.00 and the annual supply fee due in September 2026 is \$80.00 for the whole year.

Open enrollment for those outside of the preschool has begun.
All enrollment is on a first come, first served basis.

2026-2027 Tuition Amounts

Tuition amounts for Sonshine Preschool for the 2026-2027 school year.

Sonshine Beginnings:

- 2 days per week (M/T or W/Th) - \$154.00 monthly; \$80.00 annual supply fee
- 4 days per week (M-Th) - \$230.00 monthly; \$80.00 annual supply fee

Preschool I-A:

- 4 days per week (M-Th) - \$230.00 monthly; \$80.00 annual supply fee

Preschool I-B:

- 3 days per week (T/W/Th)- \$188.00 monthly; \$80.00 annual supply fee
- 4 days per week (M-Th)- \$230.00 monthly; \$80.00 annual supply fee

Preschool II:

- 4 days per week (M-Th) - \$230.00 monthly; \$80.00 annual supply fee

Pre-Kindergarten:

- 4 days per week (M-Th) - \$230.00 monthly; \$80.00 annual supply fee

Afternoon Enrichment (Pres II and PreK only):

- 3 days per week (M/T/W) - \$188.00 monthly; \$80.00 additional annual supply fee

If you have more than one child enrolled in Sonshine Preschool, the younger child/ children will receive a 10% discount off their monthly tuition rate.



2026-2027 enrollment numbers as of 3/3/26:

Here are the current enrollment numbers for our classrooms for next school year as of Tuesday, March 3, 2025:

- Beginnings - 5 open spaces with 2 teachers
- Preschool I-A— 3 open spaces with 2 teachers
- Preschool I-B— 7 open spaces with 2 teachers
- Preschool II - 3 open spaces with 2 teachers
- Pre-Kindergarten —8 open spaces for 22 with 2 teachers
- Afternoon Enrichment (Pres II and PreK only)- 2 open spaces with 2 teachers

General Reminders

- Tuition is due by the 8th of each month. If not paid by the 8th, a late fee of \$30.00 will be assessed as per the Parent Handbook. If not paid by the 12th, the late fee will increase to \$60.00. If not paid by the 16th, the late fee will increase to \$90.00. If no payment is received and you have not spoken to the director regarding this, your child will be un-enrolled from Sonshine Preschool.
- If you are more than 5 minutes late picking up your child from his or her class, the late pick up fee is \$1.00 per minute per child.
- Please remember to make sure that all snacks need to be free of any type of nut or nut products. This also includes trace amounts of nuts that are in many crackers, granola bars, and cookies. Snack drinks water and no juice pouches/boxes please. Please be aware of food dyes (Red 40, Yellows, and Blues) in snack items that could cause hyperactivity, aggression, ADHD, and other health issues in children and adults.

Important Dates to Remember

- Easter, Sunday, April 5, 2026. If you do not have a church home and would like to learn more about Easter, plan to join the West Lafayette Christian Church at 10:10 for our worship service.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held during school hours on April 16, 2026. No regular morning classes this day.
- Annual Spring Program will be Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
- Pre-Kindergarten Graduation will be Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
- Sonshine Preschool last day of class will be Thursday, May 14, 2026 for all classes.
- Sonshine Preschool Parent Orientation for 2026-2027 will be Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.— **(new time for the orientation!!)**
- Sonshine Preschool Classroom Visitations for 2026-2027 will be Wednesday, August 26, 2026 for all classes.
- First day of class for Sonshine Preschool will be MONDAY, August 31, 2026.



Parent/Teacher Conferences

With Parent/Teacher Conferences just around the corner, your child's teachers have been completing many activities to evaluate your child in regards to his/her cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development. If your child is not at school the day or days that activities are evaluated, the teachers are not expected (by me) to "go back" and catch your child up on the learning activities that were missed. We may also not get to everything on the evaluation form each year. Sometimes activities or learning new skills may take longer to introduce, explore, and evaluate each child so not all skills may be completed.

