

## Camping in Pooh's 100 Acre Woods

The Early Childhood I and II programs spent the second week of January camping in Winnie the Pooh's 100 Acres Woods. The Landscaping program brought in numerous small trees and ferns and scattered them throughout the preschool lab. They also brought in large rocks, stones, and wood to build a campfire, fishing pond, and tent sites.

Students in the ECE program brought in blankets and sheets to cover the tables to look like tents. The 76 children enrolled in the preschool brought in their sleeping bags and blankets to cover the floor of the tents. During the week the lights in the lab were turned off and the children could only see by using small lanterns.

Children spent a fun filled week pretending to camp with Pooh and his friends. Some of their favorite activities were:

**Art** - They made toilet paper binoculars, paper lanterns, grocery bag backpacks, yarn laced sleeping bags, and bug hats.

**Campfire** - Everyone sat around the campfire and sang songs, did finger plays, and played games.

**Free Play** - Children pretended to fish in the pond with magnetic poles, cook chicken and fish over the campfire using mess kits and canteens, read adventure stories in the tent, and searched for bugs with the magnifying lens.

**Snacks** - Children loved eating the camping snacks - s'mores, trail mix, and juice boxes.

The high school students completed several state competencies throughout this week. The first one was to apply direct observation and knowledge of children's development as a framework to provide appropriate experiences for children and the other main competency was to supervise all activities and to prevent dangerous situations and accidents. Because the lab was set up with numerous rocks, stones, trees, and ferns, the children had to be watched much closer than usual. Also since most of the activities were done under a tent/table the students were involved in teaching art, developmental, and circle time activities in a different setting.





