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Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Families were welcome to explore life on the farm during a FACTShop (Families as Children's First Teacher Workshop), hosted by the Renshaw Early Childhood Center staff. Old MacDonald Had a Farm was the fifth FACTShop for RECC families and it was focused on developing and enhancing communication skills.

Parents and grandparents looked on as children participated in large group time. Children engaged in the same routine they experience every day at RECC as teachers and student workers modeled strategies to engage children and encourage communication. Children were quick to fill in the rhyming word as the teacher read *Little Blue Truck*. There was much excitement as parents watched their children respond to questions as the story was read. This same excitement carried over as children moved to stations, coloring farm books, performing a puppet show, picking out their cowboy hats, pulling sensory-inspired animals from a pillowcase and digging for farm animals, naming the animal, and matching the adult animal with its baby animal.

Children were quick to take their friends to meet their parents and connect parents to one another. There was much laughter and conversation as families worked together and with other families. One of the highlights of the event was a cascade of bubbles eliciting giggles from young and old as children transitioned from stations back to the large group.

The evening ended with teachers and children singing and signing a goodbye song as parents completed exit surveys. Each child took home a toy specific to their age to extend learning at home. Each child received a copy of the *Little Blue Truck* while parents took home *Family Guides to the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards*.

This event and the materials distributed to children and families were provided by a grant to the Tri-SKY Collaborative Early Childhood Council funded by the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood. The feedback received from parents will be used to guide future family events. One of the overwhelming things shared by parents was the need for more events of this nature in which families can get to know one another, learn more about supporting their child's development and spend time quality time together. What a great evening this was for all!