Bringing Staff Development Day into the Classroom

Journal of the Week
Gray Whale Class
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During Tuesday’s Staff Development Day, the teachers had a workshop on ‘The Young Child and Mathematics.’ We learned everyday strategies, games and fun activities to further promote early math skills in our classrooms. Each team of teachers made a board game related to their classrooms curriculum. The Gray Whale teachers made a ‘Field Trip Game,’ highlighting all of the Field Trips we have taken so far this year. This week we brought our new game into the classroom and played it with some of the Gray Whales. Each child began by rolling the die and then moved their game piece, the corresponding number of places. Once at their Field Trip location, the Gray Whales were asked to recall their favorite part of the trip or something they remembered. With this game, there are no winners or losers, as there is no end to the game. We invite you to come play our new game one morning or afternoon during drop-off or pick-up times.

This homemade math game promotes a variety of skills such as:

* Children are encouraged to count spaces using one-to-one correspondence.
* Children begin to understand number relationships and operations in their everyday environment.
* Children compare distances between Field Trip locations—some trips are closer, while others are further away.
* Children are encouraged to recall past experiences, while having fun with math!
* Children begin to recognize numbers, as they identify the varying Muni bus lines.
* Children practice taking turns and listening to their friends recollections.