While we understand that preschool attendance is not "required", the teachers are required by me to prepare and implement the learning experiences for your child that will allow him or her to grow and mature in all areas of development. Most of the teachers' lesson plans are done weeks in advance and do not allow the opportunity to add missed learning activities for one or two children. We will try to add the missed items into the day but do not want that to be the only thing a child does for an entire school day.

**We will be closed
March 23-26, 2026
for Spring Break.**

Sonshine Sensations!

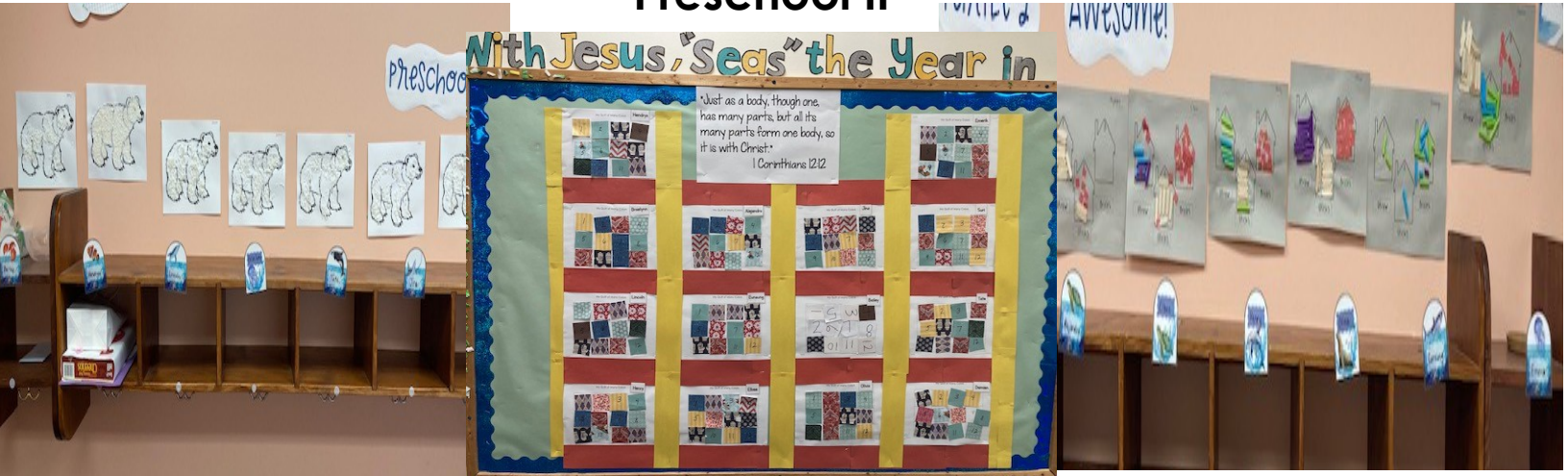
Beginnings



Preschool 1



Preschool II



PreK



Beginnings

February was a fun and busy month in Beginnings! Our helpers this month were Valentin, Lakelyn, Amelia and Euna. Thank you for bringing snack!

The theme for the first week was Five Senses. Our number was 3, shape was triangle and color was yellow. We read "My Five Senses", "I Learn With My Senses" and "I Hear a Pickle." For art, we colored sandpaper with crayons, glued yellow paper on a #3, made a 5 senses handprint and painted taste buds on a tongue. We played with castles and built with foam blocks. In our science center, we used look and find jars and explored smells and texture. For math, we used the peg shape puzzles and made shapes with popsicle sticks. In our sensory center, we had fun playing instruments!

