

The Project Approach to Learning at

RisingOaks
Early Learning

Saint John Paul II



Project Name: Babies

Age Group: 2 years - 3 years

Project Start Date: April 2021

Project End Date: June 2021



RisingOaks
Early Learning

Growing minds through play

Background

We started the baby project in April 2021 and it ended in June 2021. The children who took part in this project are 2 years to 3 years old. The educators who involved in the project were April Weatherbee RECE, Meghan Harding RECE, Emma Andersen RECE and Christina Bryne RECE.

Phase 1: Beginning the Project

The interest in babies began when we had two families that recently had new siblings born, two families with expectant mothers and educator Meghan also expecting a baby. With that being a popular and exciting time at home, it lead to the children's Interests of wanting to learn more about babies.

What do we know about babies?

- They eat apples, oranges- Addy and Colton
- Babies cry a lot – Mason
- They eat - Nathan
- They Crawl – Nathan

What do we want to know?

- Can babies walk? Crawl? -Zoey
- Can babies colour? Paint? Zoe and Eli

Who can we ask?

- Christina, April, Meghan -Mason
- Mommy and Daddy -Kinley

Definition of a baby from Google

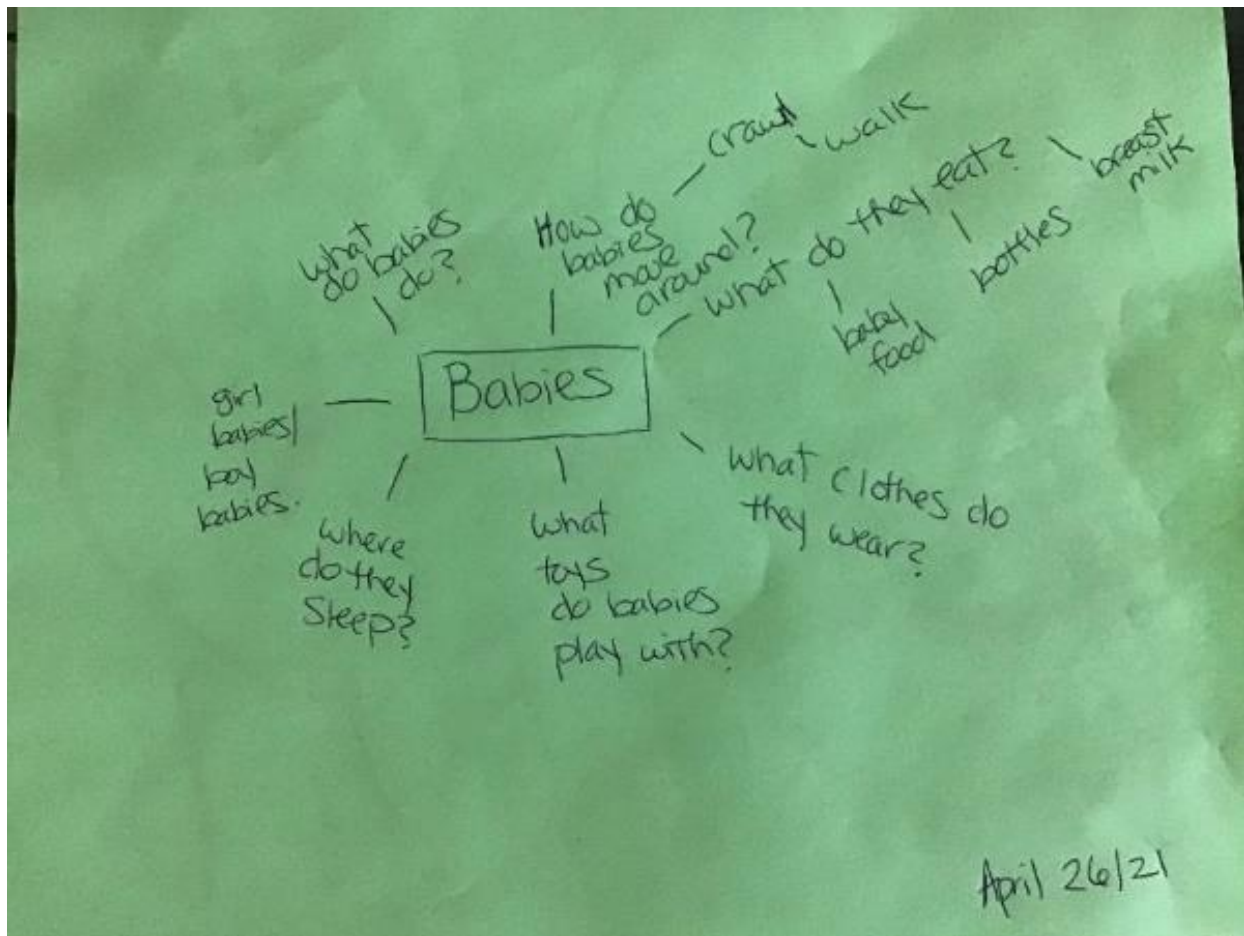
A very young child, especially one newly or recently born.

Child's definition of a baby:

- A baby cries – Eli
- A baby cries all the time - Colton
- It's little - Zoey

Phase 2: Developing the Project

We began the Investigative portion of our project by created a learning web of Ideas we could further explore to learn more about babies.





Zoe and Nathan share some of their current knowledge of babies through their first represented drawings of babies.

