



Fun & Friends Child Development Center

Winter Newsletter 2009

Director's Corner *From Elizabeth Garcia*

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 12:** Hanukkah begins
Dec. 15: Visit from Santa
Dec. 21: 1st day of winter
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
Dec. 25: Christmas (**Center Closed**)
Dec. 26: Kwanzaa begins
Dec. 31: New Years Eve
- Jan 1:** New Years Day (**Center Closed**)
Jan. 18: MLK Day (**Center Closed**)
- Feb. 2:** Groundhog Day
Feb. 9: Visit from the Dentist
Feb. 14: Valentine's Day
Feb. 15: President's Day (**Center Closed for Staff Training**)



Welcome to the Winter Edition of the newsletter! Inside you'll find activity ideas, health tips and lots more. These past months our children have been very busy with lots of activities. Our Costume Parade was a huge success with great participation from parents. Thank you all!

Winter is a great time to take the children outside. By dressing children appropriately for the cold weather, it is more likely that you will spend time outdoors enjoying all that Mother Nature has to offer.

Here are some ideas that you can practice with your children during the winter months.

- Fill spray bottles with watered down washable paint. Have children paint in the snow.
- Build a snowman. Let the children be creative and have fun!

Our teachers have been busy attended some interesting training sessions with topics such as:

- *Winter Activities; Social Emotional Development in Infant, Toddlers and Families; Emerging Literacy for Infants and Toddlers; Joy and Learning; Solving Behavioral Challenges in the Classroom; and Literacy Development.*

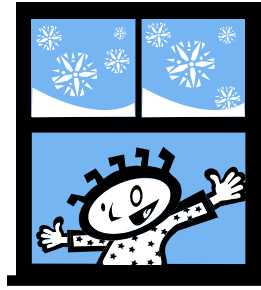
We send a big congratulations to *Ms. Noemi Melliz* for obtaining her CDA Credential; *Ms. Ana Ayala* for her promotion to Co-Head Teacher in the Cubs & *Ms. Vanessa Gutierrez* for being promoted to Head Teacher in BBB's. Both are doing very well in their new classrooms.



Newsletter Contributions Welcome!
Do you have a special activity, art project or child friendly recipe you'd like to share? See Elizabeth or Inell

Greetings from Inell Ellis-Program Director

Brrrrrr! In winter the air is colder, snow and ice cover the ground, and the children wear coats, hats, and mittens. Winter is a great time to watch the birds outside and make tasty treats for them. It's also a good time to make warm foods together for a cozy lunch or snack.



Are you ready for the flu season?



Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, [CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone](#) except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.

What are “emergency warning signs” that should signal anyone to seek medical care urgently?

In children:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- Fever with a rash

(www.cdc.gov)

During the winter there are still plenty of things that children can do inside to celebrate the season. Take a look at the **family corner section of this newsletter** and enjoy this time with your kids!

Here we are entering into another season with a New Year approaching. All the children, staff, and parents have settled into their daily routines. We extend a very warm holiday greeting to our new families at Fun & Friends. We hope you are enjoying your time with us and making lots of new friends.

We give a big welcome to Crystal Davila, Evelyn Vasquez and Rosalia Cardozo who have joined our staff.



Early Literacy

Early language and literacy (reading and writing) development begins in the first three years of life and is closely linked to a child's earliest experiences with books and stories. The interactions that young children have with such literacy materials as books, paper, and crayons, and with the adults in their lives are the building blocks for language, reading and writing development.

Early literacy skills are essential to language development and should be the focus of early childhood education programs similar to those offered here at Fun & Friends. By focusing on the importance of the first years of life, we give new meaning to the interactions young children have with books and stories.

We can see that the first three years of exploring and playing with books, singing nursery rhymes, listening to stories, recognizing words, and scribbling are truly the building blocks for language and literacy development. For more information on Early Literacy go to www.zerotothree.org/BrainWonders.



News from our Learning Stations



Infants

As winter approaches we look forward to some indoor activities. We will go outside as the weather permits. It is important that children bring appropriate clothing such as jackets, mittens, and hats. We may not go outside as often during the really cold days however, please keep in mind that the fire alarm could go off at anytime forcing us to evacuate the building therefore it is extremely important that a jacket and warm blanket is kept at the center.

We continue to work with our Early Literacy curriculum. The infants in both groups are enjoying lots of reading, singing, and even art projects.

