



September 30, 2009

Dear Families,

In retrospect, considering the beginning of the school year is usually a very hectic time, I feel very confident in stating that our classroom was up and running very well by the second week. Our Big Book lessons have not moved as quickly as usual. We have been focusing on our students goals as much as possible. Many of our students are receiving worksheets from the general education classrooms that they attend for inclusion. We have been assisting with these assignments in the classroom as well.

Our last Big Book focused on self esteem. We started the lesson by reading the book "Put Me on the Map". Thank you to all those parents who provided pictures of your homes and of your child's rooms. We attempted to emulate the book by assisting students in making maps of their rooms, homes and neighborhoods. Our lessons really became geographical when we started to study the town of Fairhaven by developing our own maps. It was as much of a challenge for us as it was for our students when it was time to place icons for certain town landmarks in their proper locale. Thanks goodness for the internet!

Our upcoming Big Book for October will focus on Money. We really want our students to become comfortable with naming and identifying the value of coins and paper money. Some of our students have money identification as part of their daily work goals. This lesson will help to reinforce these goals and objectives. We have a toy cash register, play money and some real coins. I want to make sure that the children understand that the play money is just a representation of the real thing. We will develop a play store for pretend "purchases" to encourage our students to understand how money is used as well as understanding the value of money.

It would be very helpful if you, as parents could review coin names and values at home. Making change seems to be a thing of the past with all the computerized cash registers that print the amount of change to be returned to the customer. I am really hoping to develop as much of that skill as possible within our classroom structure.

If you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to see included in this Big Book, please feel free to share the with us. If you have any materials you would like to donate to our classroom store, we would be very grateful!

It was great seeing those parents who attended Open House. Although we communicate on a daily basis, I always enjoy the opportunity to speak with you on a personal level.

Sincerely,
Heidi, Julie and Cheryl

