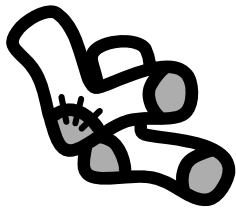




Discovery Zone Gazette

There's No Business Like Snow Business in Toddler 2

Brrrrrrrrrr, it's cold outside and Toddler 2 is bringing winter inside. During the first week of January, the children focused on snow and winter. During circle times, the teachers worked with the children on positional words by putting winter animals on top of the children's heads, under their legs and from hand to hand. This activity helped the children with their language skills and following directions. Other circle time activities were "What to wear outside," "Finding Snowmen" and "Peek-a-boo" which focused on cognitive and language skills. During project time, the children enjoyed shoveling snow, a snowball toss and sled rides in a basket up and down the hallways. This really gave the children a chance to work on taking turns. Our final project for the week used creative skills to decorate snowman hats, that are now hung in the window.



The second week, the children got to mix and match

their socks! We focused on size, color and matching socks. During our project time the children really got excited to skate around the room wearing large socks, this was great for the children's imagination. They jumped turned and even pretended to fall. Each child used self help skills as they put on and took off their "skates." We then put thinking skills to use as each child had to guess what was inside a sock by touching and smelling it. Then we got to eat it. YUM, cheese puffs! Another activity the children really enjoyed was matching socks. They were able to sort by size and color using math skills.

For are third week, the children learned about clouds. The children used their observation skills while walking around the building and looking at different clouds. We talked about their color, shape and size. During circle, the teachers read a variety of cloud books that taught science and language skills. To work on math skills, the children counted out cotton balls and glued them onto blue paper to look like clouds. The children mixed black and white paint to

make a stormy gray cloud, then glued blue streamers to make rain. Last but not least we got messy with cool-whip on foil. We made fluffy clouds and added blue sprinkles as rain, then froze them and got to enjoy a cloudy treat!

Toddler 2 ended the month with a theme on transportation. At circle we talked about all different types of transportation and what transportation is. What was used on land, in water and in the air. The children identified different ways



to travel and were introduced to a map of Connecticut. The children built fine motor skills as they painted cars and added life savers for wheels. Toddler 2 ended the week increasing color recognition as the children created stop lights.

Next month, Toddler 2 will learn about rocks, cooking, bees and the circus.

Discovery Zone Learning Center

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Important Dates:

- 2/5 Fun Day Sign ups due.
- 2/15-2/19 No School (Fun Days)
- Special 2/23 Circus Suitcase

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Infants Explore Nursery Rhymes

The infants began January exploring the winter. The children enjoyed a sensory experience as they made footprint penguins and ripped apart cotton balls for the snow and penguin's belly.

We then continued the month learning to count through a variety of exciting nursery rhymes. We read The Three

Little Kittens That Lost Their Mittens then the children placed painted handprints in mittens. We then sang the 5 Little Ducks and explored feathers. Then painted little ducklings with the feathers. We finished off the month finger painting "5 Little Speckled Frogs," speckling them with the children's fingertips, counting as

the children worked.



We would also like to give a warm welcome to Nicolo, Maya and their families. We also would like to wish Ben M, Devin B, Maddie V, Ryan A, and Alex C the best of luck on their transition to the Toddler program.



Toddler 1 Moves to Music

Toddler 1 worked on number recognition with several projects. The children counted out snowflakes on a hat and counted bears in a cave. They also made AB patterns with snowmen and carrots and with bears and fish. The children played with snow, ice and bears in the sensory table. Toddlers improved color recognition skills as they by matching colored mittens, different colored bears, and hats, mittens, scarves and boots for snowmen. The children worked on spatial awareness by putting together a felt snowman and dressing

Peter from The Snowy Day. Language skills were built through finger plays that had to do with snowflakes, snowmen, and bears. Two favorite songs were "There's a snowflake on my nose" and "Where is sleeping bear." The children have enjoyed dancing to music and have requested it frequently. Another fun activity was bouncing a bear up and down on a blanket.

For February Toddler 1 will work on Groundhogs, Valen-



tines Day, Friendship and Nursery Rhymes.

Toddler 1 started a book club because the children enjoy books and reading so much. Our first theme was bears and was popular with those who chose to join the book club and borrow from the library. We have other themes in mind for the future.



