

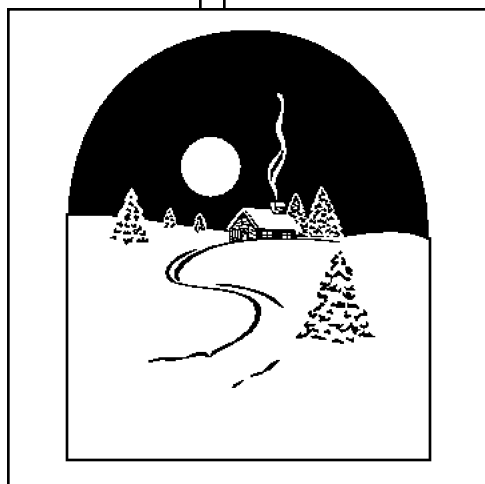
Toys and Math

Thank you for your response to our holiday toy drive. The quality of the gifts was wonderful. The quantity was overwhelming. Deliveries to the Arvada Christmas Store were made by 4 of our own families. Children of our Arvada neighbors were the happy recipients.

Math Moments with your children are all around you. On January 27, we will have our annual Family Pizza Supper and Math Night. This will give you lots of ideas for things to do at home to build early math skills with your child. We encourage you to accept the challenge to find math moments at home or about town.

With your child, identify numbers and shapes in your junk mail. As you cook or do errands, you can make comments or ask questions that encourage meaningful math

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KIDS' DISCOVERY DAYS Newsletter

January, 2009



Director's Notes

Calendar

January

5, Monday

Classes resume

19, Monday

No classes - Martin Luther King Day

20-30

Fall 2009 preregistration. Watch for enrollment information and sign up early!

27, Tuesday

6:00 PM

Family Pizza Supper and Math Night
We'll get the pizza. Plan to make a donation to cover the cost.

February

2, Monday

Open Community Registration Begins
Your friends and neighbors may enroll.

9, 10 **Valentine Exchange** (Monday and Tuesday)

11, 12 **Parent Teacher Conferences - No Classes**
(Wednesday and Thursday 9:00-11:30)

13 **No Classes - Staff Training Day** (Friday)

16 **No Classes - Presidents' Day** (Monday)

The holiday season was exciting and busy for us beginning on December 5, with activities related to our five senses. The children identified items using their five senses and found or illustrated pictures to represent each sense.

The *Weekly Reader* make a book on the five senses gave them an opportunity to “read” the patterned text.

They also created beautiful glittered pine cones to hang on the KDD Christmas tree, as well as on their own trees.

We enjoyed Jan Brett’s delightful book, *The Gingerbread Baby*, on December 12, followed by the children’s decorating their own gingerbread babies for our holiday bulletin board.

Toddler News

Welcome back to school for a fun new year! We hope that you had a very good holiday with your families; I had a nice break with mine. During December, we had a lot of fun making holiday crafts and hanging them on the wall in the hallway. Our pajama days before Christmas were also fun! The children looked so cute in their PJs!

During the month of January, we will focus our theme around snow. We will make snowmen and snowflakes and do several other winter weather crafts. We hope that the weather will cooperate with us and we will get to play outside in the snow.

Please remember to send appropriate cold weather gear to school. Even if we only make it outside for a few minutes, they love stomping around and playing in the snow.

As always, please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. Happy New Year!

Jennifer Potter 303-422-2784

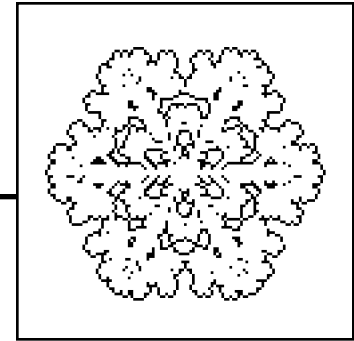
Connecting number dot-to-dot pictures to make a gingerbread man and placing pictures in a sequence to tell a story were among the early math and early literacy skills that we practiced.

On December 19, we read *The Gingerbread Man* and dramatized the story with simple props. Our feast of holiday foods was delicious, thanks to all of our generous Friday class parents who contributed the

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Preschool 3/4 Lisa Newkirk 303-420-2888

During the month of January, our themes will include winter, snow and ice, and Arctic animals. We will make "igloos" and dramatize Jan Brett's book, *The Mitten*.

