

Children and Chores: Building Responsibility and Self-Sufficiency

The amount of work that we do to take care of our children and to keep up around the house can leave us exhausted and overwhelmed. Having children help out with chores around the house will not only help get everything done, but will also teach children responsibility and develop life-long skills. Remember that it may be difficult at first for children. Be sure to give them specific instructions and show them how to do what you are asking of them. This initial investment may be frustrating, but as your child becomes more capable of helping out around the house, you will know it was worth the effort.



Children can be great helpers around the house.

Not sure what kinds of chores are appropriate for your child? Each child will be capable of different things at different ages, but here are some good general guidelines:

2-3 Years Old: Put toys in toy box, stack books on shelf, put dirty clothes in hamper, throw trash away, fold washcloths, dust baseboards, set the table

4-5 Years Old: Wipe up spills, put toys away, sort silverware, dry and put away dishes, feed pets, make bed, use hand-held vacuum, water houseplants, prepare simple snacks

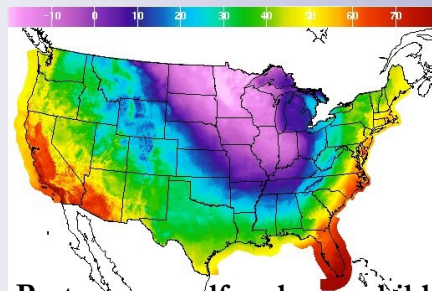
Create a chore chart, hold children accountable, and praise them for a job well done!

For more information on how to institute a system of chores for your child that will support their development, check out this website:

<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/features/chores-for-children>

TAKE NOTE

- Tax forms for 2013 are ready and available in the office. Parents must first complete a 2014 Food Form and then they are able to receive their 2013 tuition statement.
- Don't forget to sign up for a Parent/Teacher Conference to discuss your child's progress.



Protect yourself and your child during Polar Vortex temperatures! Wear many layers and don't go outside more than you have to.

UPCOMING DATES

- **CLOSED** for President's Day on Monday, February 17th, 2014

Ms. Jackie's Teddy Bears Class 2-year-olds



Sink and Float

Last month was fun. The children learned magnets. A very hands on topic, magnets engaged the children with how the magnets repelled and attracted different objects. We also continued working on the alphabet. We focused on the sounds each letter makes. Rather than identifying the letters and the sounds they makes, the children were focusing on the words related to the letters. And al-

though that is good, we want the children to understand the letters themselves and the sounds the letter makes. So far the children are doing well with recognizing the sounds associated with each letter. Finally, this month the children also learned about sink and float. The children even did hands on activities to understand what objects sink and what objects float. In the month of February we will con-

tinue our letter-sound lesson. Also, because the children enjoyed Science so much, we have decided to extend our lesson of science. This month we will be focusing on weather. We will learn about thermometers and see what the temperature is outdoors. The children will also look outside and be asked to identify what the weather is. We can't wait to get this month started!

Ms. Claudia's Butterflies Class 3-year-olds

This month all the Butterflies will be hard at work in the Alphabet Factory! We will explore the letters of the alphabet and the various sounds letters make. The children will spend more time focusing on creating both their uppercase and lowercase letters all while having fun! The Butterflies will

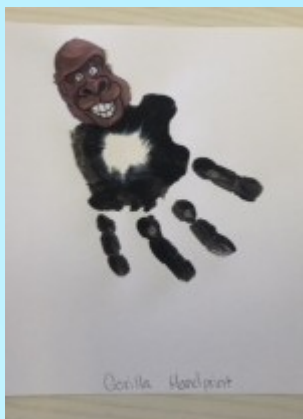
learn literacy games such as Alphabet Hop and March Around the Alphabet. We will also spend time on our focus books for the month: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom and The Turn Around Upside Down Alphabet Book. Thank you to all the parents who help make our color unit such a success

last month. The children really loved filling our class with such bright and vibrant colors! We recreated pictures from one of our favorite books "Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See" and worked as a class to paint a wall mural.



Painting a Mural

Ms. Megan's Lions Class 3 and 4-year-olds



Gorilla Handprint

January brought us a crazy winter but the lions room made the most of it. We had a great start to our new year learning new letters, discovering new cultures and exploring our senses. The class has a great time learning about all these themes and can't wait for what

next month new adventures.

Next month our class will be exploring new themes. We will be learning about nutrition and exercise, Winter animals, letter I and j, and having a valentines day celebration as well. Along with these themes there are great

activities and crafts in store.

Parents be sure to check your child's cubbies frequently for any take home projects or if your child needs more clothing items. If you have any question or concerns please see me, my door is always open! :)

Dragons Class 3 and 4-year-olds

The Dragon's class is in transition at the moment as we search for a new head teacher. Because of this transition, we don't have an update for you, but we'll have plenty to share for our March Newsletter.

Thanks Parents!

Ms. Taga's Bears Class 4 and 5-year-olds



Snowman!

To recap last month's topics, we covered winter, manners, Numbers and Ocean Animals. This month we will be covering the color purple, talking about Valentine's day, Quilts and the color red. We will also prac-

tice our counting from 10-15 as well as the numbers 16 and 17. For art projects, we will be making our own class quilt, ice paint and paint with sticks and q-tips. We will also be talking about Valentine's Day, who we love and

making a special Valentine's gift for our loved ones. In our media table, we will dye the snow and water red to experiment with science and to determine if the change of properties change also their color. It should be a fun month!

Ms. Jane's Koalas Class 5-year-olds

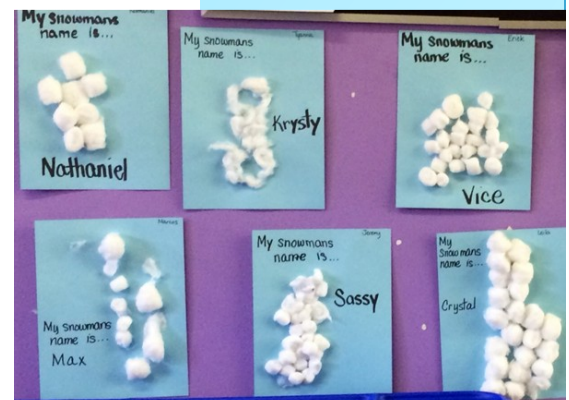
The month of January was a great success. We explored Winter Animals, Snow, and Weather. There were many discussions about hibernating and the current frigid weather that Chicago has been experiencing. A couple of our projects were a Snowman made of cotton balls and a Snow Globe.

For the month of February we will have tons to talk about. We will go into detail about friendship, love,

healthy teeth, as well as a unit on Black History Month that will flow throughout the whole month. We will be doing some re-enactments of a couple of situations that occurred during the oppression of African-Americans. The children will learn many new terms this month so I empower all parents to encourage discussions that pertain to our daily lessons. We are still doing weekly

words in our class. Please have your child study them at home. There are many ways in which our weekly words can be incorporated into daily life conversations.

Cant wait for a great month!



Our Snow People