

JANUARY 2021

Family Newsletter



Snowman Magic
by Katherine Tegen

The First Day of Winter
by Denise Fleming

Snowballs
by Lois Ehlert

Snow Party
by Harriet Ziefert

The Biggest Snowman Ever
by Steven Kroll

All You Need for a Snowman
by Alice Schertle

Snowmen at Night
by Caralyn Buehner

100 Snowmen
by Jen Arena

WELCOME 2021!

Welcome to 2021! We hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. The new year has arrived and this year more than most, it comes so much **HOPE** and **OPTIMISM**. Every January marks a fresh start, resolutions are made, closets are cleaned and new projects are started. This happens in the center as well; we are busy planning and starting new activities in the classrooms!

This January we will begin to incorporate our new curriculum elements into the classroom. We are very excited and eager to start sharing with the children. See "Curriculum Corner" on page 2 for more information.

We will also be celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day this month. As a reminder, the center will be OPEN. As we put 2020 behind and move ahead into 2021, we are reminded of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. words,

*"We are not makers of history.
We are made by history."*

Happy New Year!

Fun Fact

According to the Chinese Zodiac Calendar, 2021 is the year of the Ox.



Oxes are diligent, dependable, strong and determined



Early Learning
Academies

INFANTS AND TODDLERS



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONE

PUTS 2-3 WORDS TOGETHER TO MAKE A PHRASE

By the time your child is two years old, they should be able to string together two to three words to make a phrase. For example, "Red car" or "My toy dog."

Generally, children at this age should have about **50 words** in their vocabulary and should begin saying words more clearly.

Help your child by making sure you give words to things they point at and describe things that they are saying. For example, if they say, "My toy dog," add big or small, brown or black, etc. The more that they hear words the more they will use the words.

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K



INDOOR ACTIVITIES

WINTER WEATHER IS HERE! The days are shorter and we are spending more time indoors. Here is a fun indoor activity!

SNOWMEN ON THE WINDOW – hang a piece of contact paper backwards on a window (so you can touch the sticky side) and have your child use cotton balls to stick to the contact paper. Children can create a winter scene or just build their own snowmen.



SCHOOL AGE



INDOOR ACTIVITIES

JANUARY is a great time to hone our science skills. Try this fun, at-home activity.

MELTING SNOWMEN – mix baking soda with a small amount of water so you can mold the baking soda into balls. Add googly eyes and a small orange triangle for a nose. Place your snowmen in a bowl and drop in vinegar and see what happens!



Curriculum Corner

Beginning in January, we will be introducing our new curriculum to the center. Our teachers have been working hard to incorporate the curriculum pieces into each age group. Over the next few months we will highlight the key benefits of each age-group's curriculum. Here is an overview of our different curriculum groups.

- **Infants - DISCOVERY** Each individual infant is learning and growing at their own pace. The Discovery Program will provide activities to help each child master developmental milestones while making it fun and exciting for the child.
- **Toddlers - INVESTIGATORS** Keeping our inquisitive toddlers busy and active is what Investigators is all about! While toddlers are learning about the world around them and question how everything works, we will support their learning through hands on experiences.
- **Preschool - EXPLORERS** As preschoolers begin to explore their world, we want to make sure they are interested and engaged. Our Explorers curriculum allows the teacher to personalize the topics around the children's interests while still including activities in key academic areas.
- **Pre-Kindergarten - PATHFINDERS** As we prepare Pre-K children for Kindergarten our goal is to individualize instruction to ensure every child is prepared to start their elementary school career. Pathfinders is comprised of individual activities for children to work on that are developed to help them master the skills needed for Kindergarten.
- **School Age - VOYAGERS** As children get older we want to encourage independence. Voyagers recognizes that children want to be a part of the planning process and to help make decisions about their activities. For before & after care and summer camp, Voyagers will help guide the program while still including educational based activities.