

January '12 Yellow Room Newsletter

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a wonderful winter break. I am really looking forward to seeing the children and getting back into the classroom together!

Dates for you calendar

Feb. 2-Pajama Day. Kids can wear their pajamas to school (if they would like to—no pressure!) and bring a favorite book and a stuffed animal, if they like. We will make pancakes, read bedtime stories, and do other day and night activities all week. We'll play in the Monkey Room rather than outside playground. Please wear shoes. Slippers are OK in the classroom, but they are slippery for climbing in the Monkey Room.

December Learning

Lots of gift making activities! Painting, wrapping, cards.

Putting on snowgear—this is a process with the Yellow Room, and we will continue to work on it with your support. Please coach your child so they can learn to put on snowpants. Idea: If your child is very resistant to learning this, try having a small reward for after they do their snowpant learning/work.

Learning about Hanukkah. Many thanks to Esme's mom and Avery's mom and grandma for helping us learn about dreidels and latkes.

Yoga-so great for self control, relaxation, balance, and strengthening. We'll continue to explore this.

More roleplay-The ice cream shop has helped kids begin to explore taking on a role. What would a customer say? What would a worker do? Try having fun with this at home, playing restaurant or doctor.

Increasing playing together-I am delighted to see children more and more interested in playing together—this brings more opportunity for working out conflicts, learning to share toys and ideas, and play together.

Continuing to develop literacy skills-recognizing their name/first letter. Beginning to learn that letters make sounds. Children look for their names at check-in and also when we go to wash hands.

Exercising at Large Group-body awareness, self control, and strengthening

Welcoming new friends-AM class-Freya and Patrick; PM class-Ellie, and Christopher

Looking ahead to January

New Dramatic Play-Pet Store and animal hospital

Continue learning shapes—triangle and rectangle

Social skills-What can I do when someone is bothering me? (continue)

Two kids want the same toy. What can we do? (play together, take turns, use a timer, trade, ask a teacher for more)

Large Motor Skills-balancing, jumping (feet together), hopping; throwing and catching balls

More experiences with numerals and counting

Experiences with snow and cold theme.

Experiences with day and night time theme.

As we head back to school after lots of stay at home days, be aware that there is often a bit of readjusting to the school routine. It is not uncommon for kids to need reassurance about being picked up (some separation anxiety) or reminders about school routine and rules. Thanks for your patience as we help kids get back to the school routine.

Thank you so much for coming to the December Sing-a-long. It was fun to share that time together!

Thanks so much for your support. As always, do not hesitate to call me at school if you'd like to talk about anything. -Barb