

Newsletter

January 2019

Music Class
starts
January 17th

\$28

Toddlers,
Preschool and
Y5/Kindergarten

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From the Director's Desk...

Happy New Year to all of our center family and friends. I hope this January finds you rested from the holiday and ready to greet the new year. The Christmas season is awesome and I love everything about it, but I am equally ready for the return to routine that January brings!

Winter in Michigan is a great time to get outdoors for fun in the snow, but it is also great weather to cuddle up under a blanket with your little ones and read their favorite books!! We all know how important it is to read to our children from the time they are born. It helps them in so many ways: language, vocabulary, communication, creativity, reading and increased academic performance. It's also a bonding time for parents and children. It's a time when you can slow down together and enjoy each other's company. I recommend actual books, not

electronics. Children like to hold onto books, turn pages, point at pictures, feel textures and open flaps. Our littlest ones also like to chew on them!

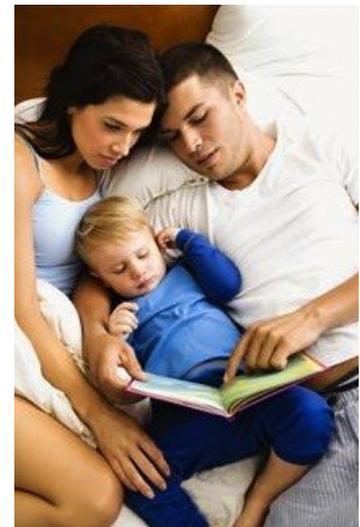
So have some fun with reading, use an expressive voice, slow down for dramatic effect or speed up to build excitement. Take time to talk about the characters or pictures. Ask littler ones to point to different features in the book or ask your verbal ones questions about the pictures and characters or "What if" questions about the story. Get them thinking about the story in different ways.

Often times children like to read the same books over, and over and over... it's okay. The younger they are, they will often get up and wander off during a book, it's okay. Some children simply don't enjoy being read to right away, keep on trying. Choose books about things that

Amy Bartlett

interest them or let them choose from a variety. It also encourages them to read when they see you reading for yourself—be that role model! Visit the library together!

Enjoy the month, good luck on any new year's resolutions and remember to walk with God in 2019.



Young Infant

Happy New Year from the Young Infants! I hope everyone enjoyed spending time with friends and family this holiday. This month we will be introducing touch and feel books during our fine motor activities. Our friends love to be read to and feel the different textures in the books. I would also like to thank the center



for providing our new ball pit. They are an absolute favorite for our babies, they love to sit inside to kick the balls. The ball pit helps aid in gross motor development. The babies crawl in and out and climb through the balls. It's such a fun activity for them. We would like

Miss Jenny

to wish our friend Jilyn a happy birthday, she will turn one January 24th. She is such a smart little girl and is already walking all around our room. Jilyn will soon be transitioning to the older infant room. We will miss her but she is ready to experience new adventures. Until next month God Bless...



Older Infant

Happy New Year to all!

Hoping you all had a safe and joyous holiday. Winter has arrived.... maybe. We will be exploring all things winter and hope to bring snow in our sensory table. We will make snowmen and snowflakes.

We also are going to learn about arctic animals. We'll

make polar bears and penguins as our art projects. The older infants are doing well on using utensils and continue to practice using table manners. We are also learning how to share toys and how to take turns.

They love to sing, dance, and play instruments.

In January, we welcome

Miss Ann

Jailyn to the older infant room. She will be turning one year old this month and is ready for new challenges!! It won't be long before her friends Chloe and Ava move up too. Their first birthdays are approaching in the next couple months! My how time flies!



Toddlers

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful, safe and fun holiday. It can be tough getting back to the normal routine at first but it's nice for the friends to have a break. When they come back they are ready to be here and see their friends.

