



## Infant News

Welcome to all our new infants and their families.

The children are growing all the time, so they enjoy the many movement games we play. To use their muscles, they stretch and stretch, when we sing "Reach for the Stars". Their days are very active, but sometimes they like being in a place where things are quiet. A fun activity to play this month is hiding a toy or stuffed animal under holiday wrapping paper. This teaches object permanence as well as the concept of over and under.

The teachers will be bouncing balls with the babies for a movement activity. The sound and movement of a bouncing ball attracts the baby's attention. Words can help encourage visual and active pursuit of the ball, as we engage in the game. As a baby becomes mobile, the ball becomes a fascinating toy.

To promote self-awareness and language skills we will pretend to be snowmen while pointing to each part of the body and singing.

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in pictures of family and friends. For those who haven't sent in pictures, please send them in as soon as possible. Have a happy and safe holiday from the infant staff!

### **REACH FOR THE STARS**

(To the tune of "The Alphabet Song")

Reach out, reach out,

Stretch so far.

Reach until you touch a star!

(Encourage babies to reach out in all directions)

### **SNOWMAN**

(To the tune of "I'm a Little Tea Pot")

Snowman has a hat up on his/her head

(touch head)

Look at his bow tie so bright and red

(tickle neck)

See his carrot nose and eyes that shine

(touch nose) (point to eyes)

He's a snowman friend of mine!

(hug a friend)



## Toddler News

There are many reasons why December is a month of traditions and celebrations for most people. This month, the children will explore, learn and participate in these holidays and traditions.

We will be learning about the celebration of Hanukkah and all the traditions that are followed during this festive time. We will be reading books such as The Chanukah Guest and My First Hanukkah. We will also be making potato pancakes, a favorite Hanukkah treat! During this time, the children will also learn to play the dreidel game and will be lighting the menorah.

We are also going to explore how children around the world celebrate the Christmas holiday. The children will engage in numerous creative art activities such as making Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer with our hand prints, Christmas tree ornaments and paper plate Santas.

Kwanzaa is a holiday that honors African Americans and their heritage. The children will learn about the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa, which go along with each day. We will be reading a book called K is for Kwanzaa, which is a children's alphabet book on Kwanzaa traditions. The children will make Kinaras and Kwanzaa place mats for the traditional feast on the last day of Kwanzaa.

Please let us know if you would like to share any of your holiday traditions with us.

### **Monthly Concepts**

**Color review:** Red, green, blue and yellow

**Language:** Hanukkah, Menorah, Dreidel, Gelt, Shamash, Kwanzaa, Kinara, Harvest, Christmas, Santa Claus

**Math:** Pattern, 7 days of Kwanzaa, 8 days of Hanukkah; review of shapes – circle, square, triangle and rectangle

**Science:** Potato latkes, Christmas cookies

**Small motor:** stringing beads, Kwanzaa place mats

**Gross Motor:** Gymnastics with Ken and sledding (weather permitting)