



News You Can Use

January 9, 2020

I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing break and a
Happy New Year!!

Large Group: This week we reviewed some of our classroom rules (listening, following directions, taking turns, etc) as well as giving examples of what each looks like in our classroom. We added another job to our job chart. We now have a song helper that gets to choose the greeting song and another song that is related to the theme. I am very pleased with how well the children have adjusted to the school schedule. The children continue to enjoy the count to 20 song and we are now working on counting to 100 by 10's. Both of these songs are recorded by Jack Hartman. He is a little goofy, but the children love his songs.

Literacy: This week we read Snowy, Blowy Winter by Bob Raczka and A Snowman for Little Bear by Trace Moroney.

Speech Corner: This week we had ice hidden in our mystery box. Some of the describing words the children used included: round, cold, and bumpy. They have told me that I need to start putting more difficult items in the mystery box. Next, the children answered the question "Do you like mittens or gloves better?". To mark their answer the children came up to the interactive TapIt screen and made a tally in the appropriate column. Then

we counted the tallies. We talked about which column had more and which had less. The children preferred mittens over gloves! I can't blame them, much easier to get on:-). Lastly, we matched rhyming mittens. The children were each given a mitten with a picture/word on it and needed to find the appropriate match that had a picture/word on it that rhymed with the mitten they were given.

OT Corner: This week we had fun sequencing through a 5 step obstacle course to improve our body awareness, strength and coordination, and regulate our sensory systems. **Writing:** Students continue to work on learning the correct way to write capital letters always focusing on proper grasp, using non-tool hand to hold the paper, starting our letters from the top, and writing left to right. They are cruising along. For some of the younger students who are not quite developmentally ready to write letters, teacher assists them with pre-writing strokes such as drawing a cross, x, square, and oblique lines. Those strokes are essential to master in order to write letters later. Great job everyone!

Choice Time Activities:

Dramatic play: We are using our imagination as we play dress-up with winter clothing. In this area we have a large bin of winter clothes. Children are practicing putting on and taking off coats, snow pants and boots. They are having a great time in this area.

Blocks and Cars: This week the children have been given the choice to play in the block area. They can choose between large cardboard blocks,

wooden blocks and the mid-size Legos. When given time to explore the children are creating some very interesting and elaborate creations.

Feeling Table: This week we added water and ice in the feeling table. I asked the children if they thought ice would sink or float. We graphed their guesses and then went to the table. We found that if we didn't have enough water in the table the ice sank, but when we added more water the ice did float.

Writing Center: Children are given the opportunity to explore writing, coloring and tracing in this area.

Puzzles: Over break I was able to find some really nice puzzles for the kiddos.

Quiet reading: This is something I want the children to do daily. We have added many winter books that the children are enjoying.

Table Toy Activities: As the children come into the classroom they are allowed to choose a table toy on two day. On the other days we are focusing on handwriting. For our younger students (3 year olds) they are working on more age appropriate writing such as making straight and diagonal lines, a cross and circle.

Art: This week I drew snowflakes onto large white paper. Children were given a variety of stickers and asked to put the stickers on the lines. Once the lines were filled we cut them out and are displaying them in our room. This is a great activity for developing fine motor skills. This is something you could do at home as well. Children typically enjoy adding stickers to just about anything.

We also began making winter hats. Children were given a template and asked to cut a curve line and if capable a circle. We then added the circle to the top of the hat (pompom). We will finish decorating them next week.

Important Dates:

No school on Friday January 17th

Please take 5 minutes to complete the annual 5Essentials Survey at <https://.5-essentials.org/Illinois/>

Your input is greatly appreciated.

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