



Pancakes

Owl – St. Luke: Preschool

Background

This project is the work of the preschool children at Owl~St. Luke. 27 children, ages 2 to 4 participated in this project, with 24 children participating at any given time. The project started in the middle of February 2017 and lasted until April 21, 2017. The educators in the room who lead the project were: Shannon RECE, Gabi RECE, and Steph RECE.

Phase 1: Beginning the Project

This project started when the Preschool children were outside playing with the plastic potholders. Under the climber, the children have a ledge where Dylan was making pancakes on it. Sophia then joined Dylan and asked if she could have some. The conversation then began about what kind of pancakes they were making, and what ingredients they were using to make them.

In the days to follow, the children were observed using their imagination at the outdoor table creating pancakes. They were using the plastic potholders and the frying pans that were outside. The children were attempting to flip the pancakes and keep them in the pan. We knew at this point it could turn into a project.



Figure 1: Marie-eve(3.4years) Tatum(3.7years) Ivy(4years) Colm(3.11years) are pretending to cook the pancakes using pots and pans.

We started our investigation by asking the children what they knew about pancakes.

What do we know?	What do we want to know?	Who can we ask?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You put syrup on them- Ivy They need flour- Dylan You can put Blueberries in them- Marie-eve Raspberries, Strawberries, Blueberries- Elise My Mommy makes them- Alina Pancake Mix- Dylan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How long do we cook them for?- Elise Can you cook them on the stove or in the oven?- Dylan What else can we put in pancakes?- Ivy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marianne- Rory My Mommy- Alina

Phase 2: Developing the Project

To further this interest, we placed playdough on the table inside the Preschool room, and the children began to create their own pancakes. Some of them made little playdough balls and pretended it was blueberries, chocolate chips and strawberries.



Figure 2: Kabir (3.10years) is using his hands to flatten his pancake



Figure 3: Kai(2.11years) is rolling out his pancake with a rolling pin.

The children demonstrated what we were learning through their play after talking about the different utensils needed to create pancakes they started using them in their play.



Figure 4: Micah (2.6 years) is using a spatula to bring his pancakes out of the oven.



Figure 5: Micah (2.6 years) is bringing pancakes over to Ivy (4.1 years) for her lunch.

We added some pretend pancakes to the table with “chocolate chips” on them and co-coordinating plates with numbers to enhance our math skills. We also had fun practicing hand-eye coordination using spatulas to move the pancakes to the matching plate number.



Figure 6: Ivy (4.1years) is counting the “chocolate chips” on the plates to match them up with the pancakes



Figure 7: Ethan (3.10years) is using his hand-eye coordination to move the pancakes from the pan to the plates



Figure 8: Tatum(3.7 years), Alina(2.9 years), Shelby(4.1 years) and Colm(3.11 years) are helping to measure and pour the ingredients for maple syrup playdough

Children wanted to create Maple Syrup playdough. We gathered ingredients such as:

- 2 cups of flour
- 2tbs oil
- 2 cups of warm water
- 2tbs of oil
- 2tbs of alum
- 1 cup of salt
- Maple syrup

The children helped by taking turns adding the ingredients they previously measured with Kivas' help then they mixed and kneaded the dough until it was ready for play.

Below are the children's first and second drawings. In the First drawing, you can see how the circle is shaped into a pancake; beside the pancake Tatum has drawn toppings. In the second drawing, Dylan has created a defined circle shape. When we asked Dylan to tell us about his pancake he said it has chocolate chips and strawberries.



Figure 9: First drawing

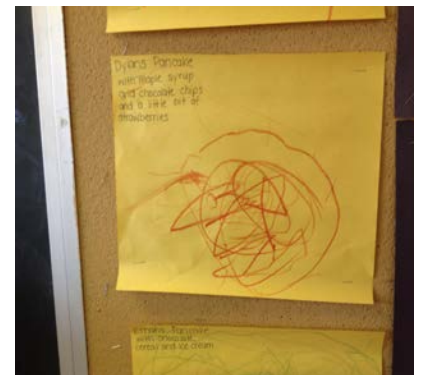


Figure 10: Second drawing

Using the iPad, we searched different ways countries around the world celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, which lent begins on. People eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday as a way to use up things such as eggs, milk and sugar which are common things people give up for lent. We found out that in England they compete in pancake races. The following day, down in the gym, we brought with us some “pancakes” and frying pans and we had races. At the end of the race, we attempted to flip our pancakes to see if we could keep them in the pan; this was harder than what we thought.



