

CRICKET'S FEBRUARY 2012 TODDLER NEWSLETTER

Well we have had a pretty mild winter so far. Maybe February will be kind to us as well. After all, February is the month of love, giving and caring for friends and family. During this month the children will be learning about emotions, Dinosaurs, and we will be Celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday during the last week of the month.

Dates to Remember

Music with Miss Diana	14 th
VALENTINES DAY	14 th
Ryan's Birthday	16 th
Presidents Day	20 th
Music with Miss Diana	28 th
Leap Day!	29 th

Fruit Sign-up

The center offers fruit every day with the children's lunches. Several years ago parents volunteered to bring in fruit for a.m. and p.m. snacks as well. There is a "fruit sign-up" on our classroom door. If you would like to bring in fruit for the class please sign your name on the calendar sign up. 2 to 3 pieces of fruit are plenty for the entire class to share.

Open Door Policy

Our center has an open door policy. We welcome all parents and care givers to visit our classroom, share a story, or try an activity with your child.

LABEL LABEL LABEL!!

Winter is a season of many layers. The children have hats, gloves, jackets and blankets with them every day. It is important to label ALL of your child's belongings to ensure they do not get misplaced or lost.

Valentine's Day Party

The Cricket's will be having a party on Tuesday February 14th. We will be posting a sign-up for food and snacks on our classroom door.

CURRICULUM

February 6th – 10th & 13th -17th: Valentine's Day/ Emotions

The Cricket children are at the age where they are starting to associate facial expressions with feelings. What better time to include emotions in our curriculum then during the month of love! These two weeks will include art activities such as "Vinegar Hearts", "Mirror Play and "Emotions Collage". Vinegar Hearts is an activity that children are given various pieces of tissue paper, they paint there tissue paper onto construction paper with vinegar. The color bleeds from the tissue paper to make a beautiful assortment of colors. Our goal with this activity is to build children's color and shape recognition. The children are always very curious about the smell of the vinegar which is a great sensory interaction for them, learning about new smells. Mirror play, is an activity that engages children in social interactions with their friends and encourages self- awareness. The emotions collage we will be making provides the children with pictures of various

types of people and facial expressions they make. Children identify with some of these pictures and begin to explore how to make their own facial expressions.

February 20th – 24th: Dinosaurs

Children always seem to have such a fascination with Dinosaurs. This week we are going to let their curiosity run wild! We have planned several different activities that allow children to explore pictures and figures of dinosaurs' as well as incorporating some science into our activities. One of the activities we are going to do is called, "Dino Bones". The children are given various types of dry pasta. We use black construction paper and glue our pasta onto it. The end product comes out looking like fossils, or Dino bones. The children are building their fine motor skills while holding and gluing the pasta onto their paper. They are also exploring new textures with the different pieces of pasta. During this week we will also be reading stories like "How Do Dinosaurs' Clean Their Rooms". We will also be digging for Dinosaurs in the in the sand table.

February 27th- March 2nd: Dr. Seuss!

Dr. Seuss is one of the most well-known children's books writer and we always like to acknowledge his birthday. So, during this week we will be reading one of his stories each day and doing an art activity to go along with the story.

Reading aloud to children promotes language skills, positive self -esteem and familiarizes them with written word. The children will be marble painting red and blue fish to go along with the story "One Fish Two Fish, Red Fish Blue Fish". We will also be decorating our own "Cat in the Hat" hat.