One afternoon April sat down at the table with some baby dolls, extra diapers and wipes. Audrey would try to put on the baby's diaper on the baby's bum. Audrey said "my baby has a poopy bum. I need to wipe it." Audrey took a wipe and carefully wiped the baby's bum. LilyJo worked very hard to put on the diaper on her baby's bum. "My baby is crying." LilyJo said. "Why is she crying?" April asked. "She needs her diaper on." LilyJo practiced a bit longer to put on the diaper, when she asked for some help. April and LilyJo worked together, once she had the diaper on, she gave the baby a hug.





"Our babies look cold", April explained to the children. "What should they have on their bodies?" "clothes!" Nathan said feeling proud he knew the answer. April gave the children 2 pieces of paper and some tape to help the children create some clothes. They folded the paper over and taped them together. Once the paper was secured Audrey said "my baby is nice and cozy!"

On a warm afternoon we brought out individual buckets and wash clothes to give our babies a bath! While bathing her baby LilyJo said "my baby is getting all wet!" As she used the washcloth to wash her baby. Henri said he was washing his baby's hair, "my wash cloth is on my baby's head." He explained.



During these activities the children were developing their empathy towards the babies by helping take care of their needs. The children displayed their current knowledge and understanding of caring for a baby through role-play and imitation, as they reflect on how their parents and educators take care of them. Language is enhanced as we communicated with each other on how we are caring for the babies. Fine motor skills are also practiced as they used their fingers to wipe the babies bum, put on diapers and wrap the babies up with the paper clothing.

Meghan brought in her ultrasound pictures to show the children what the baby in her tummy looks like. Meghan pointed to one photo and asked the children "what does this look like?" it's the baby's head!" Mason said excitedly. "You're right Mason, can you see the baby's nose?" Asked Meghan. "Yes I see the nose!" Elise said with excitement. The other children said they saw the nose too! Meghan pointed to the picture of the baby's spine and asked the children what they thought that was. Matthew quickly said "it's an alligator!" noticing the row of individual discs of the spine. Then Meghan showed them a picture of the baby's feet, together they counted the baby's toes. "1, 2, 3, 4...10," everyone said together. They were so excited to see what the baby looks like and to see each part of the baby's body.



While Meghan talked to the children about her baby, they were able to enhance their vocabulary and use their language skills as they discussed what they were seeing in the pictures. A sense of belonging is also created while the group sits down together and shares in Meghan's excitement as she shows her ultrasound pictures.

To Involve our families in the project we sent out a short survey to Inquire about their child(ren) as Infants.

Survey about your baby:

How many children do you have?

The popular answer was 2, but other people had said 3 and 1 children.

How much did your child weight at birth?

The popular answer was 7lb, but other people said 6lb 8oz, 5lb 5oz and 9lb and 5oz

Did you know the gender of your child before they were born?

The popular answer was yes, but couple of people said no

What was the most comforting thing to your child as an infant?

- Being nursed
- Puppy blanket and being held
- Going for walks
- Stuffed bunny
- Doing squats while holding onto the baby

Phase 3: Concluding the Project

For our final project we created a swing for our baby doll out of a cardboard box. We cut the box 3/4 down, used duct taped to secure the flaps of the box down and cut holes in the bottom to allow the baby's feet to go through. Just like the baby swings at the community park. We attached it to our indoor climber in our classroom. We made a line at the side of the climber to take turns pushing the baby in the swing.



This was a fun activity to do with the children, they were so excited to help make a swing for their babies! They used their cognitions to think about what the swings look like at the parks that they go to with their parents. We discussed what swings look like, and how we could create one. They were concerned how the baby didn't have a seatbelt, they didn't want it to fall out, so we created one with pipe cleaners, and social as they patiently waited their turns to push the baby in the swing.



As the months went on and the weather started to get warmer outside, the children slowed interests in others activities. To end our project, we decided to ask the infant educators some questions the children have been wondering about the babies. In the mornings and afternoons were outside the same time as the infants, the preschool children enjoy watching them play and talking with them through the fence, so we thought this would be a perfect idea to help end our project, by talking with the educators and watching the babies learn just like us! To reflect on the questions, the children were wondering, can babies walk? Can babies Crawl? Can babies colour? Can babies paint?

Tami and Connie showed us that yes babies can walk, as we were watching some of the babies walking on their playground as they played, and the babies who couldn't walk were yes crawling to go what they were interest in. The babies yes, can colour, they were colouring with chalk outside, just like how we enjoy colouring outside too, and they also can paint we were shown. It was a fun way to end our project!



With time, the children were not as interested with the babies; they were expanding on other materials in the classroom while they played. Which indicated they were ready to move on and wanting to learn about other things.

Teacher Reflections

This was a fun project to do with the preschoolers! It was exciting to see what they knew and what they wanted to learn. The children were able to show their empathy towards the babies, as they took care of the baby's needs. Just like how their Mommy and Daddy take care of them and their younger siblings. April Weatherbee RECE

I absolutely loved the baby project with the preschool one children! all the children were engaged and interested in every activity and enjoyed sharing their own knowledge and experiences with babies. It was especially special for me because I was pregnant during this project and the children always had so many questions for me and liked to remind daily that I had a baby in my belly! Meghan Harding RECE

This was a fun project to do with the children! the children were ready and fully engaged in the baby project. The children were able to show their knowledge on what they know about babies and were able to learn more. The children had many questions for us educators and we were all excited to answer them. Christina Bryne RECE

I really enjoyed learning alongside the preschoolers about what they knew about babies, what wonders they had, and all the different experiences they shared around babies. It was exciting to see how the children related to babies, and how they connected what they were learning to their own lives for themselves and their younger brothers and sisters! The children showed extreme interest in all the different experiences that were done, and were very excited to show off their new learning to their teachers and families. Emma



Andersen RECE