Preschool 10 has a Sweet Dreams

January was all about the winter and science. Preschoolers enjoyed playing in the snow most of the weeks, and even brought some inside for the sensory table. The children enjoyed celebrating Martin Luther King by having discussions about dreams and ended the month with exploring our five senses.

The theme for the first week of January was winter. The children practiced cutting skills by making many coffee filter snowflakes. The children practiced math skills by counting the number of marshmallows they painted on a hot coco mug. Preschoolers built math skills as they created pictures of snowmen using different shapes, as well as ordered them by size. To end the week, the class created a winter story in which each child added a sentence then illustrated their page.



Winter Animals was the theme for the second week. The children created pictures of polar bears using cotton balls, as well as pictures of penguins using paper cut outs. The song "Going on a Bear Hunt" was a classroom favorite and the children created bear caves in dramatic play using large blankets, chairs, and the tables. All of our friends loved playing the winter animal memory game that was in the math center all week. To imagine what it would be like to have no hands and fingers like a penguin, clean socks were placed in the children's hands and they painted a picture of favorite winter animals. The week ended with fine motor development as the class discussed and traced winter animal foot



prints.

For Martin Luther King-Day Preschool 10 had a week that focused on dreams. First, the class celebrated Winnie the Pooh's birthday by bringing Teddy Bears from home. Next, the children were introduced to the significance of Dr. Martin Luther King. The rest of the week was devoted to discussing and sharing dreams as the children built imagination and language skills. At circle one day, the children made a chart of different occupations they dream to have when they grow up. Construction worker and doctor were the top two. There were also discussions of the difference between having a dream of accomplishing something versus dreams that we have at night. Finally the children shared silly dreams that they have had and illustrated.

For the last week of January, Preschool 10 focused on the 5 senses. Monday the class focused on the sense of sight by making binoculars and using magnifying glasses to observe sea shells and buttons in the sensory table. Tuesday was all about the sense of hearing; Preschoolers made musical instruments, danced to music, as well as played with all types of musical instruments in house corner; teachers were wide awake that morning! Smelling was the sense focused on for Wednesday and the class enjoyed reading *Skunk Dog*. The children also identified 4 different scents while blind folded, and created pictures with scratch and sniff stickers. Thursday was all about eating to

discuss our sense of taste. The class sampled 3 different apples to identify which was the most sour, tasted 4 different types of foods to identify the taste of each (salty, bitter, sour, and sweet), and identified different pictures of foods as foods that they like or dislike. On Friday we focused on the sense of touch by observing our friend's show and share items and creating sensory pictures using all different textured materials and identifying what each feels like to the touch.

Now on to February! Preschool 10 will celebrate Ground Hog Day by predicting whether or not the groundhog will see his shadow and talking about and experimenting with shadows. Different heart projects and act of kindness will be in celebration of Valentine's Day. We are looking forward to parading around the school with a paper dragon that we will make to honor the Chinese New Year. We are also looking forward to more snow to play in, be sure to pack snow gear every day because you never know what the weather has in store for us!



Preschool 12 Does the Snow-key Pokey

Preschool 12 started the month of January with a, "Snow and Mittens" theme. The children practiced listening skills during the story, The Mitten by Jan Brett. Then they manipulated art supplies to create patchwork mittens. In the science center, the children observed and experimented with magnets as they placed colorful magnetic pompoms onto a magnetic mitten. Name recognition was the focus as the children enjoyed a "Marvelous Mitten" activity in the literacy center where preschoolers identified pictures to names.

Next, Preschool 12 sang and danced to a silly song called, "Snow-key Pokey" while working on gross motor skills. Then after listening to the story, Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner, the children demonstrated knowledge of the book in the math center. The children graphed and counted the many different ways they like to play in the snow just like the snowmen in the story. Preschoolers then practiced fine motor dexterity by creating snowmen out of play-dough after listening to the story, Snowballs by Lois Ehlert. We ended our week by playing "Freeze! Melt!" The children listened to and sang to the story, Frosty the Snowman by Steve Nelson, and practiced identifying colors from snowmen's different colored hats.