—Liza, Elsi, Luisa, Jessy, Yaribeth, Elizabeth, Nelly, Soila, Rosi, Jacqueline, Veronica, Rosalia

BBB's

Throughout the day in BBB's teachers are interacting with the children through singing, reading, playing games, conversing and engaging the children in art activities. The BBB's are learning new things all the time and are really enjoying the activities.

BBB's have been enjoying the warm days and have gone outside as much as possible. Ms. Bridget, teacher for gross motor skills development, is giving them plenty to do every Tuesday. They move their bodies through obstacle courses, throw balls, and walk on balance beams. They also try to walk under sticks and do other activities that help develop their large muscle groups.

We have had some changes in our class since the last newsletter. We welcomed Ms. Vanessa into our group as Head Teacher. Happy Birthday this winter to Averyl, Riley, Georgia, Zoe, Leo, Bay, and Tyler!

—Vanessa, Marina, Samia, Evelyn & Lourdes

Cubs

We had a busy fall season. We worked on themes such as leaves, apples, pumpkins, turkeys, Thanksgiving and Halloween. The children have been so proud of their crafts and really like seeing them

hanging in the classroom.

The Thanksgiving lunch was great, many of our parents joined us. The Cubs wore their "Native American" headbands, as well as their vests that they made out of big paper grocery bags. They really enjoyed acting out a poem about a turkey for the parents. The food was excellent and the company was even better. We thank you, Mom and Dad, for joining us.

With winter on its way, we are looking forward to having fun with themes about snow, winter and winter holidays as well as introducing the letters of the alphabet and colors through our many planned activities. We will learn about different kinds of transportation, the five senses, dental health (with a visit from the dentist) and indulge in some caring and sharing for Valentine's Day. We invite parents to join us for some of these great activities.

Congratulations to Bridget, Gavin, Aidan B., Kian, and Zachary, they have all completed their potty training and are now members of the "Dry Kids Club". We are so very proud of you.

—Kristin, Ana A., Noemi & Elizabeth S.

Butterflies

Our first literacy unit included weekly author studies, such as David Shannon and Marc Brown, who wrote the Arthur series. We have also read books about families and new friends. We enjoyed books and projects about Halloween, too!

Every week we go to the Adult Day Care to play a game with the seniors. The children so far have been enjoying this time and getting to know the routine of going and interacting with the seniors. We will be having monthly visits from the "story lady" who is a librarian from the Dolley Madison Public Library.

The Butterflies have been following an exciting path that began with interest in our world map, locating oceans and naming the continents. We are relating these places to the settings of familiar Disney stories.

—Pam, Crystal, Nicole & Ana V.

About Child Development

Think of what an amazing process early Development is. Between birth and age 3, babies learn to roll, crawl, stand, walk, and run. They learn to talk, joke, rhyme, and sing. But development doesn't happen in the same way, at the same time, for all children. Some children will develop certain skills (like walking or talking) faster or slower than others. These differences are very normal. It is important to remember that development is not a race. What's most important is tuning into your child's individual path, building on her strengths, and providing her with support when needed. Development unfolds within loving relationships, ones in which babies and toddlers can explore, learn, and grow.



Links

www.naeyc.org
www.zerotothree.org
www.naccrra.org

Spring Workshop

We are looking forward to parent participation in our Spring Parent Workshop March 2010. Our anticipation is that it will be both educational and informative.

Exact topics, dates and times will be presented as the time nears.

Child care will be provided.



Family Fun

Music and singing are wonderful ways to communicate our feelings, and we often have many feelings this time of year! When singing holiday songs encourage traditional songs as well as this new song:

"I'm a Little Pine Tree"

(sung to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

**I'm a little pine tree tall and straight
Here are my branches for you to decorate.(extend arms)
First we'll put the shiny star on top. (touch head)
Just be careful the balls don't drop. (clap hands)**

"Menorah Candles"

(sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

**Twinkle, Twinkle candles in the night,
Standing on the menorah bright,
Burning slow we all know,
Burning bright to give us light,
Twinkle, Twinkle candles in the night,
Standing on the menorah bright.**



Safety

The clothing that children wear to school needs to be suitable for play. We ask for your help in making sure they are dressed to benefit fully from the center program.

Questions to ask yourself when dressing your child for the center:

- Are closings easy to manipulate?
- Can pants be taken down and up again with relative ease?
- Is the child wearing sneakers to prevent slipping?

We wish you all joyous holidays
Fun & Friends Child Dev. Center