The theme for this month is "Winter." We may, if the weather helps a little, go sledding on one of the hills. If we get a little then the friends don't have too much of a struggle walking out to the hills. Even the teachers go sledding! We will also bring snow inside or make our own. We will make snowmen and maybe have a "snowball

fight" with paper of course. The friends usually have a ball.

We do venture out almost every day. We are working on our independence self-help skills getting dressed/undressed. The friends are doing well, for the most part. We do assist them when needed, especially some of the younger ones.

If anyone is interested in the toilet learning process, it's also an independence skill. We keep them in diapers until they are using the potty consistently and then transition to underpants. I do ask that during this

Miss De

process, you send them in easy to use clothing, such as sweat pants or pants that they are able to push down and pull up. We are usually working on this skill year round with 1 or at times the whole group of 12. We usually start when they are around 2 years old. I have more information if you are even thinking about it. Come and speak with me so we can work together.



Threes

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas season and a blessed New Year. All of the excitement and waiting has come and gone so fast. Many friends were able to have a long break and now it is time to see our friends again.

Let It Snow & Winter Wonderland will be our themes for the month of January. We will be making snow flakes to decorate our room, playing with shaving cream, create snowmen

for art and also during outside time. It is always fun to help the kids roll the snow to create a snowman. You never know what we will come up with to decorate the face.

Our month will end with the theme Under the Big Top as the circus comes to town. We will practice being tight-rope walkers and possibly try to juggle a few bean bags! As always, any books that you want to share to go with the

theme are always welcome!

If your child wants to bring his/her own stuffy or small pillow they are welcome to do so for nap.

Happy January Birthday to

Teddy!

Stay warm, Ms. Di

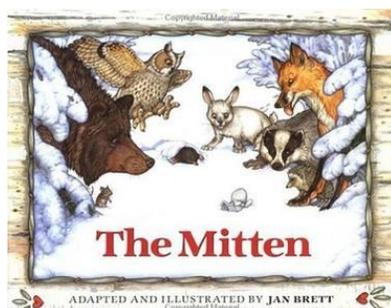
Miss Di



Fours

Happy New Year! Here in the Four's room we'll be welcoming the new year with various themes focusing on winter and snow. We'll also be doing "story extensions" with various winter themed storybooks. I love doing "story extensions" and they give such great reinforcement and offer interaction in various forms for the boys and girls will be acting out the story using a "large mitten" as our "stage." ☺ They're always so cute

and funny doing this activity! It's always a favorite!



Miss Heidi

For our poetry in January, the boys and girls will be learning "Five Silly Snow Pals" and "Chubby Little Snowman." Science will be so fun this month with experiments focusing on temperature, measurement, ice, snow formation and other "off the wall" experiments that include raisins! In phonics our letters this month will be: Nn, Oo, Pp and Qq. Oo being another vowel and two more "basement letters!"

Busy January ~ learning and fun!

Young 5's/Kindergarten

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

We begin again in this wonderful New Year—2019! Our themes for January are, "Healthy Bodies and Musical Instruments." We will study a lot about how God made our bodies and how to take good care of them. We will also enjoy learning about many kinds of instruments and even making some. We will have fun marching with many rhythm instruments. Parents, if you play an instrument please come in and share with us. Let me know and we will set up

a time.

Our phonics centers are changing by the day. The boys and girls are sounding out more blend ladders. As they are ready, they are putting final consonants on and reading real words! Later in the month we will begin our "Reading Club." In the club, beginning reader books are available. If the boys and girls read a book silently, then to me—they may go to another room and read the book one more time. They love it and they will become such great readers.

During our math centers we are

Mrs. Layer

counting in the 80 family. We are focusing on "what comes next." Here is an example, what comes after 73? We are doing them in random order. The boys and girls are writing numerals in a beautiful way. Our patterns are becoming more complex too.

On Sat., Jan 26 we will sing our "National Anthem" to begin the Shrine Circus at the 3:00 matinee. We are so proud of our little Great Beginnings Choir.