The theme for the second week of February was Jesus Loves Me. Our number was 4, shape was heart and color was green. The books we read were "Valentine Mice," "An I Love You Prayer," "The Best Thing About Valentines" and "Mouse's First Valentine." In art, we glued paper on a heart, used heart stamps and stickers on a #4, made an owl valentine for our parents and painted hearts with shaving cream and paint. For dramatic play, we played with the shopping carts and store and we built with wooden blocks. In our science center, we color matched hearts and did an experiment with vinegar, shaving cream and baking soda called the "fizzing snowman experiment." For math, we counted hearts in a candy dish. In our sensory center, we had a sensory bin with pom poms, hearts and flowers. Transportation was the theme for the 3rd week of the month. Our number was 5, shape was circle and color was blue. We read "Plane Rides," "Down by the Station," "Getting Around" and "Boats, Boats, Boats." For creative arts, we used #5 stamps on an airplane do-a-dot, used cars to paint a racetrack, made a tractor and dirt with brown paint and put boat stickers on a #5. In dramatic play, we played with a train set and we made roads with waffle blocks. In our science center, we used transportation magnets tried different cars on a ramp. For math, we drove cars on road shapes and counted boats. In our sensory center, we used car stamps in blue play-doh and played with boats in water.

The theme for the last week was Weather. Our number was 1, shape was star and color was purple. We read "Weather," Sunny Sun Sunshine," "Sunshine and Snowballs" and "Rain, Rain, Go Away." Our art projects included painting a storm with gray paint, coloring a #1 star sheet with purple crayons, making a sun suncatcher and gluing colored macaroni on a rainbow. We played with the Noah's Ark and farm sets and built with soft blocks. For science, we used pinwheels, did a "cloud in a jar" experiment using shaving cream, water and blue dye and did a rainbow experiment with water, markers and paper towels. In our math center, we color matched rainbows and shape matched suns. For sensory, we had a sensory bin with blue rocks, cotton balls and umbrellas and used a weather felt board.

The upcoming themes for March are Dinosaurs, Taking Care of Me, Garden and Easter. We will not have school the week of March 23-26 for Spring Break.

Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Ms. Abby and Mrs Schurr

Preschool

February was filled with a lot of fun activities and experiences that seemed to make the month fly by. The first week's theme was **Pets**. Dramatic play was set up as a vet clinic as all the veterinarians helped keep their stuffie pets healthy. Centers included "dog matching" by clipping matching dog breeds on a line, , parrot peg set, pets in cages - trying to figure out how to open the cages to let the pets out, feeding the dog (feeding dog kibble with a scoop in the mouth of a dog), different pets sorting and Dog Park where they needed to have the dogs follow the designated path to the treat at the end. One of the process art projects was to paint paw prints with stamps and paint. The favorite song we learned was "When cats get up in the morning" using pet props to sing along with. The highlight of the week was when Ella's Mom brought in the family's Maine Coon cat to share. Honeydew was well behaved and was given a lot of attention. Creative movement this week included using the parachute, rhythm instruments. acting out the "When Cats" song with the various pets and the stretchy band.

The second week's theme was "God's Love". Centers included covering number 7 with seven heart stickers, heart counting puzzles, heart button sorting, heart lacing, God Loves You to Pieces gluing with tissue squares, scooping pompons, and matching colored dot markers to hearts. Sensory table was filled with water, foam hearts, kitchen utensils and bowls. Process art was dipping heart shaped cookie cutters into paint to decorate the paper. The children had several books read to them about God's love that they enjoyed. The children decorated "cookies" to bring home to share with family.

Week three theme was "Jonah and the Big Fish" to learn about the Bible story in concrete form. Dramatic play had a large "whale" made that a couple of children could fit in at a time to feel like Jonah when he was swallowed. The sensory table had water, ocean fish, a whale and boat to explore the story with props. Centers included Jonah shadow matching, whale lacing, geo board with rubber band stretching, whale dot marker pages, a Jonah and the Big Fish coloring page, a Jonah puzzle, and whale washing using water, soap, brush, sponge and cloth. Again, there were many children's books read all week about the Jonah story. Process art was golf ball rolling in paint on cut out whale shapes.

Our last week of the month had the theme Dental Health. Dramatic play was set up as a dental clinic as there was a stuffed patient with teeth" to examine, a registration table and tools and clothing for the dentist. The sensory table was filled with small plastic teeth and dental tools. Centers included a tooth puzzle, tooth brushing tray with teeth, a brush, toothpaste, floss and mouth wash, Healthy/not healthy sorting where the children selected what is healthy and not healthy for teeth, what's different? with strips of four dental pictures and they had to find which of the four did not match, brushing teeth sequencing, and marble ramp. Creative movement included midline crossing obstacle course, parachute with bouncing a fabric tooth to "brush, brush, brush your teeth" and played a game with props to the "Daddy Tooth" song we learned this week. The highlight this week was a visit from Miss Tammy from Tecumseh Dental Clinic as she shared what to expect when visiting the dentist and how to take good care of teeth. A very popular process art activity this week was collage. We will continue collage next week.

