

March Newsletter-Yellow Afternoon Class

Dates for your Calendar

March 24-Yoga; Sign up for Spring Conference (April 15, 21, 27) No School these days)

Spring Break No School week of March 29

It would be great to have volunteers for extra help during our workshop unit.

If you have not yet done Preschool Screening, now is a good time. Call 612-348-TOTS

February Favorites

Painting our Big T. Rex—We've added a literacy element, too (Why is our T. Rex special?)

Making Dino Nests with Playdough-rolling eggs is great for fine motor skill and strength

Collecting Snow Chunks outside for Dino Eggs

Pretending to be penguins, sliding down hill on our tummies-Fun!

Movement-We are the Dinosaurs Marching; Using the Stretchy Band—lots of smiles!

Using straws to eat applesauce—great for mouth muscles and very calming

January Learning

Attention Span for listening to a story is really increasing!

Kids are able to do more complicated movement songs at large group. These involve following directions for a series of movements, keeping calm, and being careful not to bump into friends. Great growth!

Children are more able to find their own personal space for sitting without bumping others. We've been working on finding their own "bubble."

Snow clothes-children continue to gain confidence in putting on snowgear.

Letter of first name—finding, naming, beginning to make it

Shape matching

I'm noticing more pretend/imaginary play, especially during our large motor time (play scenarios include Spiderman, Sleeping Beauty, and Pterodactyl Family)

Continuing to work on fine motor skills-hole punches, stringing and lacing, scissors, legos, stickers

Self Portraits—drawing parts of the body

Coming Up in March

Playground Puddles—kids are experimenting with gravity with gutters, filling buckets, filling in puddles with sand and rocks, wheelbarrows (great heavy work). Our playground is like a little science lab! Thanks for your understanding about wet clothes. You may want to send rain boots if you have them. We're chopping snow and rediscovering climbing.

We will have a big unit on 3D building, including:

- making a city from boxes (gluing and painting)
- working with clay (includes making textured tiles to take home)
- wood sculptures (gluing, painting, and decorating)
- woodshop in dramatic play area (various tools including hammers, screwdrivers, sandpaper).

Letter/Sound of the week-we are collecting these on our wall, and have already done Dd; Ss. Upcoming: Bb, Tt, Pp

Continue to work on fine motor strength and skills-hammering, pegboards, chalkboards, clay work

Numerals, Counting objects (up to 5, then 10), Counting by Rote

Rhyming-we'll do lots of rhyming books and some silly songs with rhyming names

New Songs—This Old Man; Johnny Hammers with One Hammer; Willowby Wallowby; Oh a Hunting we will Go!

More children's choice at large group. Children will take turns to choose songs, verses, movements.

Children are continuing to practice shapes. Triangle and rectangle are frequently confused. Help your child find these shapes in the environment for practice.

Many thanks to Cooper's Dad, Nick, for his animated reading to the class. Also thanks for the great February snacks—they were yummy learning opportunities as we talked about shapes, counted crackers, used straws, dipped veggies, looked at letters, peeled oranges and made choices. Thanks to our Valentine Party volunteers (Charlotte, Krista, and Gigi) and to Jill for helping with vision and hearing screening.