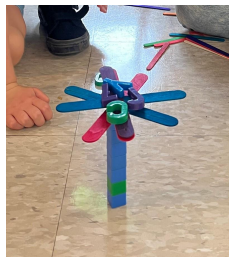


I have been so excited to implement these lessons bought with this grant this year. The grant was for getting students excited and actively engaged with our read alouds. I purchased more read alouds for our classroom, materials for weekly STEM projects, and writing materials to plan/design our projects.

Students enjoy our focus of our weekly read alouds and their theme. On Fridays, students get hands-on with designing, building, creating a task related to our story. We use our notebooks to plan, design, and think with our partner. We make predictions about our design then draw a conclusion when completed.

One of the first projects we completed this year was to build a tree that would hold letters with a partner after reading *Chicka Chicka Book Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. We purchased letter manipulatives and blocks to use.



Some of our favorite projects have been to create a playground with different materials after reading the story *Recess Queen* by Alexis O'Neill. After purchasing the book, *Ain't Gonna Paint No More* by Karen Beaumont students enjoyed experimenting with colors and paint.

Each week our students become more engaged with our stories-predicting what might be their challenge at the end of the week. They are building their communicating skills with partners. We are writing about their predictions, design, and finished product. These lessons foster students making connections and relating with the characters in our stories. I can see their growth throughout the year, and am very appreciative.

I am thankful of this grant and excited to purchase new items in the future with future grants. Thank you for supporting your students, teachers, schools, and communities!