



Discovery Zone Gazette

Infants Dress Up and Down

The month of February the infants learned about dressing warm and Valentine's Day.

The infants started the month learning about jackets/coats. They read many books and sang songs such as Chick Gets Dressed, Bee Gets A Sweater and "Warming Up". For their sensory skills they got to touch/feel different types of textures of jackets and coats. The children also practiced their physical development by zipping the jackets up and down and for the younger infants by reaching for their jackets.



Next the infants learned about Hats and Scarf's. The infants had the following books read to them, Wolf and Poodle Dress Up. They enjoyed practicing their social/emotional development, by watching their reaction and responses, when putting and taking a hat on and off. Most of the infants enjoyed wearing the hats while some of the other

would rather have us put the hat on and take it off. This was helpful when teaching the children about their physical development such as learning where their head is. For the infants cognitive play, they got to enjoy finger painting hats by using many different colors.

The infants next theme was Valentine's Day! The infants had many books read to them, such as Lilly's Chocolate Heart, Clifford's First Valentine, What Do You Love? and I'll Always Love You. They also sung lots of songs such as "My Valentine", "Be My Valentine", and "A Valentine For Me". They enjoyed reading and singing very much while most of them participated by either clapping their hands, finger play, or by turning the pages in the book. During the infants cognitive play they used red paint to create heart hand prints. The infants also practiced their physical play. They did this by learning where their heart is and by signing "I Love You" by pointing to their eye, then their heart and then pointing to a per-

son.

Last, the infants

learned about boots. The infants enjoyed reading The Foot Book and

sang the song/finger play "The Boot Song". They practiced their cognitive development by creating a foot/boot painting while also learning their physical development such as where are your feet? and where do the boots go?

The month of March the infants will be learning about Shapes, Shamrocks, St. Patrick's Day and Colors. Keep your eyes peeled towards the last week of March, our classroom will choose a different color to wear for each day!

We would like to wish Tyler a Happy 1st Birthday who will be celebrating on February 26th and Drew who will be turning one on March 4th. Congratulations to Olivia who will be moving to toddler land!

Please pack extra clothes appropriately for the weather! Thank you!



Discovery Zone Learning Center

February 2011

Important Dates:

- 3/22/11-Special at 11
- 3/25/11- Parent Survey's turned in

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Did Preschool A See Their Shadow?

During the first week of February preschool A enjoyed a theme on groundhogs and shadows. To start off the week the children created groundhogs using a popular shape, the heart. They were given all different sized hearts and asked to make a groundhog. To practice using fine motor skills the preschoolers created groundhog puppets. They created the face using pieces made by the teacher, and then attached the groundhog to a popsicle stick. After the groundhog was on his stick, he was put into a cup to be used at his hole. The children used brown tissue paper to add the dirt look to it. To finally get some exercise in the class went for a shadow walk outside. During circle time the children enjoyed learning about where a groundhog lives and what he likes to eat.



For the second week of February the children had an exciting week all about mail! Thank you to all the parent and other family members who wrote letters to the class! The chil-

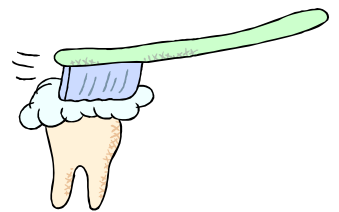
dren enjoyed getting all of them, and listening to them at circle time. A stamp counting game was played as the children counted stamps and added them to the envelope with the corresponding number on it. To practice fine motor skills, Preschool A practiced tracing their own addresses and phone numbers. Of course the favorite part of this theme was going to the post office! The children had a blast. During our field trip, the children got to see where their own mail gets put at the post office. They also got to meet the mail carriers that deliver mail to their house. This was very exciting!



Next was our Valentines Day theme! During this theme the preschoolers created many crafts such as, tissue paper hearts and heart caterpillars. Math skills were practiced a lot through this theme as the children counted candy hearts and glued them for a large heart. They also played a heart and arrow counting game. The

Valentines Day party was a great success and thank you to all who helped to bring things in. For the party the children used heart cookie cutters to make heart shapes out of pizza dough. The pizza dough was used for strawberry shortcake, which they got to enjoy at the party.

During the last week of February preschool A had a theme on Dental Hygiene. The children got a chance to learn what they need to do to keep their teeth clean and healthy! They also got to learn about which foods are good for their teeth and the ones that aren't so great. After the class went over the foods together, the kids were asked to look at magazine pictures and separate the two into 2 groups. Preschool A also got messy with some shaving cream, as they brushed fake teeth (soda bottles)!



For the month of March Preschool A will be learning about, Dr. Seuss, Weather, St. Patricks Day/ Green, and Shapes.

Center News

- If your child is going to be out or late for the day, please call/email the center to update us.
- Camp Discovery Forms are now available for in house families. Please find them in the school age

room or see Amanda.

- We know that old man winter has really taken a toll on the center this year. DZLC has plans for the spring for some renovations/repairs.

- April Fun Days(School Age) will be out soon.
- Reminder: If your child has a temperature of 101 or higher/ vomiting/diarrhea they need to stay home and rest for 24 hours.

Brush 'em, Brush 'em, Brush 'em Toddlers

For the first week in February, the Toddler's learned about groundhogs. They had to follow 2 step directions and rip up tissue paper, where they then glued onto the groundhog cut out and painted a hole for the groundhog. The children also experimented with flash-lights and made different kinds of shadows. The toddlers matched different colored groundhogs and had a ground hunt to working on their matching and socialization skills.



