



Dear Families,

We have been loving winter here in preschool! This week we are excited to explore the snow. On Tuesday, the weather is predicted to be warm enough for us to play outside. We have large shovels and saucer sleds for the kids to use.

Please send your preschooler to school in snowpants, boots, hats and waterproof mittens on Tuesday so that we can play outside in the snow!

Help Your Child Become a Great Problem-Solver!

Preschoolers who can solve their own problems feel confident and enjoy learning. They are willing to make mistakes, learn from them and keep trying until they succeed. Families can help children develop problem-solving skills by taking advantage of opportunities to talk about solving problems. Here are some ways to start a conversation.

- Point out that it takes time to learn something new (like riding a bicycle). Explain that learning something new can take a while and that "practice makes better."
- Remind your child that problems and challenges are chances to "grow our brains." Say "You know how to do lots of things. You practiced until you got good at them." Or "Remember when you didn't know the letters in your name? Now you write them all in order! We can read your name!"
- Work with your child to think of three ways to solve a problem. Talk about each one and then have your child pick one to try out.
- Let your child know that you believe in him or her. Say "Do you think you can solve that problem on your own? I think you can. What should we do?"
- Point out your own mistakes as part of life and learning. "Uh-oh, I spilled my soup. But everyone makes mistakes. Next time I won't put the mug where my elbow can bump it."



Highlights from this Week

This week we will complete a mini-unit on polar animals! The kids will learn that polar animals live in with the North or the South Pole. Our books and centers will help reinforce new vocabulary related to each type of polar animal, animals that hibernate and the North and South Poles.

Winter Field Trip to Kohl Children's Museum

Please send in your child's permission slip for our field trip! We will be going to the Kohl Children's Museum on Thursday, February 28th. The Kohl Children's Museum's minimum for a field trip is 16 children, so we will be combining both AM and PM classes for a morning time slot from 9:30AM-11:45AM.

This time, all parents do not need to attend with their child. You can drop off your preschooler at the Kohl Museum with a teacher.

Cost is \$10 per child and \$7 per adult if you choose to attend.

CENTERS AND REMINDERS

Center	Activities	Why are these activities so important?
Blocks	Large white blocks Blue glass gems Arctic animals and wooden blocks	Creative play; turn taking; strengthening fine and gross motor skills; task persistence and problem solving
Table Toys and Games	Penguin turn-taking game Penguin rhyming game Winter matching Ice cube patterns	Visual discrimination; measurement and size; turn taking with a peer; hand-eye coordination
Dramatic Play	Birthday Party center -cake and presents -party invitations, cards and colored pencils -decorations	Developing language and social skills; socialization and building friendships; imaginative and pretend play; sharing materials and turn taking
Writing	Winter/Polar Animal books	Fine motor skills; early literacy; language development
Library	Class-made books Winter-themed vocabulary books Magnetic letters and flip books	Book-handling skills; social interactions; imaginative and pretend play; early literacy
Sensory	Snow and ice table with shovels, pipettes and watercolors Play dough and play dough tools	Sensory; fine motor development; volume and measurement; science concepts- sink/float, solid/liquid, hard/soft; sharing materials with peers
Snack	Self-serve during center time	Self-help; language development and social skills
Art	Hot Chocolate Craft Snowflake Stamps with ink pads	Expressing creativity; developing fine motor skills; Applying new knowledge
Tech	CLOSED	Turn taking; developing hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills; practicing various cognitive skills (literacy, math, science concepts)
Science	Sugar cubes, water colors and pipettes	Exploring cause and effect; making observations; turn taking with peers

Important Dates:

1/21: No School- MLK Holiday

2/20: President's Day (No School)

2/21: Teacher's Institute (No School)

