



Hank's Ball Exploration

A Learning Story

May 30th , 2019

Dearest Hank,

Today you spotted a nearby basket of balls and you made your way over to check them out! You pulled the basket part way off the shelf and towards your body. You grabbed the balls one by one and set them aside until you came to an orange fuzzy ball. You held on to this ball with contentment and satisfaction. As you went to set this ball aside you watched it roll away from you. You reached for it with all your might rolling your body backwards in an almost back bend fashion. Seeing that you were not quite close enough to reach the ball, you rolled your body in the direction of the ball and began scooting too it! Each time you got close to the ball you touched it and it rolled just a bit more and you continued to follow the ball. I remember when you were just learning how to roll and now you are mobile! You have figured out your own unique way to move about and are persistent in your pursuit of what interests you!

With admiration,

Karina





What learning is happening here for Hank?

Observing you explore the basket of balls showed me how you expand on your curiosities with determination and engagement. It was amazing to watch as your exploration turned into what seemed like a game of you reaching the ball then pushing it just out of your reach. This kind of play reminds me that when you are presented with open ended materials and open spaces the possibilities are endless. You took charge of your own learning by challenging yourself to move your body across the floor to get the ball. You used your arms to pull forward as you lifted your bottom up in the air to help scoot your body along the ground. I admire your focus and your determination to push through physical challenges! I know you will continue to “wow” us with your continued discoveries and developments.



Opportunities and Possibilities :

We are seeing progress in your fine and gross motor development everyday! You get stronger and stronger as you take on new challenges. We will continue to provide ample floor time and open ended materials in the classroom. I wonder what other kinds of games or explorations you might be interested in? With your focus and determination the possibilities are limitless. We know you will do great things and we be here cheering you on the whole way! Go Hank!



Family Response:

Hank,

We are so proud of how hard you work to get what you want! Each day you are going further, more quickly. You are inquisitive and once you decide to go after something – you don't relent. Your curiosity coupled with your kind spirit is truly a gift for us to experience with you. While you give smiles often, you make us work for a full giggle. I'm ok with that – I need to brush up on my mom jokes any way.

We love you so, Mr. Hank

Mom, Dad, Maggie and Otto



Caregiver Responses:

Dear Hank,

You certainly have been on the move! You've been scooting and rolling around so much now that you've really mastered moving your body. It's been so fun to see you spot something of interest from across the room, and you enthusiastically army crawl or wiggle your way over to the item. I watched you explore all the balls, and once the basket was emptied, you pulled the basket up over onto yourself. I was certainly surprised by your strength. That basket is heavy! I can't wait to see what you find of interest next, and how far you will move. I take such delight in seeing you so proud of yourself with all that you are accomplishing.

Fondly,

Heather

Dear Hank,

It is amazing to see the determination with which you seek to understand your world. It is so inspiring how you are learning to move your body in creative ways to achieve your goals. The excitement in your bright eyes and smile when your hard work pays off is so delightful to witness. I look forward to seeing what other experiments in movement you conduct as you grow stronger physically. I'll be right there cheering you on along the way!

Much Love,

Eve