Every day the paint easel is set up and some children paint every day, some only occasionally. Standing and painting at a vertical surface strengthens core, shoulder and arm muscles, improves eye coordination and fosters fine motor control. It also encourages bilateral coordination, spatial awareness and offers a creative, sensory-rich outlet for self-expression. When the children are not doing a special process art, they have access to exploring playdoh with tools or free drawing. We also daily have access to scissors practice. We change out the paper to cut to go with the themes each week. Each day we have free choice for carpet toys which can include block and manipulative play, puzzles and other ways to have fun, practice sharing. working collaboratively and to have patience. We have also introduced more challenging puzzle work this month which are jigsaw puzzles. The ability to put these together has grown considerably in just a short time.

March should hopefully bring us back outside more often with warmer weather. Our "friend" the geese are back and we will be adjusting to their lifestyle. Our themes coming up are Science Fun, Zoo Animals, Noah's Ark and Easter! Dressing skills are progressing nicely with coats as most of the children can put their own on now and a handful are zipping their coats by themselves (with pride of course!) Toileting skills have progressed a lot since after the holiday - Thank you parents for your efforts in getting this skill well on its way. Spring Break is March 24-March 27 which means the school will not be open that week. Parent-Teacher conferences are April 16th. Thank you to all the parents who have supplied snack this school year.

Ms Maureen and Ms Tiffany

Preschool II

February in Preschool II was very busy as we learned the letters Oo, Pp, Qq, and reviewed our letters and numbers that we have focused on so far this school year. Letter Oo and numbers 11-15 were the main focus the first week of February. We explored letter Oo items in the Mystery Bag with octopus, orca, owl, ostrich, otter, orange, oven, ovals, and octagons as well as used ovals and octagons inside letter Oo's, traced the letter Oo and completed a maze (the kids are getting better at mazes and seeing how they work!!), and used page reinforcers inside bubble dots to complete the letter Oo. We created an ocean using shaving cream and liquid water color paints, painted bubble wrap to press on an octopus page, used watercolor paints for an ocean picture, and created an ocean picture with stickers. We used our fine motor skills with tracing lines, using scissors to cut on lines, used tipped yarn to lac ocean creatures, and used our "crab claws" to pick up small ocean creatures to sort by object. The children loved being oceanographers in dramatic play with shells, microscope, magnifying glasses, small ocean creatures, clip boards, and more. Favorite stories this week included Orca Song, Over In The Ocean- a rhyming ocean book, Otter On His Own, and Octopus Under The Sea.

Letter Pp week was a perfect example of practice, patience, and productivity! Mystery Bag items included a panda bear, polar bear, penguin, pizza, pumpkin, pancake, popcorn, pig, paper, pencil, playdough, and paint. We used small acrylic pumpkins to make the letter Pp, practiced mazes again, painted with shaving cream and paint to represent the Northern Lights in the Polar Regions, sorted pink and purple pom poms by color, laced Valentine's shapes, and used red, pink, white, and purple foam hearts in various sizes to complete ABAB and AABAAB/ABBABB patterns. We focused on numbers 11-15 a lot this week with finding and gluing the correct missing number page, gluing numbers 0-15 in correct numerical order on a long pink page, played a penguin game of racing to the top with pink and purple dry erase markers, made patterns from pink and purple pom poms, and played polar snowball plunge with throwing pretend snowballs into blue "ocean" buckets! Our highlights of the week were wearing our pajamas and eating homemade pancakes for snack, celebrating God's Love for us with a Valentine's party, and attempting to make pie pops (variation of a cake pop). This cooking activity took some patience and practice and tasted fine but didn't look very appetizing for our snack!