Please remember to have your child dress appropriately for the weather and to send warm outer clothing with your child. January can be one of our coldest months in Colorado! Please label your child's clothing when possible. We follow Jefferson County Public Schools' policy of going outside if it is 20 degrees or warmer. If you have helped out in the classroom, you know that it can be physically exhausting to get ten children dressed to go outside. Please encourage your child's independence by teaching him/her to put on his/her coat, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens. We will be glad to help out with snaps, zippers, etc. This is a big boost to your child's self confidence and a prerequisite for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration is in January for Jefferson County public schools. If you have questions about your child's readiness for Kindergarten, please feel free to talk to me before or after class, or call me at home. Children must be 5 years old by October 1, 2009.

Our Friday Friends field trips are tentatively scheduled for January 16 & 30.

Math Moments

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understandings. For instance, "We need a bottle of juice for each person in the family and for your friend Kayla, too. How many shall we get?"

Children love to be consulted on such issues. Just keep it all fun! Remember, you are your child's first and most important teacher.

Community Resource

Nature Adventures: A Parent-Child Program for children 4-6. Majestic View Nature Center presents this Saturday program of nature activities, stories, and games. Call 5 days in advance to save your space. January 17, 11:00-11:45 AM. No fee.



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food.

Reading the pop-up book, *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, dancing the "Jingle Bell Rock" with Santa, observing a Gingerbread Family music box, and enjoying more holiday songs and chants made the occasion very festive for all of us.

I'm looking forward to more adventures in learning in the new year.

Best wishes for a Happy 2009!

Preschool Two/Three

Welcome back to Preschool Two/Three. It was nice to have the break, but I am sure we will all be glad to be back in our normal routine.

We had fun last month with all of the holiday activities, especially making presents for our families and our holiday feast. I am sure you are still hearing “Jingle Bells” around your house. This month, we will focus on winter, snowflakes, and penguins.

January Songs

I’m a little snowman, short and fat.
Here is my broomstick, here is my hat.
When the sun comes out, I melt away.
Down, down, down, down.
Oops, I’m a puddle.

(tune: “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”)
Boots, mittens, scarf and hat, scarf and hat (2X)
I’m not cold when I put on all of that.
Boots, mittens, scarf and hat.

Please continue to send warm coats, gloves, and boots. We go outside on all days unless the temperature is below 20 degrees. The kids love to play outside and don’t notice the cold as much as the adults. It is so important to their gross motor development to get outside to run, jump, climb, scoop, and pedal. Please feel free to call us if you have a concern or question.

Cindy 303-469-1160
Suzanne 303-424-5806



Preschool 4/5

Shirley Pierce 303-420-8353

Animals in winter will be one of our areas of study in January. We’ll learn terms such as “migrate,” “hibernate,” and “camouflage” as we read books and *Let’s Find Out* papers about the subject.

The cold weather in December kept us from grinding corn outside, so we’ll still do that activity on the first day that we can take turns grinding in comfort.

Snowflakes (hexagons) will reinforce our math study of shapes. Children will also learn to fold and cut tissue paper to make their own snowflakes for a beautiful art display.

We’ll also begin our study of dinosaurs this month. Children have an amazing capacity to learn names of the various dinosaurs and to recognize them in books and on posters.

Dinosaurs will help us learn about physiology and paleontology. We’ll use small dinosaur figures to practice counting and sorting. We’ll sing dinosaur songs and use rubber stamps and sponges to create dinosaur art.

Our class will continue practicing name writing; many children still forget to use lower case letters after the initial capital letter.

We’ll use calendar counting and games such as bingo to encourage number recognition.

Preschool Three

Welcome back to school. The Preschool Three class is ready for a new year of fun and learning. We will continue to encourage recognition of our names by using name tags on coat hooks, mailboxes, and the snack table and by switching over to last names as the children are ready.

A special focus this semester will be number recognition and identification in games and activities. We have especially enjoyed learning songs and finger plays, and the children often request their favorite books and stories.

During the winter months, we will enjoy science experiences including growing crystals on the science table. We will make a “volcano” by causing a chemical reaction between soda and vinegar. Snow will come inside to be enjoyed in the water table. You can look forward to hearing these events described and explained by your child.

Penny Owings 303-421-2365