



Discovery Zone Gazette

Infants Bundle Up

The Infant room started off the new year learning about hibernation and bears. The children practiced their language and communication skills by reading various books such as Hibernation and Brown Bear, Brown Bear. Next, the infants used their cognitive development by painting their palms (some with help) and using their fingertips to create a bears face. The infants had lots of fun during their social/emotional play when using a blanket to hide under and then pop out, pretending to hibernate! They all were very amused and showed lots of emotions during this play. Not only did they enjoy the hibernation game, but they also enjoyed a pajama day to help represent hibernation, which even the teachers enjoyed very much. During physical development the older infants practiced crawling on all fours like a bear including making bear noises, while the younger infants practiced their reaching skills towards a



stuffed bear. Everyone enjoyed snuggling with the bear as well. The next theme was snow and snowmen. The timing of this theme couldn't have been any better with all of this snow! First, the children enjoyed many books and sang many songs while practicing language, communication and social skills. Some of those songs and books were; Snowmen At Night, Sledding, "Roll, Roll, Roll, the Snow," and " Snowing All Around." Not only did the infants learn about the snow, but they used hands on sensory skills to touch and play with it. The children seemed to have mixed reactions, most likely because of the cold. During physical development the infants worked on motor skills by rolling, reaching and catching the snow. After the snow theme the infants learned about penguins. They enjoyed reading the book Penguins, Penguins, Everywhere and also enjoyed singing the "Penguin Action" song. The song expressed their emotions while practicing the finger play. Next, they

used their cognitive skills when painting their feet and stamping them on paper to create penguins. Then the children used their body awareness skills by reaching, crawling, or walking to the penguin. Some of the infants tried to walk like a penguin. Another theme this month was "Dressing warm." The children started off learning all about mittens. The teachers read the book The Mitten to help practice their listening skills and sang the song "Mitten Music." Next, the infants made mitten hand prints which helped them learn about their physical development by finding their hands or asking them "Where do the mittens go?" Finally the class focused on coats and jackets. Language and literacy was built as the children listened to the story Chick Gets Dressed and sang the song "Warming Up." The infants love reading books and singing songs while expressing their emotions.



Discovery Zone Learning Center

January 2010

Important Dates:

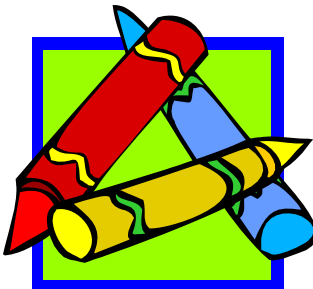
- Fun Day week-21-25
- Special 2/24 @ 10:30

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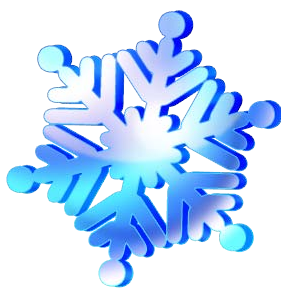
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Preschool A Mix up their Colors!

To start off the month of January Preschool A jumped into a theme all about colors. Primary colors were talked about as the children mixed red, blue, and yellow to explore the outcome. Using primary colors, the children painted circles using marbles and a bucket.



The children got to choose two colors and were then asked to make a prediction about which color it will make when they mix. They created rainbows using squares of tissue paper. The children were asked about the order of a rainbow and then encouraged to glue the tissue paper on in layers of the rainbow. The most enjoyable activity for the children



was the corn syrup chameleons. Teachers mixed corn syrup in with food coloring, and the children were asked to paint with it. As they were painting they noticed how sticky it was, and wanted to go wash their hands.

For the next two weeks in January, Preschool A was a winter wonderland. To practice shape recognition the children made snowmen using all different shapes. They were asked to identify the shape and then decide which part of the body it was going to be used for. They also made beautiful snowflakes which are displayed above the cubbies using pasta, glue, and glitter. To make igloos the children used fine motor skills along with sugar cubes and frosting. During the second week on winter, the Preschoolers used and practiced their cutting skills by cutting out hats, boots, and mittens for their paper plate snowmen. For all the snow we're getting, the class also created snow measuring sticks. The children painted them and then helped to glue on and create the facial features. The project the children enjoyed the most was the sweet snowman one. The children used marshmallows, pretzel sticks, and raisins to create a cute, and edible snowman.

To end the month of January, Preschool A explored the world of the 5 senses. Each day Preschool A focused on a different sense. To use their eyes, the children created self portraits while looking in the mirror. While using their ears, they created instruments. They observed the different sounds that each ob-

ject made. While using the sense of touch, the children created a mixture called Blue Goop by mixing together water and corn starch. While playing with the goop Preschoolers used a variety of descriptive words. While talking about the sense of smell, the children painted with their noses. The children were asked to dip their noses on shallow plate of paint, and then make prints on paper. Pictures will be up soon! The last sense to learn about was taste. Of course the class did a taste test. The preschoolers were asked to taste several foods, and then talk about each experience. Once again, look for pictures soon.



Happy birthday to Cara and Caitlin in the month of February!

In February Preschool A children will learn about Groundhog Day and Shadows, mail, valentine's Day, and dental hygiene.

Center News

- If Amanda does not have your email address please turn it in ASAP so that you can be updated on all DZLC information.
- If your child is going to be out or

late for the day, please call/email the center to update us.

- We will now have closing(for rare occasions) notices on more than one channel. Please keep an eye out

for signs and emails for more information.