Next the toddlers learned about "Things that go Together". They played with cars and garages as they worked on directional words. They also played a matching game with colored

socks to work on recognition of colors. The children also explored a creative drawing session with papers and crayons. One of their favorite activities was making their own special snack and crackers and jelly.

The children had a week of Valentines Celebrations where they made heart rubbings using their fine motor skills. They also worked on following directions as they used marbles and two different colors to decorate a heart. The toddlers did a heart number hop where they jumped from 1 to 5 working on their large motor and math skills. The children also got to learn a new poem, "Valentine, Valentine".

The last week of February the toddlers learned about how important it is

to take care of their teeth. They learned some new songs about brushing their teeth and they made smile collages. The toddlers also painted with dental floss to make creative art paintings. The project that seemed to be enjoyed the most was the soda bottle teeth. For this project the children used the bottom of soda bottles as teeth and pretended to brush them with shaving cream as the toothpaste.

We all would like to congratulate Jackson on his success in potty training.



For the month of March our themes will be, Rain Forest Animals, Dinosaurs, St. Patrick's Fay, Spring, and Lions and Lambs.

Kindergarten will Huff and Puff and Blow Your House Down!

Kindergarten took the shortest month of the year and turned it into one full of exploration, investigation, and learning! The first theme that the class dove into was "Fairytales". The class read old classics such as Goldilocks & the Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man, Jack and the Beanstalk, and the Three Little Pigs. The class designed bear masks and completed a dramatic retelling of the story. Donning character voices and chasing Goldilocks from the house was very entertaining to watch. The class also built a maze to trap the gingerbread man in the classroom and built houses out of the same materials as the Three Little Pigs. After a scientific investigation, Kindergarten decided that wood was the easiest material to make a safe house in.



The class next studied and investigated the theme of shapes. Using masking tape on the floor, students made outlines of favorite shapes and attempted to balance as they walked the outline one foot after the other. The class also spent time in the block center, using blocks to create different shapes and designs. By the time they were done, they had built a cat, a church, a bridge, and a rocket ship! The class dug for shapes in the sensory table and sorted their findings by shape, size, and color. The last theme the Kindergarten class enjoyed was one they requested themselves; Transportation! Throughout the week, the class learned about cars, boats, trains, and planes. Using shoe boxes, each classmate was able to design his own racecar with real, moving wheels. There was also a great amount of time spent exploring boats and how they float and experimenting with

materials in the sensory area. Kindergarten finished up the week by painting the tires of toy cars and experimenting with tire tracks (it was found that different tires make different tracks), and investigating what materials were easiest to drive on with toy cars. It was found that pavement was the easiest to drive on, and that there is a reason roads are not made with sand or woodchips!



In March, students are looking forward to a month of author-study. The month will start with Dr. Seuss, and a study of his work. There will also be a study of Laura Numeroff & Eric Carle! At the end of the month, students will spend a week writing and illustrating their own books, so keep your eyes open for all the wonderful work that will be headed home for reading & sharing!

Preschool B Mailed their Love

Preschool B started out the month of February learning about trains! To start out the week, the preschoolers worked with each to share what they knew about trains. They worked on their creativity by sponge painting trains and creating a train station in block center. The class read the story

"Freight Train" together and did a story recall activity called colorful



cargo, finding items in magazines that were the same colors as in the story. In the middle of the week, the preschoolers took a break from trains and studied groundhogs for a day. They engaged in conversation about shadows and groundhogs, pretended to be a groundhog seeing his shadow, and worked on upper and lowercase recognition with a groundhog letter match. Jumping back onto the train, preschool B made "chew-chew" trains using peanut butter, bananas, graham crackers, and raisins. Lastly, to work on shape recognition and role play, the children made shape trains at the creation station and pretended to be conductors in dramatic play.

The next week of February, the week flew by with mail coming in! Preschool B was excited to learn about mail and how it moved. Every morning their mailbox was full of letters to read to one another. The preschoolers got to make their own

mailbox that was used to put Valentine's in and participated in group activity to play pin the flag on the mailbox, in which they closed their eyes, got spun around, and placed a flag on the mailbox. Preschool B pretended to be mail carriers and got to build block mailboxes for letters in block center for spatial awareness. At the end of the week, the focus was on the children's addresses. They traced their address and wrote letters to friends. Lastly, they got to role play a pizza delivery man to reinforce addresses and numbers.

For the third week of February, love was in the air as the preschoolers explored Valentine's Day and Hearts. Together, they made a Valentine's day party; passing out valentines, making heart shaped sandwiches using cream cheese and strawberry jelly, and playing a game of sweet tic-tac-toe using candy conversation hearts. As the week went on, the preschoolers played games such as "hearts around the room" and "valentine march" to work on following directions with music and movement. They experienced a science activity by mixing two colors together to make red, as well as a math activity by counting out candy hearts.

For a sensory activity, the preschool B class used shaving cream, glue, and paint to create puffy hearts.

To close out the month of February,

the children learned about dental hygiene. They read books that talked about losing their teeth and having the tooth fairy come for a visit. They loved making toothpaste as a science activity by mixing baking soda, salt, water, and peppermint extract in a bag. For fine motor and sensory experiences the preschoolers

got to paint using tooth brushes and dental floss. They loved making apple smiles using apples, peanut butter, and mini marshmallows to represent the teeth. Preschoolers downstairs enjoyed running their own dentist office as well as brushing cavities off of teeth.

Next month, Preschool B will learn about Dr. Seuss, The Five Senses, Saint Patrick's Day, and Colors!

