

All about December



We were so excited to have our center wide Holiday celebration with all of you! Thank you for helping to make this wonderful event! Thank you to Monica for decorating and coordinating the amazing firetruck for us to enjoy!! Thanks to Ellen and Michelle for their fun snowflake sun-catcher activity!

Cold weather continues to be the forecast for us; we will always make the "snow day" decision by 6am at the latest. We try to provide families as much notice as possible. Please check WCAX for closings, we will also send out an email everyone!

Let's Grow Kids is helping to raise awareness for the importance of high quality affordable childcare! Please join us for an informational and fun event put on by CIPCC!! The more the merrier! Please join the movement!

January 20th 8am-10am for a pancake breakfast and sledding party!

As a friendly reminder, we make staffing schedules based on each child's contracted hours, please be respectful of this policy! The late policy is as follows: "\$1 per minute for the first 5 minutes (per child), \$5 per minute for minutes 6-15, \$10 per minute after 15." This means picking up 20 minutes late is a \$105 late fee. Please plan accordingly!

Yours,
Katie & Carolyn

Upcoming Dates:

- 1/15 ~ CIPCC Closed Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 1/20 ~ Pancakes and sledding party!!

Duckling News in December 2017

Welcome back everyone. Hope you all had a very nice vacation.

We are running a little behind with our newsletter.

December was a very short month. We had fun learning about colors and holidays.

I had a great time on my trip to Kansas, it was fun seeing my Daughter, her husband and grandchildren.

We have eight children in our room now, we have a new friend that just started his name is Mason.

We are going to work on an artic theme in January.

Please remember to bring in snow suits and boots for going outside.

We are closed this Monday the 15 for MLK day.

Thanks, Bonnie & Polly



Chipmunk Chatter

DECEMBER NEWS

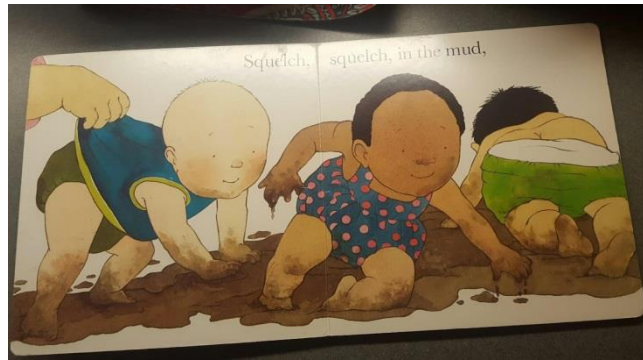
POM POMS, DRESS UP, AND SNOW were some of our favorite things to play this month!

Construction workers, doctors, ladybugs, butterflies, police officers, and hippies...we've been fascinated with dress up. Amy and Stephanie have had the clothes in our classroom for a long time, but we just waited until WE were ready to try them on. Once we did, we were hooked!

Amy usually empties our sensory table and puts something new in it every few days; but we wouldn't let her this month! (Little known secret...toddlers run the show). Did you know it was even humanly possible to drop pom poms into plastic bottles and dump them out like literally 8 million times in 2 weeks? It's totally true. We proved it. We also put the pom poms in our kitchen dishes, the train set, various classroom baskets, in the chair cushion, under the futon, and in our mouths. Amy and Stephanie kept following us around saying, "Don't put pom poms in your mouth, they're yucky!" Nag, nag, nag. What do they know? Pom poms are obviously quite delicious. When you put a pom pom in your mouth, guess what? The teacher has you go throw it in the garbage and grumbles something about "cooties". Well the garbage and cooties are a super fun game! We take the pom poms out of our mouths and giggle all the way to the garbage! Toddlers: 1, Amy and Stephanie: 0.

CLASSROOM FUNNY:

Amy was reading us a story and when we got to this picture, she asked, "What are the babies playing in?" The whole class said, "EEEEWWWWWW!" and two kids yelled, "POOOOOOOP!" Amy was laughing too hard to finish.



WE LOVE SNOW! Everyone was so excited by the snow, but Amy and Stephanie are wimps and said 10 degrees was too cold to go outside. You may not know it, but toddlers are REALLY good improvisers! When it's too cold to play OUTside, we bring the snow INside! We even PAINTED the snow! If we're causing confusion at home by trying to shovel the snow off the walkway and dump it in the house, Amy and Stephanie send their apologies.

The day before break was the best day EVER! We got to wear pajamas to school and M.L. came in with her dog, Piper! M.L. gave us treats and read us a story, and Piper wore a holiday hat and sweater! We giggled like crazy straight from our toes!

Amy and Stephanie say, "NO CLIMBING IN THE SENSORY TABLE!" We clearly take them VERY seriously.

GO BANANAS!

Michelle, with Head Start, comes in once a month to cook with us; this month, we made banana popsicles (because...December...freezing...popsicles...why not?! We got to smash the bananas and scoop them into cups, then the teachers froze them for us. DELICIOUS!

GOODBYE, 2017!

Turtles December Newsletter

It's great to be back after our holiday vacation !!

The Turtles were very busy the month of December. It's amazing how they are so very fascinated with our baby area.

This pretend play is such an important part of honing social skills and acting out situations they see at home or in their surroundings. On our curriculum over the month we have focused on colors. Throughout "colors" we weave in things the children express interest in such as our current hot spot "dramatic play" which is now filled with babies. At any given moment Turtles can be seen feeding, changing, or reading to the babies. We have also been working on using our words instead of screaming or yelling.

In December we had a special visitor ML who came with her "elf" Piper. She did some tricks and gave everyone goody bags. It was great to see ML.