- Please remember to close the sidewalk gate behind you.

Toddlers Get Creative!

The Toddler Room would like to celebrate Aidan McDonald on starting the potty training process!

The first week of January, Toddlers worked on a Snowman theme. The children used their fine motor skills to decorate a top hat, used matching skills to match snowmen by color of hats and scarves and followed directions in building a snowman as a group project.



During the second week of January, the children learned about winter animals. They followed a two step direction to make cotton ball polar bears, used their counting skills to count fish for polar bears, and the children used large gross motor skills to move like penguins and jump over winter animals.

The third week of January the children learned "All about Me." The Toddlers used their matching skills to match a big hand and little hand by color, used fine motor skills to dress paper dolls and followed directions in making thumbprint cookies.

The fourth week of January the kids worked on Creative Art Theme. The children used fine motor skills and creativity to draw with chalk, followed

a two step direction while making a tissue paper water collage and using fine motor skills painting with bubble wrap.



The last week of January and first part of February the children used flashlights to make shadows, use fine motor to paint groundhogs with sponges and go on a groundhog search.

February themes will include, Valentines, things that go together and dental health.

Kindergarten Sings a New Song

As January started, the Kindergarten class welcomed their new teacher, Miss Kate to the classroom with a week of welcome activities



and classroom creations. The class read Chrysalthemum, a story about a mouse who didn't like her name.

The children then discussed their names, made brand new name plates, and even practiced guessing and writing their classmates' names. Who would have guessed that we all know how to recognize our friends' names! The class finished up the week by creating a giant Kinder"garden" picture and creating a story to go along with it. They also helped establish new class rules and

a new welcome song.

The class also explored Forests, learning about different types of trees and animals in the forest. Using memory skills, the class was able to match patterned leaves and collect bunches of pairs. The class also spent a few days reading Stellaluna, a story of a bat who believes she is a bird. The class discussed the differences and similarities between bats and birds and even created a tree and birds' nests for the birds to live in.



The last theme to be explored in January was bodies and senses. The class made huge paper tracings of

their bodies and made paper versions of themselves. Sight, smell, sound, and touch were also explored as the class got down and dirty with textured finger paints, created stories about their hands, and played a dizzying round of pin the tail on the donkey. Through creative and sometimes messy play, the class learned about how their senses and bodies help them every single day.

In February, the Kindergarten class plans to explore Fairytales, Shapes, and two weeks of Animal Investigation starting at the farm and ending at the zoo.



Preschool B Runs Runs As Fast As They Can!

January was full of fun for Preschool B. The first week was spent exploring the sensational world of gingerbread men, including many different stories of how the gingerbread man ran away, such as the Gingerbread Cowboy. The children worked together as two groups to create two large gingerbread men, which included mixing brown paint with ginger for a sensory experience. The Preschoolers also got to enjoy another "scent-sational" project when making gingerbread ornaments by mixing applesauce, glue, cinnamon, and ginger. Next, the Preschoolers practiced following directions to make gingerbread kids in order to place eyes and glitter glue, as well as buttons onto their gingerbread creation. Lastly, the class enjoyed a gingerbread treat by decorating a gingerbread man cooking and building a gingerbread house with bread, butter, and cinnamon sugar.



For the second week in January, the Preschoolers explored winter. The class enjoyed stories about snow jackets, mittens, boots, cold noses, as well as snow days with no school. To relate to a story, as well as work on fine motor skills, the children decorated and colored jackets that they would wear in the snow. For a sensory experience, the Preschoolers got to decorate a cup of

hot chocolate by painting with chocolate syrup and counting out marshmallows for the top. Next, the children used their senses to paint a wintry scene by using salt and glue and rubbing it in. Lastly, the class enjoyed a fine motor frenzy by creating fuzzy mittens, using scissors and yarn and snipping the edges to create fuzz for the mittens.

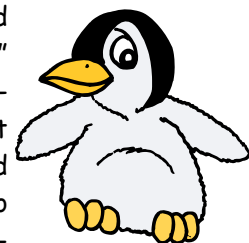
Preschool A got a chance to explore winter for another week during the third week of January. The class continued the theme with more books about winter including snowmen, making footprints in the snow, and describing snow. The class also continued with sensory experiences by painting a snowman using small and large marshmallows as a paintbrush. The Preschoolers got to use their creativity to decorate a Popsicle stick snowflake using small marshmallows and glitter. Next, they got to get loud by using marbles and a shoe box to create a snow storm on paper. The children enjoyed eating the snow folk face using rice cakes, cream cheese, raisin, and cheese triangles.

Lastly, the Preschoolers got an introduction to fine motor skills within tearing paper in order to make a torn snowman.



Preschool B wrapped up the month with a theme on penguins. They got to talk and read about different types of penguins. They used fine

motor skills and practiced following directions to put together all the pieces of a penguin and paint the palm of their hand to complete their perky penguin. Next, Preschoolers got to eat what penguins eat - fish! Using different types of goldfish and sunflower seed kernels to represent krill. They used measure cups to measure out their snack while learning math and science skills. The children used creativity to create penguin drawings. Working on fine motor and creativity, the Preschoolers built an igloo for their penguin out of sugar cubes. Lastly, they enjoyed making a "handy" penguin by tracing and painting their hand and cutting it out to look like a penguin.



Next month, the Preschool B will explore trains (with a day for Groundhog Day), mail, Valentines, Hearts, and Red and dental hygiene.