



## **February in the Bluebird Class**

### **Dear Bluebird Families:**

Don't forget to put our Classroom Calendar in a special location and refer to it before leaving for school! In February we will be thinking of all the people we love and we will have a Valentine's Day Party! Don't forget to wear Red, Pink or Purple on our party day! We will deliver Valentine Cards to all of our classmates too!

### **Social-Emotional Development: Objectives for February & for the School Year:**

#### **Respecting One Another and Understanding that We All Have Feelings:**

Since the first day of school we have focused on being Bucket Fillers and each month we have talked about ways to be a bucket filler! In January we talked about Accepting and Respecting Each Other. This month we will talk about Feelings – stressing that we all have feelings, that we need to respect each other's feelings and that it's okay to be happy, sad, mad, scared, etc. BUT it's not okay to do certain things when we are feeling mad, etc. For example: it is okay to be mad but it is not okay to hit someone when we are mad.

**Self Help Skill: I Can Button and Zipper My Coat!** During small group time and when we are getting ready to go home, we will get our fine motor muscles in shape and practice buttoning and zipping our coats.



### **What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Talk about what it means to accept and respect each other.
2. Have your child practice putting on their coat, buttoning and zipping.

## **Physical Development: Gross Motor (Large Muscle) Objectives & Activities for February:**

### **Throwing and Catching Bean Bags and Balls With My Friends:**

To help the children develop eye-hand coordination and to work on throwing balls and beanbags overhand and under hand they will toss bean bags and balls to a partner during gym time.

### **Fine Motor (Small Muscle): The same skills from January will carry over to February**

- The children will form the letters they have learned to date in upper and lowercase letters.
- The children will form the numbers 1 to 10.
- The children will begin forming their last name (upper and lowercase) on paper. They will use a crayon first and then we will use pencils.
- The children will do their "Handwriting Without Tears" worksheets using small short crayons.



### **What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Have your child practice the letters & numbers as they are introduced and making their name using uppercase for the first letter and lowercase for the other letters.
2. Have your child practice making their first name in upper and lowercase letters.
3. Encourage the 3-point pencil grip, starting their letters at the top, and forming the letters in upper and lower case.

## **Language Development Objectives & Activities for February:**

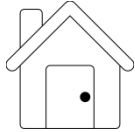
**Stays on Topic and Asks Questions Related to the Topic:** An important language development skill is to listen while someone is speaking and then to be able to ask questions related to the topic. This skill is vital for school success – to hear information, question the information if you don't understand and then to retain and use the information.



## Picture Books of the Month...



Our picture book of the month is *The Valentine Express* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace. Afterward reading the book, the children will make lovely Valentines for their family!



### What Can You Do at Home?

1. When you read a story with your child talk about Beginning-Middle-End!
2. Ask your child questions about the story – character names, their favorite character, think of different things that happened in the story, etc.

### Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for February:

**Recalls 3 or 4 Items Removed from View:** Retaining information is an important skill and one way to do that is to look at 3 to 4 items and then to remember what those items are when they are removed from view.

### ACADEMIC SKILLS IN FEBRUARY

#### Reading Readiness:

The children will:

1. LETTER ART: The children will make delightful masterpieces for the letters Xx, Yy & Zz!
2. Alphabet Rhymes: The children will read rhymes and play "I Spy" the letter of the week in each rhyme.
3. Mini Books: The children will make a mini book for the letters Xx, Yy and Zz.
4. Additional Xx, Yy and Zz Activities:
  - ✓ play "X marks the spot!": The teacher will set out clues around school for the children to go on a Treasure Hunt!
  - ✓ play the "Name Game with the letter Y". The teacher will show the children a ball of yarn and have the children say its name and beginning sound. She will

roll the yarn to a child and then lead the group in reciting the chant, replacing the beginning sound with the child's name with a /y/. This will continue until all the children have had a turn.

- ✓ Chant: Let's say your name in a different way. Instead of /Jody/, Let's say / Yody/!
- ✓ Walk the "Zig-Zag" line! The teacher will put tape down in a zig-zag pattern around the room. The children will walk tip toe along the lines!



### **Sounds Abound Program...**

We will continue playing games with our wonderful reading program entitled: "Sounds Abound Program."

### **Sequencing Fun...**

The children will begin to develop their sequencing skills. We will...

- ✓ look at picture cards and then sequence the pictures in the correct order to tell a story.
- ✓ listen to and act out stories and afterwards determine what happened at the beginning/middle/end of the story.

### **Math Readiness:**



### **Math Concept for the Month of February –**

### **Recognizing the Dot Patterns on Dice as Numbers...**

**What is it?** This is the skill of seeing a small group or set of objects or dots and "just know" how many there are without having to stop and count them one by one. For example, when they see three dots come up on a die, then the child should know instantly that it's three, without having to count. This skill even has a "fancy," official name: we call it "subtilizing."

**Why is it important?** One of the greatest strengths a child can develop in the area of preschool math is learning to instantly recognize the dot patterns on dice and dominoes as a certain quantity. It's knowing deep inside "what three looks like," and so on.

**In Addition:**

- ✓ Throughout the month we will continue to review the numbers one to thirteen by playing: Memory, Number Bingo and the Egg Game.
- ✓ We will play shape match-up games and sorting games.
- ✓ We will meet the numbers 12 & 13 – we will count items to 13, sort items to 13 & talk about same/more/less.

**Science Experiments: "Exploring the Five Senses"**

Throughout the month the children will be exploring their five senses and they will also learn what people do when one or more of their senses do not work. Then in March the children will attend a "Five Senses & Differently Abled Workshop." Some activities planned are...

- ✓ Use your "Ears" and guess what you are "Hearing"
- ✓ Use your "Eyes" & guess what you are "Seeing"
- ✓ Use your "Hands" & guess what you are "Feeling"
- ✓ Use your "Nose" & guess what you are "Smelling"
- ✓ Use your "Mouth" & guess what you are "Tasting"
- ✓ Learn Sign Language.
- ✓ Make words in Braille



**What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Reviewing the letter art that are sent home with your child. Have them try to identify the letter being introduced and think of all the words that start with that letter.
2. Identifying and counting numbers one to ten.

**If you ever have any questions, concerns, etc. please put a note in your child's take-home folder and I will give you a call.**

