

Dear parents,

The children have been watching the progress of the construction next to our playground. It has been exciting to see the house come down, foundation be poured and now walls going up. Inspired by all the work we took out plastic hammers, nails, measuring tapes and assorted other "pretend" tools. We have had lots of conversations about what sort of jobs different tools can help with and also about safety. These pretend tools can be used without direct supervision and the children are enjoying working both independently and with friends. And while we use only one hammer at a time, your children can sing you this song- guess how many hammers are used here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qV3QhziBMk>

When the children addressed their Valentines we started talking about numbers and we are continuing that exploration. A popsicle stick collage was the perfect activity to combine our interest in numbers and construction. The children counted the number of sticks they used to create collages which were inspired by the construction at school and our favorite classic fables- The Three Little Pigs and The Billy Goats Gruff.

Counting is something we do throughout the day. The children help us count how many friends are at school and we often have a "magic number" at snack time. It's easy to incorporate counting activities at home, and the children will enjoy discovering how many things there are to count. For example, you can count how many pieces of silverware each person gets. You can sort by type of silverware (how many forks? spoons?). You can make a pattern (fork, spoon, fork, spoon). The possibilities are practically endless.

Book we read this week include:

Harry's House, Angela Shelf Medearis

Building a House, Byron Barton

Reminder: Please let the person who drops off and picks up your child know that there is no idling of engines outside school, thanks!

Wishing you a good weekend,

Beatrice and Rachel

