

Teddy Bear News

Our philosophy is that children learn most effectively through play. We support and encourage each child's unique social, emotional and intellectual development in a nurturing, hands-on and safe classroom environment.



Classroom Happenings

Even as the cold winter wind blows the temperatures down, down, down, the Teddy Bear Room is filled with warmth and vitality. No one is hibernating here, although, some Teds like to keep their hats on and even their jackets sometimes. We like to think this is a fashion statement on their part.

We have been spending more time inside, of course. This opens the window, (Yikes!), for extensive time for the children to explore the centers, the floor play, and the school. We have been taking half the class at a time to the Movement Room. There they climb a tall climber, swing on a bar, crawl through a tunnel, play with soft balls, shoot baskets, and work on the magnetic wall with ramps and balls. The children have had more time with Nikki and Amber. We hop down to the office to bring a toy in for repair, to check on the status of our classroom clock, to put in an order for a supply item a child might deem necessary.

We have been going with the winter theme, since it is quite apparent all around us. We made a great big Frosty the Snowman with "snow paint". We made snowballs, and pictures with the wind whirling the "snow" about the paper. We made a collage of winter animals and put them on the bulletin board to be friends with Frosty, and we made beautiful snowflakes with glitter glue and real glitter! Oh, what fun it is to be a three-year-old at the Nursery!

Developmental Goals

As you well know, these Teddies have lots of energy. The various centers of the room do channel it. The children are interested and curious. They are advancing their early writing and their scissor cutting skills. However, the ability to listen in a group is challenging. The children must sit down and focus on the teacher. Both are difficult tasks, after they have been interacting all over the room for an hour and a half. We help them focus by reading fabulous books with great pictures and fascinating plot. The Snow Beast, by Chris Judge was such a hit, we read it three times in one morning. We also read: Max and Ruby's Snowy Day, by Rosemary Wells, A Snowy Day, by Ezra Jack Keats, and the wonderful Jan Brett books, The Mitten and The Hat.



A Closer Look

Here is a closer look at Floor Play. We have many materials that we place on the floor for the easier availability to the children. We alternate these materials to maintain and stimulate the children's interest. We place cars, parking garages, trains, tracks, big and little blocks, doll houses, blankets, play food, puzzles, and sometimes items from the Science Table like magnifying glasses, pine cones, and shells on the rug. The children may develop their play alone, or work together with a friend. Children become absorbed and focused in their play, concentrating, and thinking about what they are doing. They play about what they have seen and heard and what they know. They build on this knowledge with each other, or by playing and thinking for extended time on their own. They learn to negotiate, and solve problems. "Can this car fit down the ramp?" "Does this puzzle piece fit?"

In summary, there is a lot happening during Floor Play. The children are developing their fine motor skills, their social skills, their cognitive skills, and their language skills. Pre-school is fascinating!

IMPORTANT DATES

Important Dates:

Thursday, February 9: WU Family Night at the Magic House

Saturday, February 11: Art Gallery Day and Night

Tuesday, February 14: Valentine's Day...Teddy Bear children-only party with teachers. (No parents: Sorry, we have seen in the past that this is way too crazy for the Teds, and we can handle crazy.) Please **don't address** your child's valentines to any other child: just your child's name on the back of 18 cards and no name on the front of the envelope. The Teddies will be making a Valentine Mailbox and learning the song, *I'm Gonna Mail Myself to You!*

Friday, February 17: NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day

Monday, February 20: NO SCHOOL- Presidents' Day

March 20-24 (Mon.-Fri.) Spring Break

Love, Miss Marbie & Miss Chona