February 16-19 was a review week. Instead of introducing a new letter and number, we reviewed letters Aa-Pp and numbers 11-15. Your children did well recognizing and naming letters and saying their sounds. They struggled to match the uppercase letters to the lower case letters, so we will continue to work on that. However, it is normal for preschoolers to learn the uppercase before the lowercase. Counting with 11 correspondence has improved for most students, and we will continue to work on their ability to identify numbers and quantify what they count. We had fun with some nursery rhymes that week and practicing sequencing those short stories. Learning about spiders and then making paper spiders was a delight for the children, and they enjoyed the Orbeez at the sensory table. We also continued to have them practice cutting, lacing, mazes, and dot-to-dots.

February 23-26 was letter Qq and 16 week. The Mystery Bag presented items such as a quail, question, queen, queen conch shell, quick, Qwirkle (a game), quiet, quarter, and quack. Quiet was a good word for the week as we practiced the sound of Qq and being quiet to hear names called to the snack table. We continued to use quarters in the number jar on Tuesday, along with other coins, to practice patterns as well as sorting throughout the week. They very much enjoyed the Quiet Library in Dramatic Play, and the big bean bag chair may have helped that; nonetheless, they did well looking at many books on their own. We reviewed eight different shapes using the Mystery Bag, which was fun, and they traced their outlines by painting them with Q-tips. We also practiced shapes AND following directions with those shape pages the next day. For example, they were to color the diamond yellow, put a red X in the triangle, etc. While a challenge, many did well. We did a similar exercise on Thursday with a map of the United States in which they were told to color three states green, for example, draw a circle in one state, color 4 states yellow that do not touch each other, etc. Again, this was a positive activity, and we will continue to work on following such instructions. They also painted their names in dots using Q-tips on another day. They did an excellent job staying in the dots that made up their names. They are improving in mazes, and they did well with the quail and Queen Esther dot-to-dots.

In March, we will continue learning our letters Rr, Ss, Tt, and Uu as well as the numbers 16-20. During these weeks, we will focus on several of our evaluations skills such as matching and names colors, matching and naming opposite pairs, showing knowledge of positional words, counting objects with 11 correspondence, working on more than, same as, or greater than, patterns, letter and number recognition, 6, 12, or 24+ piece puzzles individually for spatial awareness skills, scissor skills, writing skills, and self control with several activities. We also welcomed a new friend to Preschool II so please plan on 15 snacks for children and 2 for teachers. We are enjoying seeing how much your children have learned and grown over the school year so far!

Mrs. Kelley and Mrs. Smith



Throughout the first week of February, Pre-K students explored the theme *Proud Penguin and Powerful Panda* while learning about the letter Pp and numbers 1-21. Students learned about the life cycle of a penguin, completed number and alphabet dot to dot activities, sorted shapes by color/shape/size on the light table, compared two toy pandas in terms of sameness/differences, practiced identifying common objects, and worked on creating patterns. On Monday, we went on a virtual field trip to the post office (watched online)! Students also role played "Post Office" in our dramatic play area while they wrote letters, purchased pretend postage, and sorted mail. In celebration of the letter P, Pre-K students and teachers wore pajamas on Thursday, February 5, read the book *Llama Llama, Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney, and made popcorn in an air popper.

During the second week of February, Pre-K students learned about the theme *Quilted in God's Love*, the letter Qq, and number 22. We continued with our Post Office dramatic play, used fine motor skills to string heart beads on pipe cleaners while counting with one to one correspondence to 30, practiced placing shapes in order from smallest to largest, developed hand strength while we created quilts with playdough, cut on straight/wavy/zig-zag lines and glued the strips on paper to create a classroom paper quilt, and read books about the love of God. We had a fun Valentine's Celebration on Wednesday, February 11! The students passed out their Valentine cards, created heart crafts, played a letter-sound game, watched an exploding snowman science experiment, and iced mini cupcakes. Thank you to all of the families who sent Valentine cards to make the students feel special!