Figure 12: Sophia(4years) and Tatum(3.7years) running with pancakes.

We decided to make some pancakes from scratch using eggs, flour, baking powder, salt, sugar, milk and butter we practiced measuring ingredients and mixing them. We asked the children what we should add to our pancakes as extra ingredients and they suggested strawberries and blueberries.



Figure 13: Grace(3.10 years) is mixing the ingredients together

For afternoon snack we got to eat the pancakes we made!



Figure 14: Micah(2.7years) and Kai(3.1 years) enjoying their pancakes

We asked the children what their favourite extra ingredients to add to pancakes were and they said: blueberries, strawberries, chocolate chips and maple syrup. When we took a survey Maple syrup was the winner.

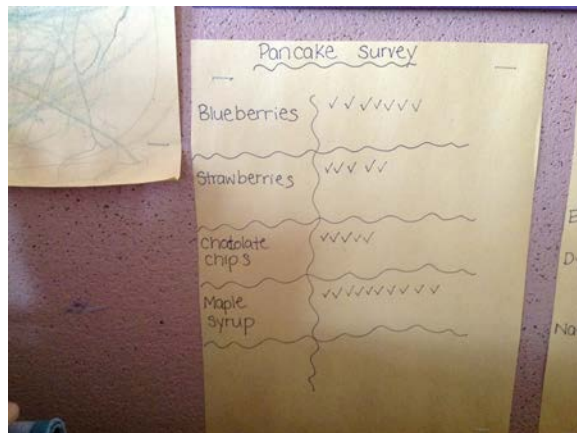


Figure 15: Our survey

We created a vocabulary list of all the words we know about pancakes, we came up with lots of great words.

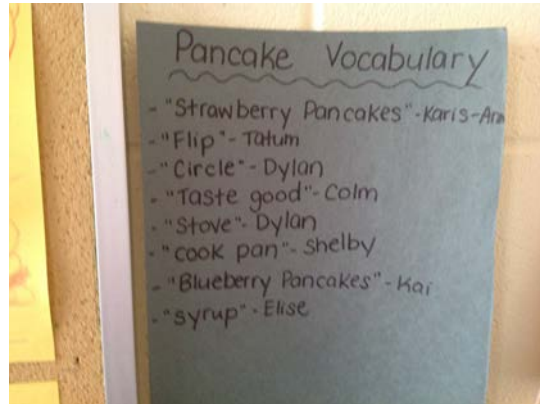


Figure 16: Our vocabulary list

For our Field Study we travelled to the Real Canadian Super Store to create our own pancakes. The children helped to measure, mix, and pour the ingredients for our pancakes. They also helped chop up fruit to add in. There was one final question that we had to answer from our “what do we want to know” list. We asked our expert chef. It was can you cook pancakes in the oven? It turns out that you cannot cook pancakes in the oven because they need the direct heat of the stove.



Figure 17: Aiden (3 years) is chopping melon for the pancakes



Figure 18: Rory (3.7 years), Colm (3.11 years) Luka (4 years) are chopping fruit

Phase 3: Concluding the Project

We knew the project was coming to an end when the children began to become interested in other topics. Once the weather started to get nicer outdoors children's interest shifted to cars, trucks, sand, and building with materials from the block center. We continued to read stories about pancakes and finish a book that we created in the classroom called, "The Blueberry Pancake". With this last activity, we concluded our project. We created a summary board to present to our parents on Friday, May 5 2017. The same day we also had the projector running in the classroom with pictures, and videos of the children participating in the different activities related to our project. Parents were invited to come in and spend some time checking out our history board as well. It was a successful turn out. One of our parents shared a comment that her son was thrilled to find out that we did the project because pancakes are his favorite meal.



Figure 19: Dylan and his family exploring our summary board.

Teacher Reflections

Reflecting upon our pancake project, we as educators believe this project was a great learning opportunity for the children. It was a child directed project and we feel that is what made it so successful. The field trip was an invaluable hands on experience. The parents were great participants in the projects by being very diligent in helping to create our Pancake Recipe Book.