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Legacy Lines

A Newsletter for Families
December 2019

Happy Holidays

Thoughts from your Legacy Team...

December is finally here! Lots of time for family, friends, festive decorations, music and the occasional turkey or ham sandwich. Families will be celebrating with their own traditions. At Legacy we have an awesome one!

Let me tell you about a wonderful event coming this month. On Saturday, December 7th we will be having our “**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**” event. It will start at 10am and last until 12pm here at the school. Families will have lots to do. There will be continental breakfast items served throughout the event. The children can decorate their very own cookies and listen to Ms. Claus read holiday stories under the tree. The **BIG MAN** himself will be on site to take pictures with whomever may want to participate. (Mom, Dad this means you too! You are never too old...) Everyone is invited! Come on out and we'll have a jolly old time.

Spend time this year making your own holiday traditions. Pass them on for years to come. Think of all the great memories you will be making in the process.

Happy Holidays!!

Take a Peek Inside

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Let's Celebrate

Hanukkah
December 22nd – December 30th

Christmas
December 25th

Kwanzaa
December 26th - January 1st



December Class Themes of the Month



Dreamers ~ Theme: Peek-A-Boo Babies

This exciting month brings many things to our infant classroom. Rhymes, fingerplays, songs and bookmaking are just a few of the plans to be carried out. The classroom will be alive with the sound of holiday bells and music but be rest assured our teachers will take cues from the babies to allow time for choices and self-initiated activities.



Travelers ~ Theme: Ribbons and Rhymes

The last month of the year brings with it some holiday magic in the air. Our little travelers will learn about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We continue our work with rhyming which is proven to help children have an easier time when learning to read. Keep up your great work at home and we will meet our own personal and professional obligations alongside you.



Adventurers ~ Theme: What's Inside?

Awesome smells fill the air as time with your child takes on a special joy of its own. Our toddlers will be making cards for seniors or for those in hospitals. We want to help children learn that the holidays are about giving. As always, we will incorporate letters and numbers into everything we do. While the holidays are exciting, they can also be stressful. Take time to calmly read, listen to music, and enjoy your children and yourself. We do!



Discoverers ~ Theme: Bows & Strings & Special Things

So much is happening this month as the children will learn about the different holidays celebrated in December: Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We will temper our days with Bows and Strings with creative ideas applied and, as always, include books, supplies, and activities that fit your child. Opportunities for art, cooking, literacy, colors, and shapes will round out our glorious calendar year.



Voyagers ~ Theme: Surprises and Celebrations

Children love surprises and this month is filled with many. Activities will focus on Hanukkah, Las Posadas, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. The character-building focus is compassion. We will begin concentrating on letter sounds and reinforce letter recognition. Continue your own normal routine whenever possible despite the upcoming festivities. As always, help your child find enjoyment and fulfillment in each other. We do it and feels great!



Explorers ~ Theme: Community Project

Some of the activities your child will be engaged in are: making wrapping paper, holiday (Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa) cards, talking about family traditions, designing a holiday wish book, learning about involvement in the community, playing freeze tag, and designing their own picture frames. As your child is old enough to pick up on stress during this often-frenzied season, try to indulge them in a sense of calm while ensuring it is a joyful celebration.

December

Dreamers



Math- Dreamers will learn about the color red this month! They will touch and feel different red objects and begin to build differentiation skills by identifying red objects in their environment. They will also continue to build shape recognition skills by exploring holiday shapes.

Science- This month infants will be provided varied opportunities for sensory exploration as they discover objects that are cold. They will continue their exploration with snowflakes.

Social Studies- December's Enhanced Learning lessons will focus on self-identification. Infants will practice picking themselves out of the class and work on their sense of others.

Travelers



Math- Travelers will continue to work on shape recognition skills by identifying the shapes they pull from their stockings! They will also get the opportunity to build a snowman using shapes.

Science- Toddlers will explore the senses of winter and strengthen their sense of hearing as they listen for holiday sounds.

Social Studies- Jr. Toddlers will get a chance to practice their sharing skills as they share presents and they will learn about what stop signs are.

Adventurers



Math- This month is all about shapes for Adventurers. They will build a shape snowman and they will strengthen their shape recognition skills by identifying shapes in the mystery box.

Science- Sr. Toddlers will learn about their sense of hearing as they try to identify what's making the sound in the mystery box. They will also get a chance to make snow by measuring and stirring different ingredients and explore with their senses as they make a snowman.

Social Studies- Adventurers will work as a team to get Santa's reindeer to the sleigh and they will learn about how other countries celebrate Christmas and what their "Santa" looks like.

