

POD³ Triangle Regional Symposium
Healthy Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments
June 21st, 2013
Following Great Blue Herons

Following Great Blue Herons



For the Love of Birds: Discovering the Great Blue Heron



- We feed our playground birds every morning
- Ms. Jane fills the bird feeders and we watch and even help sometimes
- Ms. Jane shared the website www.allaboutbirds.org



Our First Encounter With the Herons

- On Thursday, April 11th we tuned in to the live bird cam for the first time and saw the herons building their nest
- When we returned on Monday, April 15th we saw the first egg in the nest
- We checked the bird cam three times a day; a.m. drop-off, during lunch and at snack time*



*media is used sparingly, less than 3 min. per check-in

Parent Involvement

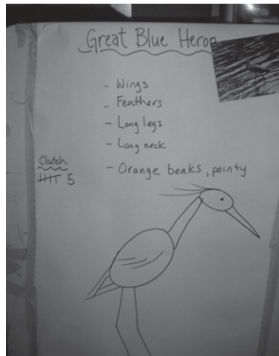
- Children invited their parents to observe the bird cam at drop off
- Parents asked about the site, viewed it at home and followed the herons with their children
- Parents brought in photos they have taken of herons observed near their homes



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Incorporating the Great Blue Heron into Our Lesson

- We decided to make a heron out of recycled items
- The children looked at a picture of a heron in a book and we made a list of parts
- Then they chose materials to represent each part



• Here is what they chose:

- Evan: the ventilation tube for the neck
- Greta: the laundry soap bottle for the body
- Shreya: the cardboard tubes for the legs
- Alexa T.: the oatmeal container for the head.
- Dominic: the long cardboard tube for the beak



Creating our Great Blue Heron



Math and Language Concepts

- Math Skills:
 - count eggs as they are added to the nest
 - count how many days until the eggs hatch
 - count how many eggs actually hatch
- Build language by introducing new vocabulary words
 - Clutch of eggs
 - Nestling (baby birds)
 - Squawking



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Being a Great Blue Heron

- During our study we observed many behaviors of the Great Blue Herons
 - a squawking sound or a “landing call” upon returning to the nest
 - bringing sticks back to the nest to build it up
 - hunting for fish in the surrounding pond area (1:20)



Now It's Your Turn to Be a Great Blue Heron!

