



# Discovery Zone Gazette

## Toddler 1 Gets to Work with Occupations

For the first week in November Toddler 1 focused on occupations. We worked on spatial awareness by placing the police officers uniform in the correct places. For a creative art project we made doctor's bags and glued on different objects that a doctor would use. We matched up construction tools and also sang a popular song about tools called "Bumping Up and Down in my Little Red Wagon."



The second week we worked on transportation. The children practiced number recognition by gluing on

puffs of smoke to a train. They also matched the train's cargo by colors. Two favorite songs that we sang this week were "The Wheels on the Bus" and "Hurry, Hurry, Drive the Fire Truck."

The third week was on Thanksgiving. The children loved playing "There is a Turkey on my Nose." The children would place the turkey various body parts as they listened to the words in the song. The children practiced number recognition with "How Many Feathers are on my Turkey." The children also



made AB pattern with feathers and cornucopias.

For our week on self awareness, we read several books including, The Eye Book, The Ear Book, and Here Are My Hands. The children looked in a mirror and added their eye color and hair color for a self portrait. They also sorted facial features by matching up pictures of eyes, noses, mouths, and ears. Toddlers identified body parts and made a fun collage from them.

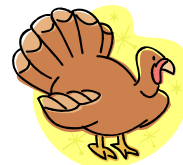
For December Toddler 1 will do units on Family, Candy Canes, Reindeer, and December Holidays.

## Infants Do "Hands On" Art

The infant room would like to wish Ben M. and Madeleine V. a happy 1st birthday! We would also like to give a warm welcome to our new friend Evan L. As you already know, we have made our move into the new building!! Please bare with us as we continue to make adjustments. During the month of No-

vember, the infant room focused on Thanksgiving and transportation. The babies made colorful turkeys using their hand and footprints. Native Americans were made using footprints and dressing them according to their customs. Tee-pees were finger painted in fun, exciting colors. Next for Thanksgiving, the infant

room made Pilgrims using their footprints and finger painted ships for them to sail to the new land. Putting an end to transportation, the babies colored moving trucks and helped the teachers by placing small toys into boxes.



## Discovery Zone Learning Center

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## Upcoming Events

- 12/24 & 12/25  
CLOSED for Christmas
- 12/28-12/30 Fun Days for School Ageds. Remember to sign up by 12/18.
- 12/30 Kasha's Favorite animals comes to educate and entertain the children.
- 12/31 & 1/1 CLOSED for New Years.

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## Preschool 11 "Harvests" Learning

November began with a one week theme on rhyming and singing. During this week the preschoolers worked on singing the alphabet everyday at circle. We also worked on a neat project where the children traced their hands on a piece of felt. Using their fine motor skills we cut out our hands and then assembled the fingers to "sign" the first letter of the child's name. We also enjoyed a new book called I Met a Moose in Maine one Day. This book is full of laughs and rhymes that we read several times that week and since then! The second week of November was a



theme on pumpkins and corn and harvest. During this week the children got to do many hands on activities involving the two vegetables. We dissected a pumpkin and painted with Indian corn. We worked on math and counting skills by adding and subtracting pumpkin seeds and we learned several new songs about scarecrows and pumpkins! The third week was our short week before Thanksgiving. We read a new book called Gracias the Thanksgiving Turkey. While reading our book the children learned several new Spanish words that related to the Thanksgiv-

ing holiday! We baked cranberry-orange muffins while working on measuring, stirring, and what scientifically happens during the cooking process. Finally, the children wrote and illustrated what they were thankful for this year. We then packed up the old DZLC and moved to our new center! Our preschoolers were all a huge help cleaning and packing!

During the month of December, we will be learning about Hanukkah and kwanza, winter fun, and Christmas! Happy Birthday to Amelia and Allie!



Happy Holidays!

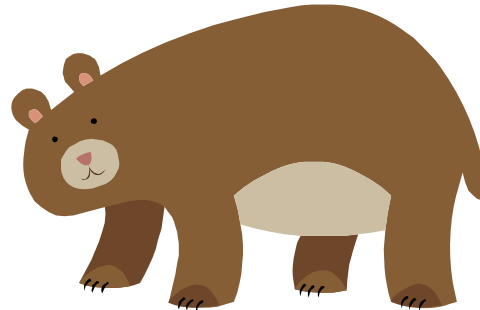


## Fun Doesn't Hibernate in Preschool 12

In Preschool 12 we started up our engines...vroom, vroom, vroom and raced into preschool. We used fine motor skills by manipulating art supplies and created paper plate steering wheels. We used them to practice driving down the hall using walking feet. We also created broken-down cars after reading, Rattletrap Car by Phyllis Root. During circle time we continued learning about the calendar and weather as well as our rules and routines. The children learn responsibility through helper jobs and cooperation and patience when they have to wait for the ideal job. The children are also fascinated by the daily routine chart and look forward to checking it often to see what's next. It has truly been a fun week while transitioning into preschool.

The following week, as we continued practicing the daily routine, we also learned about animals in the winter. In our center choice activity, the children practiced socializing skills as

they pretended to be bears hibernating in the classroom "cave." We also practiced fine motor skills by creating a cave with a brown bear inside of it. In the science center the children learned about animal prints and then pretended to be scientists as they wore white lab coats and investigated our own thumbprints by using a stamp pad and magnifying glasses. In the math center Preschoolers played the Paw Path Game while practicing relating number to quantity. In the language and literacy center the children put their imaginations to work while illustrating a page for the first class book titled Children, Children, What do you see? after we read the story Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? by Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle. We also



learned about a prickly pal named hedgehog that wore a silly sock as a hat and then created our own hedgehog art project after listening to the story, The Hat by Jan Brett.