The third week of February, Pre-K students learned about the letter Rr, numbers 0-23, and *God's Remarkable Love*. Students used geometric shapes on the light table to create stained glass windows, finger painted to create secondary colors, used hand muscles to make playdough creations, and painted rainbows with bubble wrap. Students also practiced different skills including lacing around objects, demonstrating the concepts of full/half full/ empty, dot-to-dot activities, completing puzzles, learning how to use tally marks to count and make groups of 5 or 10, identifying letter sounds, and recognizing symmetry in pictures. In learning about God's Remarkable Love, we read the following scriptures throughout the week to remind us of God's promises:

- To care for us and protect us (Psalm 121:7-8)
- To guide us (Psalm 32:8)
- To forgive us (Hebrews 8:12)
- To answer our prayers (1 John 5:14-15)
- To always be with us (Hebrews 13:15)
- He has good plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11).

Pre-K students concluded the month of February by learning about the letter Ss, number 24, and exploring the *Sights and Sounds of God's World*. We had a space station set up in dramatic play including a space ship, science equipment to explore space rocks, and dress up. We also explored some musical instruments and used viewfinders to observe different animals in their habitats. Our sensory table had a silly art activity for students to demonstrate their own creativity using a variety of materials. In addition, students worked on scissor skills, traced and named difficult shapes, demonstrated expression of emotions, tore paper, practiced letter sounds, worked on dot-to-dot by letter activities, and used fine motor skills while rolling snakes and balls out of playdough.

In March, Pre-K will explore the themes *God's Tremendous Tropical Rainforest Habitat*, *Animals Under God's Amazing Sky*, and *God's Vast World*. We look forward to playing outside as the weather begins to get warmer!

Thank you for sharing your children with us!
Mrs. Kaluf and Ms. Lindsey

Afternoon Enrichment

February has been fun in Afternoon Enrichment. We continue to work on our letter and number books. Each week we have read many good books and completed many fun activities.

During the first week of February, students in Afternoon Enrichment learned about the theme *Proud Penguin and Powerful Panda*, the letter Pp, and the number 16. Students listened to the books Flip and Flop by Dawn Apperly and Plenty of Penguins by Sonia W. Black. Students also completed a number 16 page, played number bingo, traced the letter Pp, and cut out Pps and decorated Pps with polka dots. On Wednesday, we painted the letter Pp and completed a dancing popcorn science experiment.

For the second week in February we explored being Quilted in God's Love. The week started with working on our number 17 pages for our books, and making rainbow numbers by tracing each number with several colors. We then worked on our Qq pages then cut out our letter Qq and decorating them to look like quilts which were then placed in our letter books. On Wednesday, we decorated Valentine graham crackers using frosting, strawberries, and sprinkles, then played letter BINGO with hearts as our covers. Our favorite book this week was *The Littlest Valentine* by Brandi Dougherty.

The third week of February covered the theme Jesus' *Remarkable Love*, the letter Rr, and the number 18. Students listened to the story God's Love is a Warm Cookie by Susan Jones and then made microwave chocolate mug cakes to give to someone they love. Other fun learning activities we did this week included playing shape bingo, completing a number 18 page for our number books, putting together floor puzzles in small groups, and completing a letter R activity page. Students also enjoyed playing outside on a beautiful Wednesday afternoon!

Sensational Sounds was our theme for the final week in February. We worked on our number 19 pages for our number books and cut out our letter Rr and used dot markers to create rainbows on the Rr on Monday. Tuesday we spent working on our letter Ss pages, then cut out the letter Ss and decorated them with star stickers. On Wednesday, we listened to sounds and talked about what we heard and how God made sensational sounds, then we experimented with sound waves by watching sugar dance on drums and tapping jars with different levels of water in them. Our favorite book this week was *Wake Up, It's Spring!* By LisaCampbell Ernst.

We are enjoying our Afternoon Enrichment class. The students love exploring and playing together. March will be fun with themes including the rainforest, the sky, God's vast world, and Easter. We will have Spring Break from March 23 to March 26.

Thank you for sharing your children with us!
Ms. Tiffany and Mrs. Kaluf