Discoverers



Math- Discoverers will have the opportunity to explore with units of measurement as they determine how much wrapping paper they need to wrap different presents. They will also work on recognizing and naming patterns with holiday patterns.

Science- 3-year olds will explore with their senses as they create cinnamon ornaments. They will also discover how to create different colors as they twirl and dance with colored streamers.

Social Studies- This month, Discoverers will learn about Hanukkah and why it is celebrated. They will learn about family diversity and how different cultures celebrate different holidays.

Voyagers



Math- Voyagers will work on recognizing, naming, and creating their own patterns with candy canes. They will also have the opportunity to explore with standard and non-standard units of measurement as they measure holiday trees.

Science- 4-year olds will learn about what snow is and will get the chance to create some. They will also learn why ice melts and experiment with accelerating the melting process.

Social Studies- This month, Voyagers will learn about the North Pole and how it differs from their environment. They will also learn about Kwanzaa and why it is celebrated. Children will be exposed to different cultures and cultural celebrations.

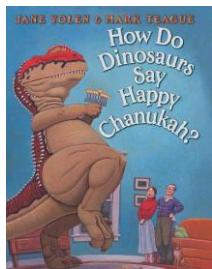
Tips for Raising a Compassionate Infant-Toddler



Recent research shows that infants and toddlers are far more empathetic than we once thought. While they have short fuses and don't cope well with sharing, they are capable of being compassionate. With this in mind, here are some tips to help young children become prosocial that families can also try at home.

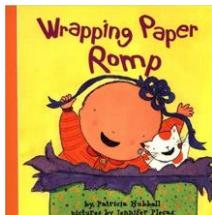
1. Be respectful, patient, and loving to your infants and toddlers and everyone else. *Children imitate what they see.* Model saying "please" and "thank you", touching gently, using your words, using a calm voice, cleaning up your messes, helping others, and sharing your things (ex. "Thank you for the cheerio, would you like some of my raisins?")
2. *Media is powerful!* Read books about feelings with positive social interactions and discuss them. If your child watches television, watch too, and talk about the situations and emotions that happen in the shows, especially if the actions are antisocial ("Caillou said that Philip could not use his ball—how did that make Philip feel? Do you think taking turns might make Philip feel better?")
3. When people are upset, *model compassion*—talk about the problem and offer support
4. Point out when harm has been done and *suggest ways to make things better*. Point out the facial and body language cues that let you know what is happening. ("You were mad, but when you bit him, it hurt his body. He's sad, do you see his tears? Let's help him get some ice. Next time if he grabs your toy, say, "I'm using that""")
5. *Involve your child in home tasks* like cooking and re-gifting. Talk about the teamwork involved in helping the house run smoothly or the way others feel when they get a gift.
6. Stay close and *guide your child* as they navigate the complex world of feelings. Young children will have strong feelings, make mistakes, feel possessive, seek autonomy, and struggle to control their impulses. Expect them to try and to make mistakes. Respect that all people may need time to get calm and composed before they are willing to talk about upsetting things. ("You got so mad that you threw the cup. Next time, you can hand it to me.")

December Books



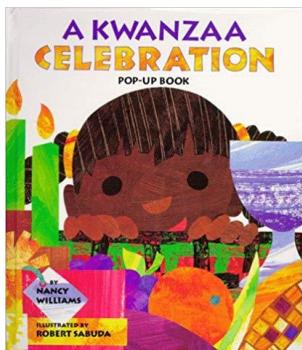
How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Chanukah?

By: Jane Yolen



Wrapping Paper Romp

By: Patricia Hubbell



A Kwanzaa Celebration

By: Nancy Williams

Winter Snowflake Slime

Ingredients

½ cup of Elmer's Washable
 PVA Clear or White Glue
 ¼ cup of Liquid Starch
 ½ cup of Water
 Snowflake confetti,
 decorations and buttons



Directions

1. Mix water and glue in a bowl. Encourage children to use measuring cups and mix the ingredients themselves
2. Add confetti, buttons, or sparkles of choice
3. Mix in liquid starch and stir until all liquid is gone. Use a wooden spoon; encourage children to do the mixing
4. Knead your slime. The more kneading, the better
5. Play with your science experiment!

Talk about the measurements and the different size measuring cups ★ Ask questions like "What do you think will happen when we mix these together?"; write down your predictions and compare them with the outcome ★ How does your slime look in different light? ★ Make a double batch and talk to your child about how to double the recipe.

For the science behind slime: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/basic-slime-science-homemade-slime-for-kids/>
 Activity from: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/>