

## **February in the Chick-a-dee Class**

### **Dear Chick-a-dee 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, Purple or Pink 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:**

#### **Manner Word of the Month & Always is "You're Welcome"!**

We will be practicing saying "You're Welcome" throughout the month. Through example, stories and role-playing we will practice saying "You're Welcome" when someone says "Thank You" to us.

**Opening One Thing In My Lunch Box:** In February the children will be encouraged to open up their own lunch box and then to open up one thing inside their lunchbox – first with lessons, second with assistance and lastly – All By Themselves! In addition to learning a new "independence skill" the children are developing their fine motor muscles.



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

1. Encourage and remind your child to say "You're Welcome" when someone says "Thank You" to them.
2. Have your child practice opening and closing their lunchbox and opening one thing inside!

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

**Experimenting With Different Ways to Balance and Strengthened Our Muscles - Activity of the Month:**

**Walking Heel-to-Toe on Masking Tape:** The teacher will put long pieces of masking tape in different locations in the large meeting room. The children will play "Follow the Leader" and walk "Heel-to-Toe" on each piece of masking tape.



**Additional Activities Plan During Movement Time:**

**Movement and Teaching Day and Night:** During gym time the children will stand in an open area. The teacher will call out "DAY" and the children will dance, hop & skip. When the teacher calls out "NIGHT", the children will stop moving and pretend to be asleep.

**Movement, Colors and the Heart and Square Shape:**

- ✓ Listen – Do – Name the Colors: The teacher will place many heart shapes on the gym floor. The teacher will have the children walk, hop and jump from one heart to another following a trail around the room. As they step on each color they will name the heart color.
- ✓ Heart and Square Heel-to-Toe March: The teachers will make an oversize masking tape square and heart on the gym room floor. During gym time the teacher will instruct the children to go to the heart and she will begin playing music. The children will walk Heel-to-Toe on the heart and when the music stops they have to freeze. They will do the same thing on the square!

**Fine Motor (Small Muscle) Objectives & Activities for**

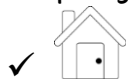
**February:**

**To strengthen fine motor muscles the children will...**

- ✓ Make groundhog puppet heads and paste them onto Popsicle sticks. They will put the sticks in a slit the teacher had made in a Styrofoam cup. The children will

move the Popsicle sticks up and down to make their groundhogs appear and disappear.

- ✓ Make a Giant Valentine Classroom Heart: The children will use Elmer's Glue (put a dot of glue) and then put a pom-pom on the glue dot.
- ✓ **It's Magic! What happens when you mix Red and White Paint together? Let's find out!** - The children will be given a Popsicle stick and a bowl that has red paint on one side and white paint on the other side. They will name the two colors and then the teacher will tell the children to mix the two colors together and see magic! What color do you think they will make? After the mixing has been done each class will make a different project with their paint – I wonder what it will be?



✓ **What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Practice the activities the children are learning at school!
2. As you look at books and items in the house, encourage your child to name the shapes and colors!
3. "Show" your child Daytime and "Show" Nighttime!

**LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:**

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

**Listen, Follow Simple Directions, Colors, Shapes, and Position**

**Words Next To and Between:** The teachers will give simple two simple directions and see if the children can follow through. For instance the teacher may say: "Please put the red square next to the heart " or "Please put the pink heart in between the two hearts".

**Who Do You Love, Listening and Waiting Your Turn!** The children will sit in a big circle. The teacher will hold up a big red heart and tell the children that when they are holding the heart it is their turn to speak and our turn to listen. When you have the heart you will name people and things you love.

**Acting Out the Adorable Poem: "Here's a Little Groundhog"**

(Sung to "I'm a Little Teapot") Here's a little groundhog, furry and brown. He's popping up to look around. If I see my shadow, down he'll go, Then six more weeks of winter – oh no!

**Acting Out the Silly Little Rhyme: "This Little Piggy"** - This little piggy went to market. This little piggy stayed home. This little piggy went to market. This little piggy stayed home. And this little piggy went wee-wee-wee all the way home!

**In Addition:** The children will learn adorable Valentine Day Songs and Poems!

**What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Give one and two-step directions and see if your child can follow through. Use visuals if necessary.
2. Practice our song and poem of the month!

**COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:****Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for February:**

Sorting Shapes and Colors: The children will be given colored hearts and colored square shapes. They will:

- ✓ Put all the hearts in one pile and all the squares in another pile. The children will name the shapes as they sort.
- ✓ Sort the hearts by color name and sort the squares by color name. The children will name the colors as they sort.
- ✓ Each child will be given a red, blue, pink, yellow, or green valentine heart. The teacher will say the poem, *"Valentines red, Valentines blue, Valentines pink, say, 'I love you. Valentines yellow, Valentines green, Prettiest valentines I've ever seen'!"* The children should listen carefully and when they hear the color of the valentine, they will hold up the correct color in the air.

## **ACADEMIC SKILLS IN FEBRUARY**

**Fun With Groundhogs!** The children will hear the story about Groundhog's Day during sing and afterwards they will make Groundhog Puppets and have a "Groundhog Lunch" – lettuce and cucumbers! Did you know that Groundhogs like to nibble on grasses and other greens?

**More About the Opposites Night and Day:** The children in the will make a "Night and Day" mural. The teacher will have a white poster board with a sun and a black poster board with a moon. She will give each child a picture of daytime scene or a nighttime scene. The children will decide if their picture goes on the daytime or nighttime board.

**Piggies Are Pink!** We will ask what animal is the color pink. Once the children decide that a pig is pink they will act out "The Three Little Pigs" and sing "This Little Piggy Went to Market". The children will also hear a story entitled: Piggies by Audrey Wood and afterwards each class will make different pig projects – wait until you see them!

**Counting 5 Hearts:** The children will count 5 Valentine Hearts.

**A Surprise Is Heading Your Way:** The class will discuss the job of the mail carrier; how he reads our addresses and knows where to bring our mail. We will make Valentines for our families and place them in the school mailbox that you will look for at pick up time!

**Here Are Valentine's For All My Friends:** Please send in valentine cards for your child's classmates on the day of his/her party. During our Valentine party, the children will pass out Valentines that they have brought from home (either store bought or homemade). **Please do not put your child's classmates' names on the envelopes.** The children enjoy pretending to be mail carriers and they are unable to read their classmates' names. Without the names the children are able to deliver the Valentines themselves. Don't forget to put your child's name on the inside card.

**You will need to send in 15 Valentines. Also, your child should wear PINK or RED to the Party!**



**What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Look at the things we are doing above and review with your child.

**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.**

