



THE STARS DECEMBER 2009/JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

The December snow storm provided a great opportunity for experimenting with and experiencing snow!



The Stars discovered what happens when snow melts and what types of animals live in the snow.

This activity provided free exploration—an important role in the intellectual and social development of children.

The children test their ideas, ask questions, and comment. They gain new information while they explore and manipulate the materials.



Experiencing the snow in the warmth of our room. Why is the snow melting?



We continued to learn about our community by visiting a bakery shop, yum!



Stars' favorite books this month...

1. *The Big Hungry Bear* by: Don and Audrey Wood
2. *Maisy Makes Gingerbread* by: Lucy Cousins
3. *Who Took the Cookie From The Cookie Jar?* By: David A. Carter
4. *Go Away Big Green Monster!* By: Ed Emberley

Song of the Month:
"Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?"

To start this song, the group picks the first person to be "It"...

Group sings:
Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?

(Name) stole the cookies from the cookie jar.

First person who is "It" sings:
"Who me?"

Group sings:
"Yes you!"

First person who is "It" sings:
"Couldn't be!"

Group sings:
"Then who?"

First person who is "It" chooses a person and repeats the first line.

**The song repeats until all the children have had a turn.*

COOKING WITH THE STARS!



Cooking enables children to experience the world of food first hand. The Stars made ginger bread cookies and decorated them with frosting. Cooking can be one of the most satisfying activities in a classroom environment. Everyone is able to participate and enjoy the end product. One of the most appealing aspects of cooking for children is that they are able to do

the same things that adults do. Cooking activities incorporate science, math, literacy, language, and the development of social skills. Children love to stir and pour the ingredients. Then, they get to smell, see, and taste the end product.



The Stars learned about cause and effect by manipulating marbles with magnets.



PLAYING AND LEARNING

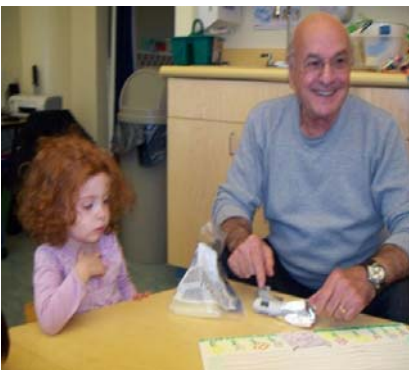


Children love playing "make believe." They learn about themselves, their families, and the world around them. Engaging in dramatic play, they draw upon their previous experiences as they interact with their peers. They also learn to ask and answer questions, test ideas, work together, solve problems and to be flexible—all essential skills for their social, emotional and intellectual development.

The Stars have a new member on our team. We welcome Kim Lunde to our classroom. Kim is a Junior at Northeastern University studying Psychology.



Cathy joins in on dress-up and pretend play.



Developing pre-literacy skills encompasses a wide variety of activities: story telling, drawing, playing with puppets, singing songs, and reciting rhymes.

The Stars made a puppet stage with our volunteer Don! The Stars have enjoyed creating their own plays with our new puppets so generously donated to the class by one of our families.

