

Hello Wonderful Little Sprouts families,

We are in our last weeks before school begins. The Big Sprouts and a few of our Little Sprouts will be heading off to school soon. This will be a big change as we navigate the mixed emotions that can come with goodbyes. With this in mind, we will continue our Enchanted Forest theme using our gentle gnome and fairy stories to help us travel through this transitional time.

We will continue to hone our skills at sharing an imagination, by transforming ourselves into fairies and gnomes. To help our kids to picture this in their minds, they will choose fairy wings or gnome hats to wear for circle time. We will use the song, "The Fairy Ring" to play through sharing an imagination and the finger play, "Ten Little Gnomes" to visualize a story together. In addition to using our imagination skills, our children will also be building their direction following abilities, participating in a group plan, motor planning, and sequencing.

At the end of the month, we will be saying goodbye to some of our friends. To support the feelings that can accompany such partings, we will use the premise from the book, "The Invisible String," of how we are all linked by an invisible string that keeps us connected even when we are apart. We will all hold onto our own group string that we will each get a piece of to make a keychain or friendship bracelet with. Each friend will put a letter bead, corresponding to the first initial in their name, onto the strings so we can keep our friends close even after we've said goodbye. This will also be a time to remember that our school friends are always welcome to join us during holidays and school breaks. So, although they won't be with us for every Little Sprouts, we will be seeing them again throughout the year.

In addition to our friendship bracelet craft, we will also be making more playthings to accompany the peg gnome and fairy dolls we made last month. We will be crafting houses for them to live in and painting trees and mushrooms to create a playscape in which our imaginations can take flight. These crafts will foster wonderful play opportunities to practice sharing an imagination at home as well as at Little Sprouts. They will also build hand strength, following simple directions, sharing materials, practicing the pincer grasp, enjoying sensory play, impulse control, and building focus.

Below, you will find the links and words to the wonderful songs and verses for this month. Please feel free to sing and practice these with your kiddos ahead of time and all month long. This preview and practice will help to ease the anxiety and stress that new experiences and changes can bring. Which in turn, allows your child the calm they need to learn and grow.

May your month be filled with imagination.

Warmest regards,

Emily

Movement Song

The Fairy Ring – Please note we are doing an abridged version.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6coy32sAb0A&list=PLjilygNCbNwdHd-o3oHc8TJpiEFvADcQk&index=14>

Let us dance and let us sing

Dancing in a merry ring

Gnomes and fairies on the green

Sporting round the fairy Queen

Faster, Faster round we go

While our cheeks so rosy glow

Free as birds upon the wing

Dancing in a fairy ring

Finger Play

Ten Little Gnomes

Ten little gnomes stand up straight,

Ten little gnomes make a gate,

Ten little gnomes bow to the King,

Ten little gnomes make a ring,

Ten little gnomes dance and play,

Ten little gnomes march away,

Listening Song

The Listening Song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1gUfnWJJCQ>

Eyes are watching

Ears are Listening

Voices quiet

Bodies calm

This is how we listen X2

At group time X2

Mealtime Verse-

Thank you for our happy hearts

For rain and sunny weather

Thank you farmers for this food

And that we are together

Clean up song- skip forward to 3:00

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXPTN-lw46I>

Welcome Song

Good Morning Dear Earth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfSmzx0LG8M>

