



## December 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 December we have our 'Virtual' Saturday Family Holiday Sing, Frosty the Snowman Day & our Class Holiday Party!**

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

**Is Aware and Respectful of Personal Space with Occasional Reminders:** Children in this age group begin to understand the need for personal space. In December we will talk about personal space – what it means, why it is important and how to show it! Through pictures, stories and practice we instruct the children that an arms length away from our friends is the way to show personal space.

**I Can Do It Myself!** In December the children will be take care of their personal belongings at arrival time and follow the check-in procedures with little prompting.

### **Skills to Develop Independence & Handwriting...**

- ✓ Each morning when the children arrive they will help put all their things away.
- ✓ The children will put their name card that has their first name on the check-in board.
- ✓ The children will make their first name by using pencils, pencil grips & the Handwriting Without Tears method.
- ✓ The children will use stencils and markers to trace various shapes. Tracing stencils encourages children to use their "Helping Hand".



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

1. Practice personal space at home.
2. Establish routines at home. For instance, when you come home from school; have your child empty their backpack (take home folder on the table, lunch box in the kitchen, coat and hat on a hook).

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

**I Can Balance: The children will play “Animal Friends”. Below are a few of the planned activities that promote balance:**

- ✓ Either indoors or outdoors, pretend to be different animals with your child.
- ✓ Flap your arms like bird wings and “fly” around obstacles.
- ✓ Hop on all fours like a frog, and say “Ribbit-ribbit-ribbit”.
- ✓ Hop on two legs with feet together, and pretend to be kangaroos.
- ✓ Bend your knees, walk with your legs far apart, and swing your arms like chimpanzees.
- ✓ Walk on feet and hands and pretend to be a reptile.
- ✓ Walk on hands and knees and pretend to be kittens saying “meow”.
- ✓ Slide on the floor or ground and pretend to be snakes saying “hiss”.
- ✓ Invent other animal ideas and noises.

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

- ✓ The children will use pencils and form their letters and numbers to date.
- ✓ Learning how to correctly use watercolor paint is an excellent fine motor skill – it teaches children the technique of dipping their paint brush in water, tapping the excess water on the cup, dipping their brush in a desired color and then applying it to the paper. In addition, when they want a new color they need to clean their brush and follow the steps again. Once the children have learned this technique then they will make their very own watercolor creation.

**Artist of the Month - Georgia O’Keeffe...**

Georgia O’Keeffe was born on November 15, 1887, in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She is best known for fantastic paintings of flowers and landscapes of the Southwest. As a child, Georgia was quiet and independent. She was one of six children in the O’Keeffe family. Georgia was fascinated with nature and all of its colors and beauty. By the time she was in eighth grade she knew she wanted to be an artist. So, at age 12, she began taking her first art lessons.



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

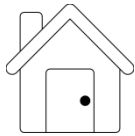
1. Do the balancing activities listed above!
2. Have your child practice the letters & numbers as they are introduced and making their name using uppercase for the first letter and lowercase for the other letters. Encourage the 3-point pencil grip, starting their letters at the top, and forming the letters in upper and lower case.

## **LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:**

### **Language Development Objectives & Activities for December:**

**It's Your Turn – It's My Turn to Talk:** In December we will focus on the very important skill of listening to others when they are speaking and waiting to talk. As we practice this skill, the child speaking will hold a pretend microphone or object. The rule: the person who has the microphone / object is the only one who should be speaking.

**Sharing Thoughts in Whole Class Discussion and Small Group Discussion:** The teachers will encourage the children to share their thoughts throughout the day. They will emphasize that we all have something important to say and they hope all will feel comfortable to speak.



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

1. During a family dinner and/or activity have conversations with each other and encourage the importance of listening to each other!

## **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:**

### **Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for December:**

**Recalls 3 or 4 items Removed from View:** The children will play the "Tray Game"! The teacher will put 3 items on a tray. The children will name the three items and then the teacher will have the children close their eyes and she will remove one of the items. The children will open their eyes and try to guess what is missing. As the game progresses the teacher will put 4 items on the tray.

## **ACADEMIC SKILLS IN DECEMBER**

### **Reading Readiness:**

The children will:

- ✓ have fun with the Letters: Ss and Dd and review all the letters we have learned to date.
- ✓ meet Bobby Bear and hear his story entitled: *Six Silly Seals* and make Setting Suns and Sequin Snakes.
- ✓ meet Dog and hear his story entitled: *What is Dog Doing?* The children will Dance in the Gym Room.
- ✓ "Read" our Ss and Dd rhyme and bring it home to "Read" to you!
- ✓ make each letter in their individual handwriting books.

- ✓ make pictures of things that start with the letters Ss & Dd in their picture dictionary books.
- ✓ play “What’s Behind the Door?” On a piece of Poster Board there will be little doors. Behind each door will be a letter or a picture. The children will take turns opening one door and they have to name the letter or name the picture and identify what letter the picture begins with (For example: a picture of a Dog – dog starts with the letter Dd).

### **Math Readiness: Review Numbers 1 to 9 and Introduce Numbers 10 & 0**

- ✓ Harcourt Math: Lesson 2.3 – Count Objects – The children will rote count to 10 and higher, they will count concrete objects to 10, and they will understand that quantity remains the same regardless of arrangement.
- ✓ Lesson 2.4 – Match Numbers to Sets – The children will count concrete objects to 10, they will identify and match numbers to quantities, and they will recognize numbers in the environment.
- ✓ The teacher will place objects (no more than 10) in a clear plastic container and ask the children to estimate how many objects are in the container. We will record the estimates and then count the objects. We will repeat the activity using a variety of objects.
- ✓ The children will form the number 10 in their Handwriting Without Tears workbook.

### **December Science Experiments:**

#### **1. “Topsy”**

Hypothesis: What will happen when a glass filled with water and a piece of cardboard slid over the top is then tipped over?

#### **2. “Follow the Bouncing Ball”**

Hypothesis: What will happen to a Ping Pong Ball when a hair dryer is turned on?



### **Activities you can do at home to reinforce the skills we are working on:**

#### **Fine Motor Development Ideas:**

- Continue cutting out simple shapes and progressively add more difficult shapes such as an octagon and trapezoid.
- Tracing and making all the letters and numbers to date. Remember to watch that your child is holding the pencil correctly.

#### **Letter and Number Ideas:**

- Play “Can You Guess the Letter/Number?” Write the letters that your child has been introduced to (Uppercase and Lowercase Letters should be put on separate cards) and the numbers 0 to 10 on index cards. Hold up one card at a time. If it is

a letter the child should tell you the letter name and think of a word that starts with that letter. If it is a number your child should say the number and then count out that many objects. Hold up the letters and numbers out of order.

-Review the alphabet and rhyme stories of the month.

**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.**

