



February 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 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 our classmates too!

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

Respecting One Another and Understanding that We All Have

Feelings: Since the first day of school we have focused on being Bucket Fillers and each month we have talked about ways to be a bucket filler! In January we talked about Accepting and Respecting Each Other. This month we will talk about Feelings – stressing that we all have feelings, that we need to respect each others feelings and that it's okay to be happy, sad, mad, scared, etc. BUT it's not okay to do certain things when we are feeling mad, etc. For example: it is okay to be mad, but it is not okay to hit someone when we are mad.

Self Help Skill: I Can Button and Zipper My Coat! When it is time to go outside to the playground and we are getting ready to go home at the end of the day we will be practicing buttoning and zipping our coats.



What Can You Do at Home?

1. Talk about what it means to accept and respect each other.
2. Have your child practice putting on their coat, buttoning and zipping.

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

Throwing and Catching Bean Bags and Balls with My Friends:

To help the children develop eye-hand coordination and to work on throwing balls and beanbags over hand and under hand they will toss bean bags and balls to a partner during gym time.

Fine Motor (Small Muscle): The same skills from January will carry over to February

- The children will form the letters they have learned to date in upper and lowercase letters.
- The children will form the numbers 1 to 12.
- The children will begin forming their first name (upper and lowercase) on paper. They will use a crayon first and then we will use pencils.
- The children will do their “Handwriting Without Tears” worksheets using tri-write pencils.



What Can You Do at Home?

1. Have your child practice the letters & numbers as they are introduced and making their name using uppercase for the first letter and lowercase for the other letters.
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 February:

Stays on Topic and Asks Questions Related to the Topic: An important language development skill is to listen while someone is speaking and then to be able to ask questions related to the topic. This skill is vital for school success – to hear information, question the information if you don't understand and then to retain and use the information.



What Can You Do at Home?

1. When you read a story with your child; talk about beginning – middle – end.

2. Ask your child questions about the story – character names, their favorite character, think of different things that happened in the story, etc.

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for February:

Recalls 3 or 4 Items Removed from View: Retaining information is an important skill and one way to do that is to look at 3 to 4 items and then to remember what those items are when they are removed from view.

ACADEMIC SKILLS IN FEBRUARY

Reading Readiness...

The children will:

- ✓ meet the letters Ll, Vv, Uu and Nn and as always review all the letters we have learned to date.
- ✓ meet Little Lamb, Little Lion and Little Lemur as they hear their story entitled: *Look at the Little Friends*.
- ✓ make a journal page entitled: "I love..." The children will write who they love and draw a picture of who they love.
- ✓ meet Vanessa Vulture as they hear her story entitled: *A Very Special Day!*
- ✓ make a Lion Puppet
- ✓ make Valentine Cards
- ✓ make Violets in a Vase
- ✓ make Valentines on a Vine!
- ✓ meet Ugboo as they hear the story entitled: *Ugboo!*
- ✓ play the game entitled: "What's Hidden Inside My Umbrella"

Sequencing Fun...

The children will begin to develop their sequencing skills. We will...

- ✓ look at 2 picture cards and then sequence the two pictures in the correct order to tell a story.
- ✓ look at 3 and then 4 picture cards and then sequence the pictures in the correct order to tell a story.

Harcourt Math Readiness...

As the children work with the numbers 0 to 12 they will begin to work with the concepts of More-Most/Fewer-Least/Same. After hearing

the story Little Quack by Lauren Thompson the children will do the following activity:

- ✓ Play "Bears in the Cave"! The teacher will put a paper graph on the floor surrounded by "Bear Caves". Each cave will have little bears of the same color. The children will take out the bears in Cave #1 and put them down on the graph. They will continue until all the bears are put on the graph. Then the children will decide which cave has the Most/Least/Same amount of bears.

More Math Readiness Activities...

- ✓ play the "Bubble Gum Game." To play the game the children will look at 11 paper gum ball machines that have the numbers 1 to 11 written on the base of each machine. The children will place the corresponding number of colored pom-poms (gumballs) on each gumball machine.
- ✓ play the "Dozen Egg Game." To play the game the children will crack open their plastic egg and read the number that is written on the inside of their egg. The children will count out different objects that are inside their egg.
- ✓ count pennies up to 12 and have fun playing "Store." The children will pretend to buy toys and food that cost up to 12 cents.
- ✓ sing songs, sort coins, play "Store", and name & identify the value of the penny, nickel, dime & quarter.

February Science Experiment...

"Card Shark" – Problem: What will happen to a penny when the card is snapped off the glass?

Our Artist Focus in February will be 'African Art' ...

In February the children will look at art & art techniques from Africa. The children will be creating a 'stained glass window' after looking at the work of painter and poet, Ashley Bryan.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, etc. please put a note in your child's take-home folder.

