

Preschool News

-Ruth Baas, Preschool Director

ANIMAL STUDIES

Preschool children are always curious about animals. Did you ever notice that so many children's books have animals as characters? Teachers know that if learning involves animals, the children will almost always be attentive and engaged!

Every year during the month of April, the children at Orland Park Christian Preschool are introduced to God's creation of animals in the form of baby chicks that hatch from eggs that we keep in an incubator right in our school! On April 9, the first day back after Spring Break, we received 24 fertile chicken eggs that we purchased from Northern Illinois University Extension Services in Naperville, Illinois. We set up our school incubator equipped with a heater and an automatic egg turner and placed the chicken eggs inside. We learned that the best temperature for the growth of the chicks is 100° F. We studied some pictures of the stages of growth of a baby chick inside the egg, made some chick crafts, read chick stories, and even now are busy counting down 21 days until our baby chicks hatch. We can't wait to meet them, pet them, and watch them grow when they hatch during the first week of May.

To extend our animal studies beyond baby chicks, we also took field trips to a pet shop on April 12 and 13. One of our student's extended family owns and operates a pet shop in Midlothian, IL named "Animal Island." It was a treat to be welcomed to the pet shop by his family members and their employees. They showed us many of God's creatures and let us touch them when we were brave enough to try. They also told us lots of interesting facts about the animals we saw. Some of the animals the children said were their favorite ones to see are listed here: caterpillars, ferrets, fish, frogs, hedgehogs, lizards, mice, baby quails, rabbits, baby sharks, snakes, tomato worms, turtles, and a tarantula! Even though it was a small sample, we were impressed with the variety of animals God has created!



Our chick eggs will stay in the incubator for 21 days before they hatch.



Petting a ferret at Animal Island Pet Shop.



Watching the turtles at the pet shop.



The Guinea pig felt so soft!



The bearded dragon's skin felt bumpy!



The rabbit was one of our favorite animals at the pet shop!