For the second week, Preschool 12 had fun with the "Penguin Pals" theme. The class listened to the story, Where is Home, Little Pip? by Karma Wilson, and practiced estimation and counting skills on an "iceberg." The children demonstrated fine motor skills by manipulating art supplies to make Pip's nest and practiced seriation concept by lining up our penguins from smallest to tallest. The children then learned how to waddle like a penguin while balancing our beanbag "egg," after listening to the story, The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins. Preschool 12 also made penguin prints out of two different size potatoes. The class discussed other animals that are black and white, and how some can fly and some cannot after reading the story, The Penguin Who Wanted to Fly by Catherine

Vase. Math skills were built as the children sorted and matched fish to very, hungry penguins. We played a game of, "Penguin, Penguin, Where's Your Fish?" after reading, Counting Penguins by Betsey Chessen. Then the children made perky, little penguin magnets and played "Peek-A-Boo" Penguins where they practiced math skills of one-to-one correspondence by matching a penguin to its igloo. The penguin theme ended as the children identified rhyming words with the "Five Little Penguin" finger play song after listening to, Little Penguin by Patrick Benson. The class finger painted and made the color purple as they practiced "P" words during the week, and then traced the letter "P" on a dry-erase board.

Next, Preschool 12 practiced, "How to be a friend," by learning about the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the, "Getting Along With Others" theme. The class started the week by making Friendship Punch after listening to the story, Happy Birthday Martin Luther King, Jr. by Jean Marzollo. It consisted of measuring and pouring orange juice, pineapple juice and frozen strawberries into a bowl. We then stirred in a handful of love, then smiles, kindness, etc. and afterwards we all enjoyed sampling it...yumy! The class was then challenged with problem solving skills as the children manipulated several different kinds of puzzles and learned how to share and take turns manipulating packing peanuts inside our sensory table. The children then enjoyed engaging in scientific inquiry by making some bread after reading, The Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone. The children identified the color red as they manipulated different colored craft items to create a red hen. We also put into sequence, "Hen's Many Tasks." Preschool 12 learned how to play cooperatively as they helped find and match each other's shoes after listening to the story, Join In and Play by Cheri Meiners. The children then had their hands traced and used creative expression to think of ways they can use their hands to be helpful. On the computer, the children helped each other play games, share the

mouse, and practice how to be patient and wait for a turn. Then Preschool 12 participated in a group activity called, "Very Grumpy," after listening to a story called, The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Paul Galdone. The children practiced creative expression and fine motor skills while creating a project called, "Who's that Stomping Over My Bridge." Then the children were encouraged to re-enact the story using stick puppets in the block center. We ended the week by singing, "The Sharing Song" as we passed a toy to each other after listening to the story, The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins. The class then colored cookies and learned how to share them by tearing them in half saying, "one half for you, and one half for me."

The last week of the month started with a Special. An awesome Story Teller came to the Center and made us laugh by telling us funny stories and singing silly songs. The next few days preschoolers learned all about "Opposites." The children drew upside down pictures under the table and later on the table. The children enjoyed an obstacle course in the gym where they climbed over and under chairs and tunnels. Next, the children compared and identified opposite concepts by using flash card prints. In the science center, the children discovered opposite textures of soft/hard, smooth/rough, wet/dry, etc. They also learned about big and little as the children compared their shoes against Ms. Erin's and then drew pictures on big and little pieces of paper. In the math center, preschoolers used eye-hand coordination as they patterned and strung different colored big and little beads. The opposite's song also added to the fun of learning about them, and the pictures in our books also helped us to visually identify them as well. It sure was a busy month in Preschool 12.

Next month we will be focusing on Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, Transportation and Dental Health.



Preschool 11 Explores Footprints

Preschool 11 started the New Year off with an extended celebration. The children discussed the New Year and reviewed some favorite songs like the "Months of the Year" and the "Days of the Week". I explained to the children that there are 7 days in a week, and 12 months in the year. The children also used fine motor skills and number recognition to practice writing "2010". The children deco-

rated party hats and illustrated what their New Years resolution was for this new fresh decade.

Next, preschool 11 had a one week theme on "Winter Animals." During this week, the class worked on fine motor skills while they traced winter animal tracks such as wolves, penguins, and deer. The class ventured outside with a notebook tracking all the animal

footprints discovered around DZLC and documented them and did some research we came to the conclusion that we found bunny, squirrel and mouse tracks! The children had to bundle up one day because there was snow in the sensory table. They put mittens on and dug right in. Finally, the class worked on cognitive skills while reading one of their favorite book series "Tacky the Penguin."

