The Rock Pond was a playground project during the Summer & Fall of 2011
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Dr. Candy took a trip to visit her son Mike during the summer vacation. Mike lives in Pennsylvania very close to one of the biggest lakes in the United States, Lake Erie.
Lake Erie is so big it looks like an ocean, but on the other side of it is our neighbor country, Canada. It has a beach like the ocean. There is sand on the beach, and waves like the ocean, but there are also a lot of ROCKS!
Sometimes you can see driftwood, too, which is what you call branches and parts of trees that fall in the water and stay there for a long time.
One day, Dr. Candy went to the beach with Mike, Leslie, Andrea, and Blue. Blue is a special dog, because he came all the way from Africa on an airplane to live in America! Blue LOVES the beach, but he doesn’t like to go in the water.
Blue found some really interesting big pieces of driftwood.
One piece of driftwood you could look through and see Lake Erie on the other side.
Dr. Candy and her family picked up a lot of rocks. They went up and down the beach looking for ones that were really interesting and different colors. They put them in bags and boxes and Mike put them in her car to bring back to South Carolina and ECDC.
After the trip to the beach, Blue was really smelly, so he had to have a bath! He didn’t like it very much.
After his bath, Blue was VERY happy and so tired that he settled down under the table to take a nap.
When Dr. Candy got back from vacation, she dug a big hole on the playground. The children worked hard to fill it up with all the rocks to make the Rock Pond. The rocks were heavy!
The Butterfly class worked for a long time to move all the rocks. It took many trips with the wheelbarrow!
Everyone helped arrange the rocks in the pond. The children guessed there must be at least a hundred fifty rocks. Elias said, “on the beach there are probably about a hundred thousand.”
Then one day there was a big surprise! A package came in the mail from Andrea in Pennsylvania. The children wondered what was in the box. Everyone tried to guess.
When Dr. Candy opened the package, the children found out what was in it. Andrea got more rocks and painted them all different colors to look like fish and dragonflies! She made lots of different ones. No kidding!!! The Butterflies looked at all of them and admired the beautiful colors. They decided to send a thank you letter to Andrea in Pennsylvania.
The children took the painted rock fish and dragonflies out to the pond so everyone can enjoy them. They put some of them on top where everyone can see them.
They carefully placed other ones where they would be harder to find.
Dr. Candy put a small mark on the back so the children can find them if they get turned over.
The painted rocks are all different sizes. One of them is very big!
Now all the children can enjoy the rock pond. One of the things they like to do is spray the rocks with water to see them change colors.
They also really like to color the rocks with chalk.
Sometimes they just like to sit in there and turn the rocks over to see how they are all different. They even found some fossils!
The Butterflies made some rules, “No throwing” and “keep the rocks in the pond.” That way, everyone can have fun in the pond for a long, long time.