



December 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 December we have: Our Saturday Family Holiday Sing, which will be Virtual this year and our Class Holiday Party! Plus - it's a SECRET - the children will be making you a very special holiday gift!

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

Manner Word of the Month & Always is EXCUSE ME! We will be practicing saying, "Excuse Me" throughout the day. The children will learn to use these wonderful words by listening to stories, through role-playing and examples. The children will be reminded to say, "Excuse Me" when someone is in their way or when they need to interrupt a conversation. We will also stress that we only interrupt a conversation if there is an emergency!

Putting My Lunch Box in the Bin! As the children come into the classroom at arrival time, the teacher will take the children's lunchbox out of their backpack. She will direct the children to put their lunch box in the bin. As the month goes on she will simply hand the lunchbox to the children and expect them to know what to do. *(There may be changes to the way the children do this during this time.)*



What Can You Do at Home?

1. Encourage and remind your child to say, "Excuse Me" when someone is in their way or when they need to interrupt a conversation (but encourage interruptions are only for emergencies)!
2. Work on having your child put their school things in a special place when they get home! For instance: put their lunch box in the kitchen and their take-home folder on the table in the kitchen.

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

Discovering Different Ways to Move our Bodies:

Acting Out the Adorable Rhyme: *"Pat-a-Cake"* *Pat-a-Cake, Pat-a- Cake, Baker Man. Bake me a cake as fast as you can. Roll it, pat it, and mark it with a "B" and put it in the oven for the baby and me.*

Wintry Walk: The teacher will have the children get ready for an imaginary walk in the snow by having the children pretend to put on their coats, hats, scarves, and snow boots. Then she will lead them around the gym room on a pretend walk through the snow, having them take big steps, tiptoe, shuffle their feet, and slide.

Musical Chairs: To teach the positional words "On and Off", to build core muscle strength 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.

Upward-Facing Dog (Yoga Pose of the Month): During gym time the children will review "Tree Pose" and in December they will learn Upward-Facing Dog. This pose stretches and strengthens the spine, shoulders and arms. Steps to pose: Start by lying down on the belly, with the hands by the chest, elbows tucked in, and fingers spread wide. Press down into the hands and use arm and shoulder strength to lift the upper body off the floor. Take three deep breaths in and out, and then gently lower back down to the floor.



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

Hold and Release the Color Red! The teacher will put out a muffin tin and a bowl filled with extra large red pom-poms. The children will use various "Pinching" tools (tongs, tweezers, scoopers, etc.) to pick up a pom-pom and release it in the muffin tin.

Stacked Christmas Trees: The children will use green solo cups to stack into a Christmas Tree shape. They will talk about how tall they can make their tree, how to stack the cups for stability. Then, being very careful not to knock the tree down, they will decorate the 'tree' with brightly colored stickers!

Red Golf Tees: The teachers will place red golf tees in a bowl. The children will be given red play dough and they will be shown how to roll their play dough into a ball. Next, the children will pick up a golf tee one at a time and push them into their ball of play dough.

Shhhhh - It's a Surprise: The children will be busy with their little hands making a holiday surprise for you - wait until you see your special treasure from your little treasure!

Ornament for Our Giving Forest: The children will make an ornament for the Giving Forest to tell you what chore they want to do at home for \$2.00!

Christmas Bow Toss: The children will toss Red Christmas Bows into a Basket!



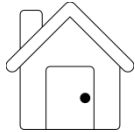
What Can You Do at Home?

1. Dance, Change Body Positions (stand up, sit down, crawl, slither, etc.)!
2. Take a "Winter Walk" and explore nature!
3. Play with Play Dough!
4. Review "UP" and "DOWN"!

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

Language Development Objectives & Activities for December:

Naming Items Inside a Present: December is truly a wonderful month about presents - giving and receiving! The teachers will wrap up a giant present that will be filled with many items. The children will open the present and name all the things that are inside. The teachers will encourage the children to form sentences by describing each item.



What Can You Do at Home?

1. Look through catalogs and have your children name all the things they see.

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for December:

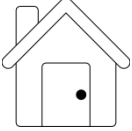
Grouping Items by Characteristics:

1. **Matches Similar Objects:** The teacher will have a bag filled with red and not red items. The children will name each item and then they will separate the items into two piles - one pile will be all the red items and one pile will be all the items that are not red.
2. **Small to Large:** The children will be given 5 different sized candles. They will place them in size order.

ACADEMIC SKILLS IN DECEMBER

1. **Opposites: "Open & Close":** The children will have fun learning the opposites "Open" and "Close" as they open and close lids on gift boxes!
2. **Counting 5 Presents!** The children will count 5 presents!
3. **Wrapping Up Our Teacher:** For fun the teacher will stand in the middle of the room holding the ends of several extra long crepe paper streamers. Three of the children will hold onto the opposite ends. The teacher will ask them to pretend that the teacher is a present. They will circle around her, holding onto the streamers, until she is all "wrapped up."

4. **The Gift of Giving & Our Giving Forest:** To help the children to understand the real meaning of our December holidays; we are asking the children to do a chore at home (set the table, put away the toys, make their bed etc.). We are requesting that you pay your child \$2.00 upon completing the chore. Together with your child place the two dollars in an envelope and write out the chore he/she completed on the outside. Explain to your child that we will put all the money collected (all four Giving Nest schools participate) together to purchase toys for needy families in the surrounding area. (The children will see a little play explaining this further).



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.