The next couple of weeks we will be focusing our attention on December holidays and some winter fun!

I am thrilled and excited to be teaching in my preschool classroom at DZLC. The journey through preschool is a once in a lifetime event and it is my intent to provide the best opportunities for our little, precious treasures to become successful learners. My goal is to meet all children where they are developmentally and assist them to develop into their full potential.

## Preschool 10 Packs and Moves

Can you believe it is already December and Christmas is just around the corner? November was a busy month with Thanksgiving; lots of art projects and discussions of what we are thankful for. We were also busy moving to our new beautiful center.

The first week of November focused on rhyming. We made a large painting of a frog on a log, and played a frog and log matching & rhyming game. We also pulled words out of a hat and had to come up with a word that rhymed it. Afterward we illustrated the rhyming pairs. Our story for circle time was Dr. Seuss' *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*, followed by a project that consisted of sponge painting different colored fish and counting the number of each color and then writing the



number.

Our theme for the second week of November was corn and harvest. Corn kernels took over the sensory table all week, the children loved playing in them. We used pieces of corn stalks as paint brushes to create a fall colored painting. At circle one day we observed various types of fresh fruits, including mango and grapefruit. The children were very curious about the mango and grapefruit so we sliced them open to observe the colors, fruit, seeds, and scent of them. We also enjoyed delicious cornbread that we made as a class.

Thanksgiving was our theme the third week. The children all enjoyed the story *One Little, Two Little Pilgrims* and making paper Pilgrim and Native American hats. We also traced our friend's hands for our thankful turkey

that hung on our wall. It was cute to hear the things that the children were thankful for. There were also many other turkey projects including the tie-died coffee filter turkeys.

Our last week of November consisted of moving and packing. With soap, water, and toothbrushes we were able to have fun cleaning our toys. Miss Jessica gave hints to what our new class room looks like and we drew a picture illustrating what we pictured it to look like. We also practiced writing our names for new name tags.

Now we are in our new classroom and love it! We are all looking forward to playing in the snow on our new playground. December will be filled with many art projects for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We will also be busy working on our holiday gifts.

## Toddler A Gets Thankful

Toddler A started out the month of November by learning about the harvest and being thankful. Problem solving and gross motor was developed with an activity of banging pegs into a pumpkin. Math skills were enhanced by making some delicious pumpkin muffins. The class used our sense of taste by taste testing various foods found in a cornucopia. Toddlers also enjoyed a sensory experience with bird seed and apples in the sensory table. Lastly, the children developed fine motor skills and learned how to follow directions when they created leaf prints.

For the second week of November children learned about Thanksgiving and pumpkins. Scientific awareness was enhanced when toddlers were able to explore the inside

of a pumpkin. Gross motor and problem solving skills were developed when children were given the opportunity to jump over pumpkins. Toddlers were able to creatively express themselves by making their own placemats for Thanksgiving. Children enjoyed a sensory experience by making turkey handprints. Finally, toddlers increased spatial awareness when they pinned a nose on the pumpkin.

In the third week of November children participated in various activities involving Eric Carle books. Gross motor skills were developed when the children danced as different animals and insects from the book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear." Fine motor skills were enhanced when the toddlers made chameleon painting with colors that they chose themselves.

Fine motor skills were again developed when the children colored their own butterflies and used a water bottle to mesh the colors together to create vibrant butterflies. Lastly the children enhanced their gross motor skills and recognition of body parts with an activity with the book "Head to Toe." They were also able to enjoy a sensory experience with the water table and several animals from the book.

The month of November was wrapped up with a second short week theme on Thanksgiving. Fine motor skills were developed when the toddlers made corn cob paintings. Cooking and math skills were enhanced by making apple cinnamon muffins. Science and vocabulary was improved

## Toddler A Continued

when the children sang the cornucopia song and again discussed the different foods found in one.

Toddler 3 will begin the month of December with a week theme on games and will also be creating ornaments for the men and women serving our country right now. The second week of December will be spent learning all about Christmas. For the third week of December our class will be busy making our Christmas presents and Christmas cards for our parents. We will end the month with a theme on Hanukkah.



## Center News

Welcome to the new and improved Discovery Zone Learning Center! We are so thankful to have made it through the move and would like to thank all of our families for your support through a couple of very busy weeks. We are so excited to be in our new space but realize that the most important factor is the care that DZLC provides for your children. It is our goal to maintain the same level of personal care that you have always received at DZ even as we grow.

As many of you know Stacey joined our staff during October. Stacey continues to be a valuable member of the DZLC staff but her role is now expanded. Stacey will continue to assist in classrooms when needed as well as take on some administrative duties. Please don't hesitate to come to Stacey with any questions that may be typically reserved for Robin or Christine.

Finally, remember that we always attempt to go outside at least once daily even during the winter months. Please be sure to send your child with a hat, mittens, boots, snow pants, and a coat *every* day. Also, please be advised that if your child is unprepared s/he must still go outside with his/her class. We do NOT want your child to be wet, cold or uncomfortable so please be sure to send appropriate cold weather clothes each and every day.



Please take note of our new format. We have decided to take a look back at what the children did during the previous month so that we could show you a more accurate picture of what was successful and what your children enjoyed. Please share any feedback you may have about

*Happy Holidays from  
the DZLC family to  
yours*

