



December in the Duckling Class

Dear Duckling Families:

Don't forget to put our Classroom Calendar in a special location and refer to it before leaving for school! In December we have: Our Class Holiday Party and Our 'Virtual' Family Holiday Sing!

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

The Gift of Giving To Our Family and Friends: The children will hear a story about a little girl who comes from a loving family but they are poor. One day the girl is walking down the street and she sees a beautiful doll in a store window. She wishes she could have the doll but she knows her family just doesn't have enough money. The children at The Giving Nest hear about the girl and they want to help! They come up with a plan to do chores at home. The children work hard and they each earn \$2! They bring their money to school and when they count how much money they raised - they jump for joy because they have enough to buy the doll for the little girl! they have enough to buy the doll for the little girl! We will carry on with this beautiful story by asking the children to do chores at home so they can earn \$2.00! We will then purchase presents for families in need from all the money we collected.

In addition, the children will be making you a very special present!

Self-Help Skill: I Can Take Off My Hat and My Coat All By Myself! In December the teachers will assist and guide the children to take off their hat and coat as they arrive to school in the morning. As the month goes on they will encourage the children to do this by themselves. But don't worry - we are always observing and are there to lend a helping hand!



What Can You Do at Home?

1. Have you child make a picture and/or little craft to give to family members over the holidays!
2. Have your child practice taking off their hat and coat all by themselves!

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

Discovering Different Ways to Move our Bodies, Balancing and Learning Off/On:

Walking Toe to Heel on a Line: To discover different ways to move our bodies, to develop our balancing skills, and to learn the positional words Off/On the teacher will make a "Masking Tape Obstacle Course"! As the children walk toe to heel on the

masking tape the teacher will call out directions such as: "Walk on the tape, tiptoe on the tape, go "Off" the tape, go "On" the tape, etc.

Musical Chairs: To teach the positional words "On and Off" and to build core muscles and balance the children will play "Musical Chairs". The teacher will instruct the children to walk around a group of chairs when they hear music and when the music stops they should sit on a chair.

Fine Motor (Small Muscle) Objectives & Activities for December:

Cutting, Gluing & Coloring While Reviewing the Square and Triangle and Learning the

Rectangle: The children will cut out a square, triangle and rectangle and then glue them on a piece of paper. Then using crayons they will color in a back and forth motion!



What Can You Do at Home?

1. With adult supervision at all times, allow your child to cut with children scissors. They should use their "Helping Hand" to hold and move the paper and their other hand for holding their scissors. If your child needs help - put your fingers inside the scissors and as you cut together say: "Open, Shut Them, Open, Shut Them".
2. Make big simple shapes on a piece of paper and see if your child can cut them out - remind them to use their helping hand!

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

Language Development Objectives & Activities for December:

Naming Holiday and Winter Pictures: The teacher will have a variety of holiday and winter pictures. As she holds up each picture she will encourage the children to speak in a full sentence. For instance; when holding up a picture of a snowman she wants the children to say: "That is a snowman." The teacher will also develop language by asking questions; such as: "What do we wear when we make a snowman", "What can we use to make the snowman's face", etc.

"Love Is Something If You Give It Away" The children will act out and sing the song "Love Is Something If You Give It Away! Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away. Love is something if you give it away and it comes right back to you. Chorus: It's just like a magic penny, hold on tight and you don't get any. But lend it, spend it, give it away and it comes right back to you. Additional Verses: A Hug is Something, A Smile is Something, and Happiness is Something.

Rub-a-Dub-Dub: The children will learn the nursery rhyme Rub-a-dub-dub: Rub-a-dub-dub, Three men in a tub, And who do you think they be? The butcher, the baker, the Candlestick-Maker, All put out to sea.



What Can You Do at Home?

1. As you decorate the house, go to the store, etc. have your child name all the holiday things they see and encourage them to elaborate!
2. Sing the Song "Happiness Is Something If You Give It Away" together!
3. Recite "Rub-a-dub-dub" together!

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for December:

Practices an Activity Many Times Until Successful: The children will be doing a lot more cutting in December! The goal through positive reinforcement is to encourage the children to practice this skill many times until they feel comfortable using their helping hand and the "Open" and "Shut Them" motion.

ACADEMIC SKILLS IN DECEMBER

The Shoemaker and the Elves – Storybook of the month: To reinforce the theme of "Giving" we have chosen a classic story *The Shoemaker and the Elves*. The children will see how wonderful little elves help the shoemaker make shoes for members of his family.

Counting the Bells: The children will play *Counting the Bell Rings*.

Each child will be given a jingle bell with a pipe cleaner handle attached. The children will practice ringing the bells, all together then one at a time. Next the teacher will select a child, then hold up a card which has a picture from 1 to 5 bells on it. The child will count the bells aloud and then ring his bells the same amount of times.

Holiday Traditions:



Christmas: The teacher will discuss the holiday of Christmas with the children. Afterwards the teacher will show her small group a simple Christmas tree scene on a large piece of paper. Each of the objects in the scene is a definite shape; a triangular tree with a square trunk, round ornaments, and rectangular presents. The teacher will call out the names of the shapes and let the children take turns pointing to those shapes in the scene. They will then attempt to cut out these shapes and make a Christmas picture themselves.



Hanukkah: The teacher will discuss the holiday of Hanukkah with the children. The children will all pretend to be Dreidels and the teacher will recite this poem as the children act out the movements.

Five little dreidels spinning in a row.
 The first one spun, oh, so slow.
 The second went round and round
 The third one fell down on the ground.
 The fourth one spun like a happy top.
 The fifth one said, "I'll never stop!"



Diwali: The teacher will discuss the traditions involved with the holiday of Diwali. Diwali is one of the biggest festival of Hindus, it goes on for five continuous days, where the third days is celebrated as the main Diwali festival or 'Festival of lights'. The children will sing the song below to the tune of "London Bridge".

Little Lamps are burning bright,
 burning bright, burning bright.
 Little lamps are burning bright, It's Diwali!
 See them lighting up the night,
 up the night, up the night,
 see them lighting up the nights, It's Diwali!



Kwanzaa: The teacher will discuss the traditions involved with the holiday Kwanzaa. Afterwards the children will cut out candle shapes, three from red paper, three from green paper, and one from black paper. They will then recite the poem below. The children will listen carefully for the candle color. When they hear it, they will hold up the correct colored candle.

*Red candles, Green candles, Black candle, too.
 Will you light the candles?
 Please, please do.
 Red candles, green candles,
 Black candle, too -
 All shine at Kwanzaa
 For me and you.*

Fun with Rectangles - The children will cut out a Rectangle and glue it to a piece of paper. Then they will glue down the following song to the tune of "London Bridge":
 Two sides long and two sides short, Two sides long, Two sides short. Two sides long and two sides short, I'm a rectangle.

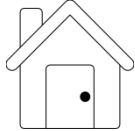
Sorting Shapes: The children will be given a pile of Triangle, Square and Rectangle Shapes and three lunch bags labeled with a Triangle, Square or Rectangle. The teacher will ask the children to put all the Triangles in the Triangle Bag, All the Squares in the

Square Bag and all the Rectangles in the Rectangle Bag.

Letters Cc, Dd & Ee and Reviewing Letters Aa & Bb – Our letters of the month are Cc, Dd and Ee and we will be reviewing letters Aa and Bb.

Counting to 10 – The children will count 10 Presents during Circle Time!

Counting up to 5 Objects Accurately – The teacher will lay objects in front of each child and the children will be asked to count the objects. This will continue until they have counted up to 5 objects. Each time the child counts and says how many they counted; the teacher will show the children the matching number.



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.

