



3/21/16-3/25/16

Ryders Week in Review

Monday

Today, during breakfast, Ryder learned how to cut his banana into slices. This activity not only helped to sharpen his eye and hand coordination skills, it also helped to foster his desire for autonomy. As Ryder approaches his second year of life, his need for more independence is evidenced each day. He is making more choices for himself and is communicating his needs with physical gestures, words and, sign language.

After eating, he played with his toys in his room and watched half an episode of Baby Einstein. The Baby Einstein episode featured "things that go". As Ryder is watching this DVD series, he is expanding his vocabulary by leaning to identify the objects that really interests him. To expand on the subject of "things that go", we took a stroll to the library where he met with some friends that were playing with the train set. Ryder spent some time building a train track for the trains, talking to friends and reading books about trains and cars.

After a fun time at the Library, Ryder went to the park where there were two children playing hide and seek. Ryder was curious about the game and watched as the kids took turns hiding and seeking. He played on the play scape for a short while until he felt ready to sit down for a snack.



Tuesday

Today Ryder went on a field trip with his mom and nanny. Together we went to the Goodwill store to buy some supplies for his outdoor music wall and mud kitchen. Now that the Spring weather is upon us, we are creating an outdoor learning space for Ryder.

We found old pots and pans for drumming and even a small play set for his outdoor mud kitchen. Ryder had an especially good time exploring all the exciting items throughout the store. He found a riding toy and rode it everywhere, picking up a pair of sunglasses and a plastic dump truck along the way. He greeted people as they entered the store, making everyone smile with admiration for the young little social bug.

After a busy morning of shopping and driving around town, Ryder was ready for lunch and then a nap.

During his nap, mom and nanny went to work on the music wall. Ryders dad installed a framed wall made of latus. We attached a tambourine, pots, pans, and wooden spoons to the wall. We think it turned out pretty good. Now we wait for the little musician to wake up and give it a test run.



Wednesday

Ryder had a great time at My Gym today. He climbed up a carpeted ramp and into a ball pit with other classmates. He practiced jumping on the trampoline but is not yet jumping up with both feet. He does a sort of tap dance but we are working on hopping off the ground with both feet in the air. He worked on his upper body strength by doing a handstand on the parallel bars making sure he breaks for water in between his workouts activities.

Ryder is confident when climbing up the "firemen's ladder" which creates a different sensation on his feet. Ryder surprised everyone with his superior upper body strength by holding on to a bar and spinning without letting go! Circle time is still not his favorite part of the class, he wants to keep on climbing. None the less, he is respectful of the schedule and he participates in the circle time activities with a smile. Overall, Ryder displayed model behavior at My Gym.

The class instructors set up a riding activity where children sat on a riding toy and rode it down a slide. Ryder patiently waited his turn without fussing while other children tried the ride. When the moment came for him to take his turn, he was reluctant at first, but with some positive encouragement, he hopped onto the ride and slid down the slide.

After his My Gym session, Ryder had plenty of energy to spare so we took a walk to the toddler park in the neighborhood. He ran and climbed and slid down the slide. There were no other children at the park but we still had fun pretending that we were firemen trying to get past traffic and sounding our sirens. There was still time for some fun before lunch so upon returning to the house, we played in the back yard with Ryders music wall. He played the pots and pans and spun the pinwheel flowers.



Thursday

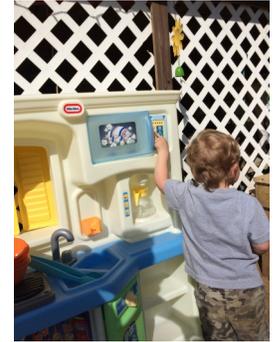
Ryder spent his morning working on his garden and playing with his new mud kitchen. At his two sided water table, I added planting soil and seeds on one side and shaving cream with paint on the other. The shaving cream served as a sensory activity so Ryder can develop his tolerance of getting his hands dirty. Ryder carefully explored with the paint and shaving cream using his index finger. He was not fond of the sensation of the shaving cream on his hands. I added a few craft sticks to the shaving cream to encourage him to explore the cream without completely covering his hands with the smooth and sticky substance. I also added a water canister so he could wash his hands whenever he felt the need.

The sun was getting stronger and in showing his independence he sought out the table umbrella and placed it into the center of the table.

At a different table, I set up an Easter egg coloring station. When Ryder was ready, he climbed onto his chair and began to color the Easter eggs. He went right to work by picking up an egg and dropping them into different color dyes. He used spoons to dip, stir and pull the eggs out of the dye. He couldn't resist the desire to dip his hands too! He used sparkly glitter and crayons as tools to decorate his eggs. He was very focused on this activity and worked on it until all the eggs were colored.

After coloring his eggs, he went to work on planting his basil seeds. These seeds were to be planted in a porcelain planter with no drainage holes, so Ryder first placed a small pile of stones at the bottom of the planters and topped it with soil. He sprinkled the tiny seeds onto the soil and used a small plastic spoon to cover them up. He added water and with my help, he covered it with plastic to protect the seeds from small critters and the harsh late night elements.

Ryder then went to work with practicing to push his wheel barrow and collect objects from the yard for his mud kitchen. In his kitchen, he made mud pies! A very busy morning for this energetic toddler.



Friday

This morning, Ryder put the finishing touches on his Easter eggs. With my help he melted plastic decorative sleeves onto some of his eggs using a hair dryer. I then gave him an egg to explore. He cracked it and peeled it. He smushed the egg in his hands until the inside yolk popped out. He crumbled the hard yolk in his hands. Pretty interesting

When he finished his Ester Egg activity, we went for a walk to Broadneck Park. There were a lot of children but was particularly drawn to a couple of kids, age 7, who were playing soccer in the field. He ran to them and picked up the soccer ball whenever he got close to it. The kids didn't mind the disruption of their game. They took time to show and encourage Ryder to kick the ball into the goal. Once Ryder lost interest in playing ball, he went on to play on the swings with his new soccer buddies.

Then fun at the park had to end because we started to feel the rain drops falling. Ryder climbed onto his stroller and I covered his head with the stroller umbrella and legs with his rain jacket. We quickly headed to the library for cover. By the time we reached the library, TT (that's my name) was drenched and Ryder was spared!

While at the Library, Ryder played with the train set. This time, he was more focused on putting the train tracks together than playing with the train. He was very focused on the task and required no help with linking the train tracks.



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Watch Ryder Grow



My mission is to provide Ryder a safe, enriching and nurturing learning experience each day.

My vision is that Ryder will grow with a compassionate soul, inquisitive mind, and confident spirit. He will be a leader among his peers, a versatile athlete, and an independent thinker.

Highlights Of The Week



Coloring Easter Eggs



New Discoveries



Playing With The New Kitchen Set