

Monday, July 10: This week, science, is the name of the game! To kick things off we created our very own storm in a jar. As expected, many of the residents were a bit confused on how we would pull this off. The process is to fill a mason jar with water and put shaving cream on top to mimic a cloud. Then, in another cup, you mix glow in the dark paint and water and proceed to take little drops of the paint and water and inject it into the “cloud” on top of the jar. As you continue you this process the cloud will start to swell and eventually produce glow in the dark “rain” in the form of little streams in the water below it. The residents were fascinated with how the cloud swelled up and bubbled over the top of the mason jar and how they could see the rain at the bottom of the jar! This experiment trailed off into a conversation about the residents’ childhood and things they experienced living on a farm. All in all, this was a great experiment and memory activity in one!

Tuesday, July 11: Continuing the theme of science, we inflated balloons with baking soda and vinegar and made mini lava lamps in a cup! The balloons were made by putting vinegar in a bottle and baking soda in a balloon and holding the balloon over the bottle so that the baking soda and vinegar mix producing a gas that inflated the balloon. The residents were very surprised, as they didn't really know what to expect, so it was very exciting for them. The lava lamp in a cup was made by mixing some more baking soda and vinegar and putting cooking oil on the top and dropping food coloring into it and watching the colors bounce between the baking soda and vinegar and the surface of the oil. The residents were amazed by the reaction and how it seemed to take on a life of its own and how the mixture sometimes bubbled over the top of the glass. Afterwards, we decided to throw it back to last year, and play with some play-doh. This was a huge hit! Many of them remembered this from last year and ended up with some pretty great creations including a masterful rabbit, and other animals like snakes, squirrels, whales, and dogs. In the end, the residents left saying “this was a really nice day, I enjoyed it”.

Wednesday, July 12: For our activity today, the residents enjoyed an educational presentation about all things science. They got a plethora of super cool facts and we even debunked some common myths about humans, plants, and animals. The presentation ended with a couple videos of cool science experiments that included home made lava lamps and floating fire (yes floating)! The residents really enjoyed all of the new stuff that they learned in this hour that I spent with them. They all walked away feeling more educated and thoroughly fascinated by all the things that they didn't know. I even caught one resident talking about the presentation the next day, she was explaining what she had seen and learned the day before, to a fellow resident. She said “You should've seen that presentation yesterday, it was very very nice, very educational”.

Thursday, July 13: Today, we decided to give them something they could really use on a daily basis, so we made bath bombs! We created these bath bombs by mixing epsom salt, baking soda, cream of tartar, lavender essential oil, olive oil, and water, packing it into a baking mold and letting it sit overnight. We made this a team effort and had each participant add an ingredient into the bowl and allowed them to pack it into the mold themselves. They each made 4 bath bombs for themselves and they really liked that they'll be able to put it into their next bath and that they made it all by themselves! In addition to the bath bombs, we decided to make slime, just as something fun and tactile that would feel good on their hands. They really enjoyed both these activities because they were able to use their hands and really make something.

Friday, July 14: For the last day of science week, we actually decided on something less science-y and more fun. We made ice cream in a bag! We did this by combining half and half, sugar and vanilla extract in a pint sized ziplock bag and putting ice and kosher salt in another container and then putting the pint sized bags in the containers and having the residents take

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turns shaking the container and out came ice cream! The residents were a bit fatigued by the shaking and the “exercise” but were shocked at how good the ice cream tasted. This led in to reminiscing about the old days where they made home made ice cream in a bowl and how the ice cream they had just made tasted like old fashioned ice cream.