

## Pre-Kindergarten

### Post Office Project

PreK, 3 and 4 year olds

16 children in each of two half day classes

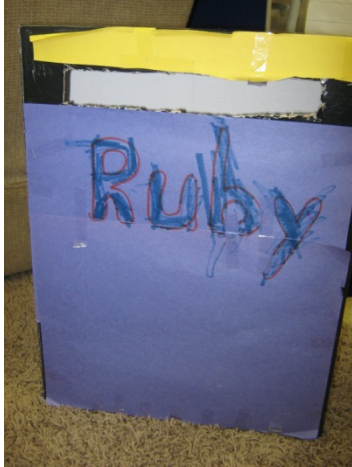
Jan 27-Mar 15

#### Phase 1: Beginning the Project

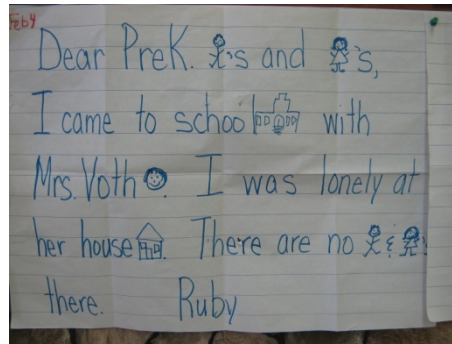
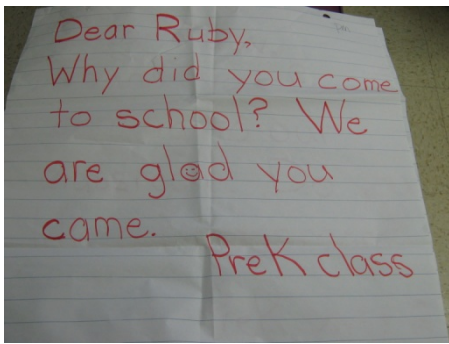
I brought a large stuffed lizard to class with a note attached, indicating that she loved to receive mail. I was hoping to create an interest in early writing. We have a writing center in the classroom, but only a few children use it.



We discussed the note and I wondered where we would put Ruby's mail. This prompted the need for a mailbox. We generated a list of what the children thought we might need to build a mailbox. I provided the materials and together we constructed a mailbox during play time.



We wrote a class note to Ruby one day and read her response to us the next. We repeated this process a number of times.



During story time we read stories that involved the mail. This generated some questions, so we documented what we knew and what we wanted to know on a web.

Books:

Postal Workers by Paulette Bourgeois

Gumdrop and the Birthday Surprise by Val Biro

The Post Office by Christine Webster

Our questions:

1. How do they know whose house to bring the mail to?

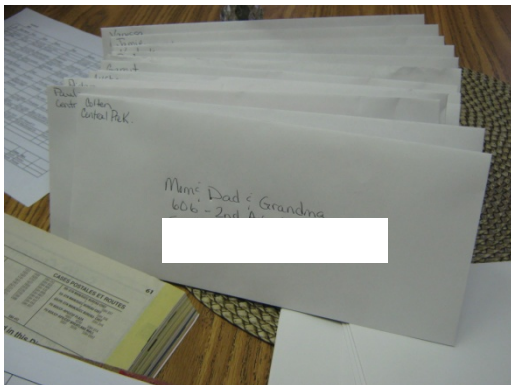
2. Where does the mail carrier get the mail from?
3. Does the Post Office have a heart symbol?
4. Do you make the mail? (directed to Postal worker)
5. Does the name tell you where to go?

## Phase 2: Developing the project

We read books about the postal system.

We asked to tour our local Post office. ----They do not do tours for safety reasons.

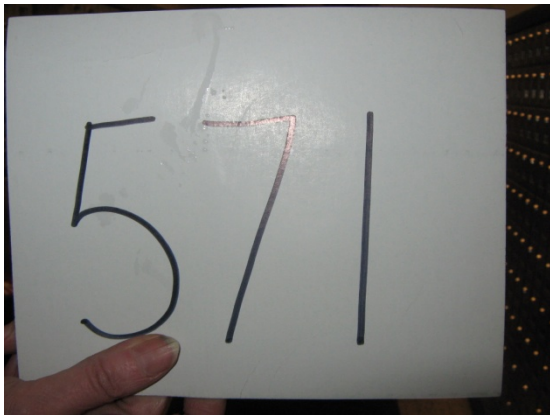
We decided to make valentines for our parents, go to the Post office to purchase stamps and mail the letters.







While there we found my mailbox.



We met a postal worker, removing mail from the box.

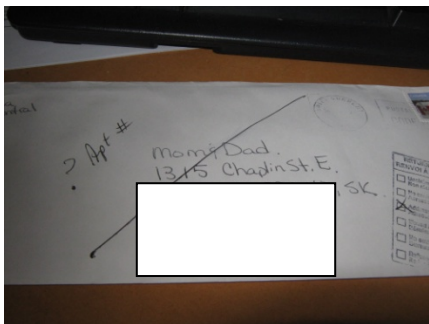


We also noticed a lock box on the way back to school. We asked the letter carrier about this.



We reviewed what we thought we knew, checking for accuracy and taking note of what questions still needed answering.

We had one item of returned mail due in an incomplete address. This helped to answer one of our questions.



We wrote a note to our school letter carrier asking her to answer the questions we still need answering. She was gracious to come to our classroom in her gear and tell us about her job and answer our questions. She even allowed us to video tape her as she could not attend the morning class.

## Representation:

We wrote captions for our photos to display outside our classroom.



These pictures and captions were put into a photo album later as a more permanent documentation of our project.

Each child was given the option of doing a picture of their choice about our project using crayon, marker or paint. We added these pictures to their portfolios.



## Teacher Reflection:

I enjoyed this project with my children. A few children picked up on the idea of writing, but most did not. It seems most 3 and 4 years olds do not have enough letter knowledge to feel comfortable with this. We are currently recording their first individual stories and perhaps they would be better equipped after this experience. However, we did learn a lot about the Postal system and how it works. I would definitely do this project again.