

## **Yellow Room Afternoon Newsletter for January**

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a very nice winter break, and are looking forward to getting back in the swing of preschool.

### Upcoming Dates for your Calendar

January 7-Storyteller visits Judson

January 28-Pajama Day- Your child may wear pajamas to school. We will have some nighttime activities, and make pancakes (volunteer needed). Bring a stuffed animal and/or blanket if you wish.

### December Class Favorites

Pizza Shop Dramatic Play

Making our own English Muffin Pizzas—you might want to try this at home. Kids spread sauce on the muffins and add toppings and cheese. Age appropriate concepts include shapes, counting, colors.

Gifts! Painting, wrapping, and making cards.

The Sing-a-Long! Thanks for coming. What a fun event!

### Upcoming in January

We are really working on putting on **snowpants**. Please support this at home by coaching your child rather than putting them on for him/her. Words we are using at school: lay them on the floor; put in feet; grab and pull (on the legs); stand up; pull on straps; zip. Then comes lots of cheering and exclaiming about how much they are growing! ☺ Kids are getting a lot more confident with flipping on their own coats.

**Pet Shop/Vet Dramatic Play.** The children are having a wonderful time in here.

**Theme Focus-Snow;** Concepts we're working on- opposites, first letter of name, a little bit more on shapes; fine motor skills continuing. During the week of Pajama Day (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>) we will talk about daytime/nighttime.

Our craftstick **snowflakes** are up on the bulletin board in the hallway, and we will soon add responses to, "What do you like to do in the snow?" (Literacy activity) and photos of kids playing on the snowy playground.

We now have **new small groups**.

Snack time is a great time for us to work many things. Here are a few: having a calm body (sitting and relaxing), asking for more, making choices, pouring, asking friends to "please pass," participating in conversation, cleaning up after themselves. In addition to these, the snack food itself often lends itself to a variety of concepts. I've included a list below of snacks we have not yet had at school, in case you are trying to think of new things to bring.

### **New Snack Ideas and some concepts we can work on at Snack time**

Triangle chips and mild salsa-talk about triangle shape

Other triangle crackers-triangle shape

Bread with jelly/honey-making a choice; spreading; triangle or rectangle to cut it? One slice of bread per child is plenty. Also, we can use cookie cutters on these for fun.

Cheerios and /or Fruit Loops-pincer grasp to pick up; good for fine motor; circle shape

Rectangle Crackers with Cream cheese-spreading and shape work

Cereal and Milk-wet and dry; shapes, pouring

Tiny Crackers-to pattern, count, and make choices; pincer grasp to pick up

Thin stick pretzels-make letters or squares, count, pattern

Mini bagels and cream cheese-chewing work is good kinesthetic input for the joints; spreading is great for fine motor skill

Oval Crackers/Circle Crackers-sorting same/different

Mini Pretzels-bite them into shape of a letter

Veggies and Dip-eating health; choosing which veggies we like; crunchy food to chew

Whole Oranges, uncut-making juice (let me know ahead of time if you are bringing this so I have enough juicers ready—Thanks.)

Mandarin Oranges-concept of juicy

Applesauce-choice-with or without sugar cinnamon to sprinkle on top

Vanilla Yogurt (can vary it by stirring in Jam. What color does it turn? Make a choice-With or without sprinkles?)

Different kinds of Goldfish crackers or other small crackers—sorting same/different, counting

A snack that starts with the first letter (sound) of your child's name-tell me so that I am sure to notice at snacktime (note—it needs to be the same sound. For instance Caitlin could bring cake, but not celery.)

Thanks for all you do! As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you would like to touch base about anything.

-Barb