



March in the Cardinal Class

Dear Cardinal Families:

Don't forget to put our Classroom Calendar in a special location and refer to it before leaving for school! In March we will be bringing in our Favorite Dr. Seuss Book to Celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday, we will be wearing green to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and we will have a school-wide bake sale!

Social-Emotional Development: Objectives for March & for the School Year:

Using Successful Strategies for Entering a Group Already Engaged in an Activity: In March we will be talking about how to enter a group of children already engaged in an activity. Through role-playing and practice we will teach the following strategies: Watch what other children are doing for a few minutes and then contribute an idea and ask "Can I help build with you? etc."

Self Help Skill: I Can Carry All My Things and Take Care of Them Properly! We would like to encourage the children to carry their backpack, lunchbox and resting things when they enter the classroom in the morning and again when they leave in the afternoon. When they get home, it would be wonderful if they could be responsible for their things: put their lunchbox and take-home folder in a special location and to look at the classroom calendar with you to see if they need to do anything the next time they come to school. Before they leave for school, encourage them to pack their backpack: Resting things, lunchbox, take-home folder and anything they may need to bring to school!

Physical Development: Gross Motor (Large Muscle) Objectives & Activities for March:

Participating in Relay Races - Waiting Your Turn and Following Directions:

As the children have fun participating in various relay races (running, hopping, galloping, etc.) they will learn the rules of relay races, how to wait their turn and listen to and follow through on the various directions given!

Fine Motor (Small Muscle): The children will focus on fine-tuning their Cutting, Coloring and Writing



What Can You Do at Home?

1. Have your child practice the letters & numbers as they are introduced.
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:

Language Development Objectives & Activities for March:

Can Retell a Familiar Story in Proper Sequence, Including Major

Events and Characters: An important language development and reading readiness skill is to be able to listen to a story, retell the story in the proper sequence and remember what you have read, especially the major events or plot of the story and the characters. For instance; after listening to *The Three Little Pigs*, starting with the pigs saying good-bye to their mother, the children should remember the correct order in which the pigs build their houses, what kind of houses they built, the characters in the story and what happened at the end of the story.

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for March:

Groups Objects by One Characteristic; then Regroups them using a Different Characteristic and Indicates the Reason: Teaching children the skill of looking at all possibilities when doing an activity expands their reasoning skills. For instance when given a pile of buttons, the teacher will ask the children to think of all the ways they can sort the buttons. As she observes the children working together, they will explain their reasoning skills: "We sorted the buttons by color" or "We sorted the buttons by size" or "We sorted the buttons by shape", etc.

ACADEMIC SKILLS IN MARCH

Reading Readiness...

The children will:

- ✓ meet the letters Nn, Rr, Ii and review all the letters we have learned to date.
- ✓ Count the number of letters in their name and play the 'Name Game'!
- ✓ meet Rabbit and hear his story entitled: *Rabbit Runs the Race!*
- ✓ "Read the Room!" The teacher will label things in the classroom (For instance: Window, clock, table, chair, etc.). During small groups and throughout the day the children will be given clipboards, paper and pencils. The children will walk around the room and "Read the Room"! They will write down the word they see!
- ✓ have running AND relay races.
- ✓ meet Inky and hear her story entitled: *Inky Inchworm!*
- ✓ think of something they would like to invent - this is a journal entry.

Math Readiness...

The children will:

- ✓ count objects and match the number that they counted with the numeral.

- ✓ go on a search in the classroom looking for numbers 0 to 16, shapes, and coins. Once they have found all the hidden objects, they will sort and name everything we found.
- ✓ talk about more/less/same with numbers to 16.
- ✓ be given a clip board, pencil and a list of objects to find and count.

Harcourt Math Readiness - Math Concept for the Month...

In March the children will begin making patterns. Below are the lessons they will be doing:

- ✓ Lesson 1: Identify a Pattern: The children will describe simple patterns and identify patterns in the environment.
- ✓ Lesson 2: Extend a Pattern: The children will identify and extend a pattern, they will use concrete objects to extend a pattern, and they will predict what will come next when a pattern is extended.
- ✓ Lesson 3: Create a Pattern: The children will use concrete objects to create a simple pattern.



Science Fun...

The children will do the following fun experiment: Great Eggs-pectations!

Problem: What will happen to the egg in a glass full of water when salt is added to it?



Artist of the Month is VINCENT VAN GOGH ...



We will look at the artwork of Vincent Van Gogh - especially his painting of Sunflowers. Afterwards the children will look at a vase filled with sunflowers and paint their very own masterpieces! Wait until you see them - they are so beautiful that parents from past classes have framed the pictures!



St. Patrick's Day Fun! We will...

- follow the Leprechaun footprints and hopefully find a "Pot of Gold!"
- write in our journal: "If I found a pot of gold..."

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.

