

November 2012

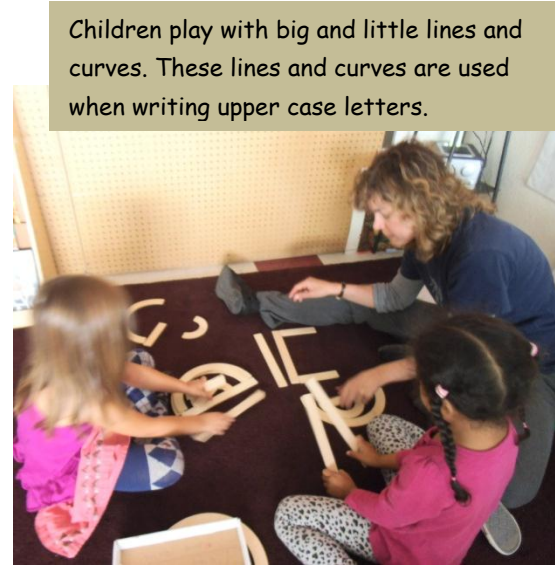
A group of children and Erin play "school" using Handwriting without Tears curriculum and materials.

I combined pretend play with presenting literacy concepts. The children enjoyed using their imaginations to be different kinds of animals and creatures that mistakenly end up attending school. They took turns being the teacher. The teacher's job was to teach the dogs, pigs, vampires, butterflies, etc. how to sing their ABCs and write their letters. I wrote down their suggestions for animals they wanted to be, sounding out the words as I wrote it, reinforcing sound/letter connections.

Presenting literacy concepts in this playful way ensured that different groups of children would participate in these activities throughout the week. A few children enjoyed it so much, they came to animal school every time we played it.



Nia points to letters as we sing them, running her finger from left to right & sweeping her finger back to the left when she comes to the next line. These are foundational reading skills.



Children play with big and little lines and curves. These lines and curves are used when writing upper case letters.



Children take turns pointing to the top, middle, and bottom of letters while listening to the song: "Where do you start your letters? (At the top)." These skills will help them when they write.

Madeline helps write the word "BUTTERFLY" because the children want to pretend to be butterflies that go to school.