



February 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 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:

We All Have Feelings: In February we will be talking and doing a variety of activities about feelings. The goal is for the children to understand and identify the different feelings we experience throughout the day and to reinforce that how we feel is okay. For instance when we talk about feeling sad; we will tell the children that it is okay to cry and when we feel angry; that it is okay to be mad but we cannot hurt anyone. We will talk about what we can do when we have different feelings. For instance, when we are sad; we can talk about it, find a special cuddly toy, etc. When we are mad; we can talk about it, take a deep breath, etc.

Self-Help Skill: I Can Put on My Hat and My Coat! In February we will practice taking off and putting on our hats and coats!



What Can You Do at Home?

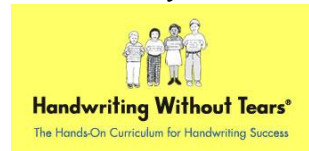
1. Read books and talk about feelings!
2. Practice taking off and putting on hats and coats!

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

Moving a Parachute “Up” and “Down” & All Around?

While the children learn the positional words: “Up” and “Down” they will be working the muscles in their arms as they hold onto the parachute and move their arms “Up” and move their arms “Down”.

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



In January we worked on crayon grip. This month we will do the following “Handwriting Without Tears” activities...

Aim and Color: The Aim and Color activity is designed to teach pick up, hold, aim and place, move the crayon back and forth and listening to directions. The teacher will place a black, red and yellow crayon in front of each child in her group. She will tell them to pick up the red crayon, hold the crayon, aim the crayon on the ladybug and move the crayon back and forth on the ladybug. She will do the same with “Black – Color the Bug” and “Yellow – Color the Bee”.

Aim and Trace: The Aim and Trace activity is designed to teach pick up, hold, aim and place, move the crayon up a line and move the crayon down a line and following directions.

Helping Hand: The focus has been on the writing hand, but in February we will put it all together and focus on the writing hand AND the helping hand. The helping hand positions and holds the paper. The helping hand helps maintain good posture while children cut and color. To develop fine motor muscles and move towards handwriting skills efficiently, children need to use the helping hand consistently.

Cutting – Cutting and More Cutting: The children will practice cutting Straight Lines, Curved Lines and Angled Lines. These three cutting techniques will help children use their dominant hand for cutting, their helping hand and turning the paper as they cut.



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. Great Activities to Encourage the Use of the Helping Hand: Holding a container of bubbles while dipping the wand and blowing bubbles, Holding a bowl and stirring, and Holding beads and stringing them.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

Language Development Objectives & Activities for February:

What Are Feelings: In February the children will learn: “What Are Feelings”, “Identifying the Feelings of: Happy, Sad, Angry and Scared” by listening to different scenarios and then choosing the face that matches that feeling and lastly they will make a Feelings Graph entitled: “How Are You Feeling Today? And “Why Are You Feeling Like That Today?”

Poem of the Month: “Roses Are Red”: The children will learn the rhyme “Roses Are Red”: Roses Are Red, Violets Are Blue, Sugar is Sweet and So Are You!

Story of the Month: The children will listen to and then act out the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*.



What Can You Do at Home?

1. Talk about Feelings with your child. When we talk about feelings with the children, we let them know that all feelings are okay but some actions that go with feelings are not okay. For instance: It is okay to get angry but it is not okay to hit when we are angry. We teach things that are okay: Take a deep breath and count to 3, go to a quiet place and look at a book until we calm down, etc.
2. Recite the poem: "Roses Are Red"

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for February:
Practices an activity many times until successful with adult prompting and support: In February the children will be doing a great deal of cutting. They will be practicing this skill during small groups and they will be encouraged to keep trying until they get the hang of it!

ACADEMIC SKILLS IN FEBRUARY

Fun With Mr. Groundhog:

1. During sing time the children will sing Groundhog's Day songs and they will hear a funny story about what the groundhog does on Groundhog's Day!
2. The children will pretend they are adorable groundhogs hibernating in winter (they hide under a blanket). The teacher will call out "Come Out Little Groundhogs" and the "groundhogs" will come out. If the teacher shines a flashlight that means the sun is shining and the groundhogs will be scared, Yell "SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER" and scurry back under the blanket! They will do it again and this time it will be cloudy and the groundhogs will Yell: "EARLY SPRING"!
3. The teacher will place several common items on an overhead projector. She will turn on the projector and

the children will guess what the item is from viewing their *shape shadow*.

4. On a sunny day the class will go outside and stand in the sun on the parking lot. The teachers will show the children their shadows & weather permitting she will trace the children's shadows and print their names in the middle.

Let's Learn About Two of our Presidents: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln –

1. We will discuss the achievements of Washington and Lincoln and stress that even as children they always tried to do the right thing. We will use examples such as Abe walking miles to return a book. We will also explain that, like us, they sometimes made mistakes, such as George cutting down the cherry tree. Of course we will stress that he admitted he was wrong and tried to do better. We will explain how important it is to be truthful and honest and that Abraham Lincoln's nickname is Honest Abe.
2. We will talk about the difference between truth and a fib. The teacher will say a short sentence and the children will decide if the sentence is a "Truth" or a "Fib". For example: "Grass is purple", "It is important to eat healthy food", "You should eat lots and lots of candy".
3. Science Experiment: "What Happens When I Put a Dirty Penny into Water?" And "What Happens When I Put a Dirty Penny into Vinegar?" In addition we will talk about who is on the penny!

That's My First Name!

We will be replacing our seat symbols with new ones so we can learn to recognize our names and our classmates' names. One at a time the teachers will print your child's name on a piece of construction paper while your child is watching. They will discuss the names of the letters. The

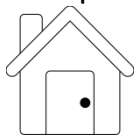
children will decorate their papers and the teachers will laminate these. We will begin using these in place of the symbols to help the children with name recognition.

Letters Jj, Kk, Ll & Mm and Reviewing Letters Aa to li – Our letters of the month are Jj, Kk, Ll, & Mm and we will be reviewing letters Aa to li.

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

Recognizing Numbers 1 & 2 – The children will count 1 and 2 items and then they will point to the number that they counted.

I Know My Shapes: The children will sort all the shapes they have learned and a new shape will be added – the heart shape!



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.

