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Legacy Lines

A Newsletter for Families
December 2022

Happy Holidays

Greetings Parents! Happy December!

December is truly a month of celebration! Not only Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, but also the following:

- December 3rd - Let's Hug Day
- December 4th - National Cookie Day
- December 8th - National Pastry Day
- December 30th - National Bacon Day

December 21st is the first day of Winter for us in the Northern Hemisphere; known as the Winter Solstice. December 21st is the shortest day of the year and the longest night. It is the moment when the Northern Hemisphere is the farthest distance from the sun. Also known as "Yule" in some cultures as the birth of the new solar year.

Happy December Birthdays to our little "Legacies":

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Myles - 12/29 | Jonah - 12/20 | Lael - 12/18 |
| Yuri - 12/1 | Noah - 12/19 | Greyson - 12/30 |
| Olivia - 12/21 | Holden - 12/13 | Hatlee - 12/28 |
| Aden - 12/11 | Kaiden 12/18 | Sullivan - 12/24 |
| Wyatt - 12/27 | | |

Happy Birthday to Staff: Ms. Jada / Dreamers A-1

Take a Peek Inside

From the Desk of...
 Framework for Their Future® ~ December
 Enhanced Learning ~ December
 Will you Pass the Peas, Please?
 Family Time: Snowflake Salt Painting

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Let's Celebrate

Hanukkah

December 18th – December 26th

Christmas

Sunday, December 25th

Kwanzaa

December 26th - January 1st



December Class Themes of the Month



Dreamers ~ Theme: Peek-A-Boo Babies

This exciting month brings many things to our infant classroom. Rhymes, fingerplays, songs, and book-making are just a few of the plans to be carried out. The classroom will be alive with the sound of holiday bells and music but rest assured our teachers will take cues from the babies to allow time for choices and self-initiated activities.



Travelers ~ Theme: Ribbons and Rhymes

The last month of the year brings with it some holiday magic in the air. Our little travelers will learn about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We continue our work with rhyming which is proven to help children have an easier time when learning to read. Keep up your great work at home and we will meet our own personal and professional obligations alongside you.



Adventurers ~ Theme: What's Inside?

Awesome smells fill the air as time with your child takes on a special joy of its own. Our toddlers will be making cards for seniors or for those in hospitals. We want to help children learn that the holidays are about giving. As always, we will incorporate letters and numbers into everything we do. While the holidays are exciting, they can also be stressful. Take time to calmly read, listen to music, and enjoy your children and yourself.



Discoverers ~ Theme: Bows & Strings & Special Things

So much is happening this month as the children will learn about the different holidays celebrated in December: Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We will fill our days with Bows and Strings, creative ideas, and, as always, books, supplies, and activities that fit your child's development. Opportunities for art, cooking, literacy, colors, and shapes will round out our glorious calendar year.



Voyagers ~ Theme: Surprises and Celebrations

Children love surprises and this month is filled with many. Activities will focus on Hanukkah, Las Posadas, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. The character-building focus is compassion. We will begin concentrating on letter sounds and reinforce letter recognition. Continue your normal routine whenever possible despite the upcoming festivities. As always, help your child find enjoyment and fulfillment in each other.



Explorers ~ Theme: Community Project

Some of the activities your child will be engaged in are: making wrapping paper, holiday (Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa) cards, talking about family traditions, designing a holiday wish book, learning about involvement in the community, playing freeze tag, and designing their picture frames. As your child is old enough to pick up on stress during this often-frenzied season, try to indulge them in a sense of calm while ensuring it is a joyful celebration.

December

Dreamers



Math- Dreamers will learn about the color red this month! They will touch and feel different red objects and begin to build differentiation skills by identifying red objects in their environment. They will also continue to build shape recognition skills by exploring holiday shapes.

Science- This month infants will be provided varied opportunities for sensory exploration as they discover objects that are cold. They will continue their exploration with snowflakes.

Social Studies- December's Enhanced Learning lessons will focus on self-identification. Infants will practice picking themselves out of the class and work on their sense of others.

Travelers



Math- Travelers will continue to work on shape recognition skills by identifying the shapes they pull from their stockings! They will also get the opportunity to build a snowman using shapes.

Science- Toddlers will explore the senses of winter and strengthen their sense of hearing as they listen for holiday sounds.

Social Studies- Jr. Toddlers will get a chance to practice their sharing skills as they share presents, as well as learn about what stop signs are.

Adventurers



Math- This month is all about shapes for Adventurers. They will build a shape snowman and they will strengthen their shape recognition skills by identifying shapes in the mystery box.

Science- Sr. Toddlers will learn about their sense of hearing as they try to identify what's making the sound in the mystery box. They will also get a chance to make snow by measuring and stirring different ingredients and explore with their senses as they make a snowman.

Social Studies- Adventurers will work as a team to get Santa's reindeer to the sleigh and they will learn about how other countries celebrate Christmas and what their "Santa" looks like.

Discoverers



Math- Discoverers will have the opportunity to explore with units of measurement as they determine how much wrapping paper they need to wrap different presents. They will also work on recognizing and naming patterns with holiday patterns.

