

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022



TRI-TOWN PRESCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS!

Greetings preschool families. We hope the new year has been good to you thus far. Thank you all for helping us successfully transition into the new year despite all the challenges of the pandemic and winter weather. The frigid temperatures has kept us inside but has also provided lots of opportunities for the children to engage in self-directed play, interact with a variety of materials and partners, and practice many important skills. While the preschool assessments and parent conferences took up most of December and January, February is a time of reflection. It is the midway point of the school year and typically the time we see the greatest growth. Now that routines are established there is more time for play and learning. We are very much looking forward to having many more fun times and learning opportunities in 2022.



On February 17th and 18th, the preschoolers may wear pajamas to school as they will be engaging in a pretend "Sick Day," while also enjoying a movie together. The children will spend next week participating in lessons that promote healthy bodies and habits. We will also discuss what it means and how it feels to be sick, and what role health care professionals play in our lives. There will be chicken noodle soup, crackers and ginger-ale available for the children to sample, as well as snacks for during the movie. We are all very excited!

WHAT ARE SELF-HELP SKILLS?

According to "Ways to Encourage Self-Help Skills in Children," an article published by Extension Foundation, children have a drive to be independent and to do things on their own. This is a healthy part of normal child development. As children grow, they learn to do more and more tasks. Parents and teachers can help young children become independent by allowing and encouraging them to take responsibility for themselves whenever possible. It can be faster and less messy to do things for children, but they learn so much from doing things for themselves. When children practice self-help skills such as feeding and dressing themselves, they practice their large and small motor skills, gain confidence in their ability to try new things and build their self-esteem and pride in their independence. The four main types of self-help skills are: self-feeding, independent dressing and grooming, hygiene and toileting, and helping with daily chores like table setting and picking up toys.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates to Remember

VALENTINE'S DAY

Feb 10th, 11th & 14th

As we culminate this week's lessons on the topic of feelings and emotions, a celebration of friendship and kindness will take place. A kindness jar will be added to the classroom to recognize random acts of kindness. Each day the children will have the opportunity to add to the jar. Once it is filled they will be rewarded with a special prize.

SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

February 21st – February 25th

2022 - 2023 ENROLLMENT

We will begin enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year on or before March 1st. Returning families will have a two week period to sign up before the registration link is open to the public.

CURRICULUM



Back in December at the start of winter the preschoolers learned about engineering and technology. In the science center they enjoyed exploring simple machines including a lever, pulley, conveyer belt, and elevator. They also enjoyed participating in many hands-on activities using magnets, gears, transportation vehicles, ramps, and marbles, all while exploring balance and motion.

Throughout the month of January, the focus of our curriculum shifted to winter weather & winter activities, liquids & solids, and life sciences (i.e. habitats, migration, hibernation, arctic animals). By way of group discussions and informational texts, the preschoolers soon recognized winter as one of the four seasons, and each day discussed the seasonal changes taking place around them. They also described how weather changes from day to day and season to season. During circle time the children were asked to identify the weather using terms such as rainy, cold, partly cloudy, windy or snowy, etc. as part of the daily routine. They look for patterns in the weather by recording their observations on the classroom weather chart.

February is *Healthy Hearts and Bodies* month. It provides opportunities to teach the preschoolers about the different jobs and workers in the community including nurses, doctors, and dentists. We discussed reasons why people work and are beginning to understand the individual roles, functions, and tools associated with various occupations. Areas of the classroom has been transformed into a Pet Shop, a Post Office and a Doctor's Office providing opportunities for the preschoolers to expand their understanding of jobs as well as practice specific skills. The preschoolers are also working with money to recognize that some objects are coins, while others are dollars. This week they have spent time drawing, dictating, and writing to prepare letters and cards for their friends, family and teachers. They are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day. It is a way for them to acknowledge those they love as well as demonstrate affection towards their friends.

Curriculum Themes for February:



Community Helpers
Jobs & Money
Light & Shadows
Feelings
Healthy Hearts
Dental Health

Color: Pink

Rhyme:

"Hot Cross Buns"

Dramatic Play:

Doctor's Office, Pet Shop
and Post Office

WHAT'S NEXT?

Curriculum Themes for March:



Sun / Moon / Stars
Dinosaurs / Fossils
Spring

Air / Wind

Color: Green

Rhyme:

"Twinkle, Twinkle"

"Hey Diddle Diddle"

Dramatic Play:

Pizza Restaurant