



# Discovery Zone Gazette

## Infants Hung Stockings on Chimneys with Care

The month of December the infants kept very busy!!

They started the month learning about Hanukkah.

The children enjoyed practicing their language, communication and social development by reading books and singing songs such as Hanukkah and "I am a Little Dreidel." They practiced cognitive skills by finger painting a Menorah and used body awareness skills and physical development by "spinning" like a dreidel.



The next theme the Infants enjoyed was stockings. Infants read various Christmas books such as Llama Llama Holiday Drama and The Twelve Days of Christmas. They also used their cognitive skills by finger painting different colored stockings. The older infants really enjoyed their social and emotional play by hiding toys in a stocking and then finding the toys inside. The younger infants enjoyed the physical play more by finding their own "stocking" or socks on their

feet.

Next, the children learned about Santa and Reindeer. The children loved saying and hearing "Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!" It made most of them smile and some even laugh! Next, the infants practiced "Where is your belly?" because we all know how Santa's big belly is famous! During their cognitive play they enjoyed using both their hands and their feet to create a reindeer painting. Lastly, the infants enjoyed reading The Night Before Christmas while they all listened very nicely through the story, practicing their language and communication skills.

The last theme was Christmas. The Infant class began by reading and singing Christmas songs to get everyone in the holiday spirit. During cognitive development activities, the class made a group project by taking turns decorating different parts of the Christmas tree hung on the bulletin board. To aid in physical development, the teachers took an empty

box and hid toys inside. Putting the toys in and out was modeled for the children before they had the opportunity to open "presents."

New Years was the final theme. Infants practiced their language, communication, social and emotional development by reading books and singing songs such as Hooray for the New Year and "Let's Give A Cheer, For The New Year." Working on physical development, the infants used their fingers to count down from 10 to 0 for the New Year and shouting, "Hooray!"

Congratulations to Vanessa who join the toddler room. We would like to welcome Riley, Marion and their families to the infant room, we look forward to having you!

Next month the infants we'll learn about hibernation and bears, snow and snowman and penguins!



## Discovery Zone Learning Center

### December 2010

#### Important Dates:

- CLOSED- 12/24, 12/27, 12/30, 12/31
- Physical/Immunization Notice- due 1/14/11

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## Preschool B Greet a New Teacher

The preschoolers in Preschool B made way for a new teacher. During the second week of December, Ms. Holly started and made the whole week all about welcoming. The preschoolers and Ms. Holly took the time over the week to learn a new weather song, as well as a good morning song. They also learned a new song to help them get all their wiggles out and keep bodies still to start the day. Along with learning some new songs, the children got to explore with new dramatic play clothes to reinforce role play as well as new blocks to work on fine motor

skills. The week was also spent on working on their Christmas gifts for parents. The children used fine motor and sensory skills to create snowmen by painting their arms and using paint-pinkies a paintbrush to their arms and markers to draw their faces.



For the third week in December the preschoolers focused on Holidays. To start off the week, Christmas books were read, with art activities that

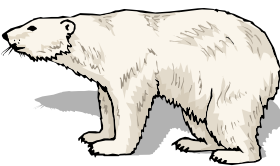
complimented it such as Christmas trees and twinkling stars. They also made a Menorah using birthday candles and lifesavers. As a center choice activity, Preschoolers worked on fine motor skills by weaving a Kwanza mat. One day was also devoted to Dr. Seuss's, How the Grinch Stole Christmas. When reading the story and participating in discussion, as well as doing a floor puzzle that encourages problem solving and working together.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Holly to the DZLC staff full time!



## Preschool A Leads Santa's Sleigh

During the month of December Preschool A learned about winter animals, holiday crafts, and holidays



around the world.

To begin the month, the class discussed a variety of winter animals. The children learned about polar bears, penguins, seals, among others. Polar bears were created using shaving cream. The children were asked to cut out their polar bears and then paint it with shaving cream. To practice fine motor skills, the children created penguins using different size hearts. Color matching skills were exercised as



they played a penguin color matching game.

For the next week of December, Preschool A moved onto a theme about holiday crafts. The children created angels using their fine motor skills while cutting and gluing. They also made candy canes by painting with marbles. To practice name writing, the children traced their names on the top of the stockings. A Christmas tree shape game was also played as a center choice to practice recognizing shapes. The children really enjoyed making reindeer by tracing their hands and feet.



The following week focused on holidays around the world such as Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. The class learned new poems at circle time such as "Share Your Light" and "Santa's in His Shop." Preschool A exercised their fine motor skills, by making a sponge paint Kinara and creating Christmas trees. Several different books were read to learn about Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. To practice hand-eye coordination, the children played an ornament toss game.

Welcome Maggie, Heather and their families to Preschool A.

Next month preschoolers will learn about colors, winter and the 5 senses.

## Toddlers Light the Menorah

The toddler room would like to welcome Vanessa and her family to our class. We wish Jenna and Connor a Happy Birthday, they both turned two this month. We sadly say goodbye to Ava and her family and send best wishes for their new baby, Xavier!

The first week of December the Toddlers worked on a Hanukkah theme. The children used their fine motor skills to paint dreidels, followed directions to make latkes and took turns to pin the candle on the Menorah. The toddlers also used large motor skills to jump over the Menorah candles.



During the second week of December, the toddlers followed directions to make a paper tube snowman. They used their creativity to paint a snow storm and painted a snow scene with white paint and salt. The children worked on cooperation as they worked together to build a snowman. The children took turns to add a hat, scarf, mittens and boots.



The toddlers started the third week of December with a Christmas theme. The children used their fine motor skills to make nosy reindeer, they painted with tree branches (antlers) and decorated stockings using glitter, stickers and pom poms.

The Toddler Class continued the Christmas theme in the fourth week of December. The children painted with pine needles, used their fine motor skills to string fruit loops on string to make a garland. They also followed directions to make antler head bands using their handprints. The children also played pin the star on the tree as a group. The last week of December, the children rang in the new year while using noise makers such as bells and drums. The toddlers decorated noise makers with pom poms and glitter and made a New Year's hat.

The themes in the month of January will include winter animals, snow and ice and families.



## Kindergarteners Explore Reading

The first week of December the children explored a theme on Ship Shape Math. They used one to one correspondence, spatial awareness and problem solving skills when exploring different block shapes and water wonders. The kindergarteners also worked on sorting, patterning and recognizing shapes in their environment.

The next theme for the month of December was Bears and Hibernation. The children read many books including, We're Going on a Bear Hunt and The teddy Bears' Picnic. The children

worked on cooperation skills while going on an imaginary bear hunt and literacy skills when reading Brown Bear, Brown Bear.

The third week of December, the children worked on a whole week of literacy when reading, The Mitten.

December 20-24th the kindergarteners had a theme of Holidays. The children

learned about Kwanzaa and the three colors that are important on that holiday. The children also worked on different textures of trees and fine motor skills when spinning a dreidel.

The children will meet their new teacher the week of January 10th. Ms. Kate is currently a student at ECSU and is pursuing her BA Degree in Psychology and ECE. Kate has worked in other daycare facilities and DZLC is happy to welcome her!



## Center News

- Please remember to change out your child's extra clothes in their cubbies- the weather is changing!
- Label your children's items.
- **Reminder - close all gates and doors behind you so that the**

**children can stay safe!**

- Snow gear! The children will be going outside to explore the snow if it's 32 or above.
- Please make the center aware when your child will be out or late

for the day!

- Reminder- tuition is due by **Wednesday 8 am** of the week of care to avoid a \$20 late fee.