Preschool 11 Cont...



During the third week of January, Preschool 11 honored Martian Luther King Jr. The class discussed why he was so well known and why there is a day celebrating his life. The children charted "When I grow up I am going to be?" and verbalized to me what they wanted to be when they grow up. The class also talked about the differences between dreaming at night and having a dream to make a difference in the world.

Finally, preschoolers had a one week theme on the "5 Senses." During this week, they took one day for every sense. For sight,

the children enjoyed a special in the gym called the "Story Teller." For smell, the children smelled jars and were encouraged to name what they had smelled. For taste the class had a taste test and tried four different foods a bitter, sour, sweet and salty food...yummy! For sound, preschoolers played Listening Lotto which was a form of sound bingo in which the children listened to specific sounds and match it with the picture on the card. Finally, for touch the children created sensory pictures in which the children glued all different types of materials onto a paper in any form or fashion they chose. The

materials were rough, smooth, soft, silky and bumpy! The "5 Senses" is always a very successful week in Preschool 11 the children greatly enjoyed the connections they make between their body and how their senses work!

In February our themes will be Ground-hogs and Shadows, Chinese New Year and Valentines Day, USA and our Presidents and Dental Health!

I would like to welcome Mariusz C., Taylor W., and their families to Preschool 11!

Toddler 3 Floats with Boats

Toddler 3 began the month of

January with a week theme on Winter. Toddlers enhanced their fine motor skills through creating snow pictures and marble mittens. Toddlers enjoyed a sensory experience when we

brought snow into the classroom for the children to explore in the sensory table. Shape recognition was enhanced when the children made snowman pictures. And finally, toddlers engaged in another sensory experience when they made penguin footprints. Throughout this week, children were also introduced to several songs pertaining to the winter, as well as some science experiments at circle time.

For the second week of January, Toddler 3 did a week theme on Traditional Songs. Children engaged in songs that were already familiar to them and we expanded on those songs through different projects. Toddlers enjoyed several sensory experiences when they played with play dough and

created animals for "Old MacDonald had a Farm," and ducks were placed into the water table for "Five Little Ducks." The children enjoyed a mixed media art project when they made star paintings for "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Lastly, fine motor was increased when the toddlers made a giant spider web for, "Itsy Bitsy Spider."

Our classroom explored the world of Transportation for the third week in January. The children worked on shape recognition again as they created their own traffic lights. Toddlers expressed creativity and fine motor skills when they made a cardboard box car. Fine motor was enhanced as well through tire track paintings and a car drawing. Toddler 3 enjoyed a double sensory experience with boats in the water table and cars in the sand table. Throughout this week, children were introduced to do some new songs about transportation as well as some old favorites. Toddlers also enhanced their vocabulary



when we looked at pictures of various types of transportation.

To close out the month of January, our classroom learned about Safari Animals. Toddlers went on an animal safari in the classroom searching for animals. Children enhanced their gross motor skills when they acted out different animal movements and



their sounds. Fine motor was increased through two group activities: a stuffed snake and a safari map. Toddlers were able to get their hands dirty when they played with "Cool

Whip Snow" and safari animals in the sensory table. And finally, children enhanced their fine motor skills through sponge painting animal's spots.

For the months of February, Toddler 3 will be exploring the following themes: Spanish Week, Colors and Senses. Toddler 3 hopes everyone had a safe New Years and we look forward to the year ahead!

Center News

Please remember to send snow clothes (snow pants, hats, mittens/gloves, boots and coats) with your child *every day*. We like to bring the children outside daily as long as the weather is 32 degrees or above. Although we do have a limited number of spare items those are reserved for the rare times that snow clothes are forgotten. Remember that if your child is unprepared they may be cold, wet and uncomfortable during outside play. PLEASE do not let this happen!



Great News! We have opened a new Toddler room! Heather D. will be the head teacher of our new room, Toddler 4. Mallory St. will be working with Jane in Toddler 2 to replace Heather. Stacey/Katie will be replacing Mallory in Afterschool until a qualified replacement is hired.



Please take note that Stacey has joined the administrative team. Stacey will be here to address any administrative needs that you may have such as scheduling questions, receipts, and any needed paper-work etc.