We tried a few science experiments this month. Not very many worked out for us but the kids still really enjoyed the process of them.

Now that for sure the cold weather is here it is really important that everyone has snow pants, gloves, winter jackets, and boots. Unless it is or below a "feels" like 13 we usually will go out and enjoy our playground.

Finally we'd like to welcome Lynken to our classroom. We look forward to surviving these next few cold months with lots of indoor fun and learning.

Thanks, Kendra and Lila



CUBS Newsletter - January 2018



Christina and Monica

🎵 Do you want to build a snowman? 🎵



December FLEW by! We stayed super busy . . .

- learning about tubes and tunnels.
- learning about how tubes and tunnels are used in our everyday lives, and how they even exist in our bodies.
- looking for tubes and tunnels in our community during nature walks.
- playing in the snow!
- practicing getting ourselves ready to go outside in the winter (ski pants, boots, coats, hats, mittens, etc.)
- studying locomotives, specifically the Polar Express!
- making gak, play dough, and floam (gak with styrofoam beads).
- practicing counting and learning our numerals.
- practicing calming our bodies and self-regulating using yoga and “rainbow breaths.”
- playing games from the “Lending Library” that is located in the hallway under the parent cubbies. Please note that these games/activities are available for you to borrow. Check in with a teacher, Katie, or Carolyn to sign them out! The children LOVE them!

A big warm **WELCOME** to our newest Cub, Landyn!

In January . . .

- the Kiddie CATs program will return, on January 22. Please return any paperwork regarding this program, if necessary.
- we will update/refresh our “Family Tree.” Please be sure to send in 1-3 family photos for this project. You can bring in hardcopies or email the photos to me at cubs@cipcc.org.
- we will continue to study tubes and tunnels, digging deeper into their function and purpose and investigation how different community members use tubes/tunnels in various ways.
- we will explore all things SNOW!



Odds and Ends:

- We hope that you enjoyed your winter break and we look forward to a fun and productive 2018!
- Thank you to all who signed up for parent-teacher conferences. It was nice meeting with all of you, getting to know you better and discussing your child's progress.
- Please be sure that your child is equipped with boots, ski pants, coats, hats, and gloves at school. We do go out in the snow (and we love it!). It is also helpful to keep an extra pair of sneakers/inside shoes at school so that your child doesn't have to wear his/her boots all day – boots can get our classroom awfully dirty!
- PLEASE ensure that your child's winter gear is LABELED with his/her name! It is easy for gear to fall out of cubbies and to get misplaced, and it is impossible to keep track of whose is whose!
- Can't get ahold of me? Emails going unanswered? Just call! Our internet can be spotty and sometimes it takes days for emails to be received on my end. If you have an important message to relay and your email is going unanswered, don't hesitate to call!
- Christina has successfully complete the Peer Review Program through the Agency of Education and has been recommended for Licensure, Birth-PreK!

The Importance of Dramatic Play (excerpts from *The Importance of Pretend Play*, by www.scholastic.com):

“Young children learn by imagining and doing. Have you ever watched your child pick up a stone and pretend it is a zooming car, or hop a Lego across the table as if it were a person or a bunny? Your child is using an object to represent something else while giving it action and motion. But this pretend play is not as simple as it may seem. The process of pretending builds skills in many essential developmental areas.”

Not only does dramatic play “nurture the imagination” and help to build language skills, but dramatic play also helps children to problem solve as they develop social and emotional competency!

“When your child engages in pretend (or dramatic) play, he is actively experimenting with the social and emotional roles of life. Through cooperative play, he learns how to take turns, share responsibility, and creatively problem-solve. When your child pretends to be different characters, he has the experience of ‘walking in someone else's shoes,’ which helps teach the important moral development skill of empathy. It is normal for young children to see the world from their own egocentric point of view, but through maturation and cooperative play, your child will begin to understand the feelings of others. Your child also builds self-esteem when he discovers he can be anything just by pretending!”

Farmhouse Fun!

Teachers: Misty and Halle

Ending the Year With Babies!

Following our exploration of dinosaurs, we chose some “big topics” to learn about and it came down to “Transportation” and “Babies”. “Babies” was the winner by a couple votes, so we spent the month of December learning about them in different ways. We had a real baby visit us from the infant classroom in the Red Building, observed how she was different than us physically and talked about how babies learn to move as they grow. We talked about what babies need and why, using baby oil and baby bottles to create some new art work for our classroom (these can be seen in our middle room and our eating room). We even looked at real ultrasounds borrowed from Christina (the preschool teacher in the Red Building) .

From there we talked about characters in some of our favorite books that happened to be babies, such as “Toddie” from The Wicked Big Toddler. This story provides a comical look at what life would be like for an extremely large (or “wicked big”) baby and his family. This story also lets us touch upon the location of the state of Maine, using the map illustrated in the beginning of the book.

To finish up we talked about baby animals! The book Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too? provided us opportunities to see how animals families can be similar or different than our own. We also pretended to be kangaroo mothers with a baby dolls as our “joey” by wearing a bag (“pouch”) around our neck and hopping across the room.

As we begin a new year, the group has voted to learn about “Winter”! “Transportation” lost the vote- again.

Taking the Learning Home: Can your child get his/her own snow gear on? This is a big self-help skill children who live in our climate have to master and here’s a fun way to help! Have a “getting dressed” race. Lay out your snow gear, and theirs and then time to see how long it takes to get it on (without help- if possible). I’ve added the lyrics to the song we use in our classroom to help with the order ☺.

(to the tune of “Oh, My Darling Clementine”)

First the snowpants

Then the boots

Then the jacket

Then the hat

And, the mittens go on last, so we can go outside to play