



# The Children's Center at Groton

## Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 12 – Closed for Veteran's Day

Nov. 21 – Closing at 12:30pm

Nov. 22 & 23 – Closed for Thanksgiving

Dear Families,

Did you learn more about loose parts during Back to School Night? Loose parts are items that can be taken apart, put together, and moved around in different ways. There is no one "right way" to use a loose part. Most loose parts are common, everyday items that we already have around the house or that can be easily found in nature. Pinecones, acorns, buttons, wood pieces, napkin rings, tiles, wine corks, rocks and shells are just a few examples of loose parts. These items allow a child's creativity to shine through as they need to use their imagination to play with these items.

Imagine a play kitchen area filled with rollers, popsicle sticks, and paper squares instead of plastic, pretend food. A child has a lot more freedom to come up with their own ideas of what they are cooking. Additionally, loose parts provide far more opportunities for caregivers to ask children questions about their play, as the child's intent is not always obvious.

We love to use loose parts at CCG and are always looking for donations for the classrooms. Whether you have a bunch of spare Q-tips lying around or extra tiles from a home improvement project, we are happy to accept whatever items you have. If the items are not quite right for your child's age group, we can pass them along to the appropriate classroom.

A big THANK YOU to the families who have donated items for the Groton Community Food Project! We are still collecting donations and the next pick up to deliver the items is on December 8th . We were excited to kick-off a fair trade holiday fundraiser to benefit our school at our Back to School Night! Since Halloween is over and November has begun, now is the time to purchase a variety of fair trade holiday gifts and products and The Children's Center will receive 25% of sales!

Please go to [FairTradeCaravans.com](http://FairTradeCaravans.com)

o Log in to our fundraising event with Participant Code "CCG" to participate in the fundraiser.

o Fill your shopping cart from the selections of fair trade holiday gifts and cards, jewelry, children's and men's products and coffee

o Check out and include your Fundraising Representative - the name of your student or staff member that will help us get your order to you

Order Delivery - All orders will be delivered to The Children's Center by December 14th.

From production to purchase, fair trade is a model of ethical, sustainable trade that puts people and planet first, so please share this fundraising opportunity with your friends and family! Thank you for your support!



Have you heard that we're on Instagram?  
Find us at [@childrenscenteratgroton](https://www.instagram.com/childrenscenteratgroton)



# Classroom Updates

## Seedlings

This month, the Seedlings explored pumpkins using their five senses. All their senses: taste, touch, smell, sight, and hearing were used to investigate pumpkins, another great exemplification of bringing the natural environment into the classroom.

Some of the children preferred a particular sense. Tate and Linley liked to use their sense of sight and touch. Linley enjoyed looking at the pumpkins reflected back at her in the mirror and carrying them around the classroom in a basket. Tate was fascinated with the sight of the bright orange object and attempted to reach out to touch it. Ava and Lachlan enjoyed using their sense of smell and touch. Ava thoroughly loved exploring the insides of the pumpkin. She put her head by the carved outside hole to see and smell inside, and then excitedly touched the slimy pulp and seeds. Lachlan immersed himself in the insides of a pumpkin. He crawled through the seeds and the pulp to experience the sensation to all parts of his body while leaning down to smell. Rosie and Lincoln appreciated the pumpkin using their sense of touch, sight and hearing. Rosie delighted in painting the pumpkin. She vigorously smeared the paint using her hands while patting it to hear what it sounded like to bang on the whole pumpkin. Lincoln enjoyed using the pumpkins as an art canvas using touch, but he was also very curious about the way a pumpkin rolled and bounced. Lincoln appeared to be listening as he dropped multiple pumpkins on the floor and was very observant to the fact that the pumpkins did not roll or bounce like balls. Liam used his sense of taste and smell primarily to investigate pumpkins. Liam enjoyed smelling and tasting a cooked pumpkin and ate the cooked pumpkin eagerly for snack one day!

The Seedlings use their senses all the time to explore and investigate their world. Interacting with natural objects, such as pumpkins, enable them to use all their senses thus leading them to possibilities of new discoveries and connections with their environment.



## Sprouts

With all the fun the Sprout room has been having, we lost track of how quickly the month of October flew by. After getting to know everyone, we discovered that they all have different interests, but the one they had in common this month is pumpkins and the fun Fall has to offer. Our Sprouts have been highly involved with exploring pumpkins and other Fall items such as, leaves, sticks, rocks and pinecones. It all started with a conversation our Sprouts were having with one another. They were observed talking about Fall activities they all do with their families such as apple and pumpkin picking. Nessa, Lucy and Reade enjoyed exploring with the pumpkins in the sensory table that was filled with water. They used spoons, spray bottles and paintbrushes to expand their curiosity. Using different materials on the pumpkins allows the children to explore from a different perspective. They also took turns smelling each pumpkin they could get their hands on. Not only did our toddlers use their sense of smell to explore, but all their senses were being sparked. Callum, Emerson and Quincy have been seen really enjoying reading the different pumpkin books with the class and using the classroom items to make connections with the outside world. Evan, James, Rose and Alina have really enjoyed our walks. They used buckets and even their pockets to collect different colored leaves and rocks to bring back to the class to explore with. We are excited to see where else our Sprouts will take us next month!



## Lily Buds

The Lily Buds have been interested in bags! They love to fill up bags and carry them around the room. To further explore bags, we set up pom poms and different size bags with tongs and scoops in the sensory table. Lily filled the bags and then lined them up and counted all her bags. Lyndi collected all the pink pompoms and said, "I like pink". Alyssa used tongs to fill a bag and then called it her trick or treat bag. The Lily Buds enjoyed exploring the sensory bags taped to the windows. They used many senses to investigate the bags. Carter said, "They look glittery and feel squishy." Anderson liked moving the sequins up and down, and Audrey thought the sensory bags felt "yogurty." Lucy thought the bags smelled like lotion, and Asher pressed the bags with both hands and then counted all the bags. Alyssa said, "They smell really yummy. It smells like a banana. But what is in these bags?" When Sebastian felt the bags he said, "It feels squishy." We also made bread in a bag. Biz said the dough was "stretchy". We placed the dough in the pan and covered it with a towel to sleep for 30 minutes. Sebastian said, "I sleep with a blanket."



## Peace Lilies

The Peace Lilies enjoyed a very busy October with classroom visitors and activities. The Groton Fire Department was kind enough to come to our class and talk about fire safety. However, the children mostly enjoyed exploring the fire truck and ambulance. Cooper, Lachlan, Paul, and Bear were fascinated with all of the truck compartments that housed hoses and different types of axes.

Our sensory table was filled with many fun and interesting things this month. Lilly, Gunnar, and Emma S. thoroughly enjoyed popping and stomping on bubble wrap! Ella, Adam, Bella, Emma F., Harry, Ben, and Elise loved our sunflower exploration work. The children used many tools, such as; scissors, tweezers, knives and their hands to pick, poke, cut and strip the sunflower, they learned that there are many layers to the flower. During our science investigation, the children looked through magnifying glasses to observe the different textures.

We had a wonderful time on our apple picking field trip. Many of the children enjoyed picking the apples and eating the apples, especially Teddy, Maeve, Arden and Esther. Gavin particularly enjoyed the tractor ride and Nathan's favorite part was the delicious doughnuts! A huge thank you to all of our chaperones! The childrens' favorite parts of the trip were "the bus ride," "the tractor," and "eating all the apples!"