Science- 3-year olds will explore with their senses as they create cinnamon ornaments. They will also discover how to create different colors as they twirl and dance with colored streamers.

Social Studies- This month, Discoverers will learn about Hanukkah and why it is celebrated. They will learn about family diversity and how different cultures celebrate different holidays.

Voyagers



Math- Voyagers will work on recognizing, naming, and creating their own patterns with candy canes. They will also have the opportunity to explore with standard and non-standard units of measurement as they measure holiday trees.

Science- 4-year olds will learn about what snow is and will get the chance to create some. They will also learn why ice melts and experiment with accelerating the melting process.

Social Studies- This month, Voyagers will learn about the North Pole and how it differs from their environment. They will also learn about Kwanzaa and why it is celebrated. Children will be exposed to different cultures and cultural celebrations.

Will You Pass the Peas, Please?

Did you know that mealtime isn't just for refueling your child's body? Every area of development can be expanded upon while children are eating!

Motor and Coordination Skills- Encourage your child to serve themselves; using a spoon to scoop a portion and place it on their plate develops children's hand strength, eye-hand coordination, and dexterity. Plus, deciding which foods and how much of each they want help give children a sense of autonomy.



Mathematics- Simple concepts like counting and one-to-one correspondence can be practiced by asking children to count out crackers at snack. Continue to build on these concepts with simple addition and subtraction questions. For example, if your child has two crackers ask what happens when you add two more crackers.

Geometric concepts such as shapes and their breakdown can also be discussed using a variety of food. For example, a graham cracker is a large rectangle that can be broken into two squares, then four small rectangles. An apple can be cut into pieces and when you put the parts together it makes one whole apple again.

Literacy and Science- Sitting down with your child during mealtimes offers opportunities for deeper and longer conversations than are typically possible throughout the day. When children participate in casual conversations, they are developing oral language skills such as self-expression, listening, interpreting voice tones, taking turns, and respecting others. Meals are also an opportunity to talk about nutrition and the importance of eating a variety of healthy foods. Don't be afraid to use big words like vitamins and nutrients!

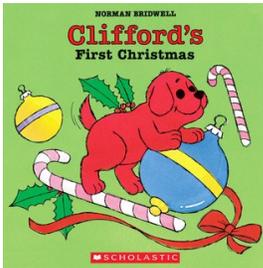
A not-so-obvious benefit of conversations during meals is that children tend to eat at a slower pace. Eating too fast can lead to overeating. Encouraging children to take their time when eating will help them to read their body's cues. When children state they are done eating ask questions such as, "does your stomach feel full?" to help them begin to recognize when they have had enough to eat.

Social and Emotional Skills- Family mealtime is ideal for teaching and modeling social and emotional skills. By asking "will you please pass the peas?" you are showing a polite way to ask for something. You can also help children learn to start with small portions and ask for seconds as well as, encourage trying new foods.

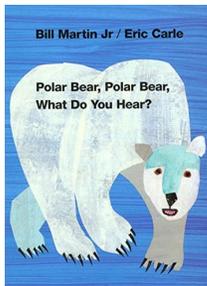
Encouraging your child to help clean up when finished will give them a sense of responsibility and accomplishment and make the cleaning go faster. Young children love being independent and helping, so it is perfect!

Adapted from: Teaching Young Children, Vol 13 No 4, Apr/May 2020

December Books



Clifford's First Christmas
By: Norman Bridwell



Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?
By: Bill Martin Jr.

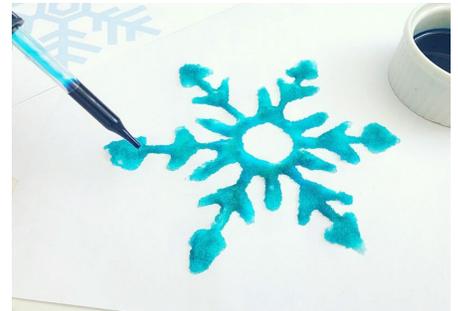


Winter is Here!
By: Heidi Pross Gray

Snowflake Salt Painting

Supplies:

Snowflake Template
4 oz glue bottle
Salt
Food coloring or
watercolor
Pipette or paint brush



Directions

Step 1: Print out a snowflake stencil.

Step 2: Use the glue to draw over the snowflake, making sure to do each small arm. Ask children, "How many arms does your snowflake have?"

Step 3: Put a good amount of salt onto the glue and then carefully pour the excess salt off.

Step 4: Let the glue and salt painting dry.

Step 5: Mix a few tablespoons of water with blue food coloring. **Salt Painting Tip:** The more food coloring you use the darker your "paint" will appear.

Note: You can use watercolor paint as well.

STEP 6: Use a pipette to slowly drip the food coloring onto the snowflakes. Try not to drench the patterns but rather watch the salt soak up one droplet of color at a time.

Notice how the water is absorbed and moves throughout the pattern. You can even try color mixing!

Let your snowflakes dry overnight!

Activity and Photo from: www.littlebinsforlittlehands.com