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Upcoming Statutory Holidays:

Christmas/New Year

Dec 24-Jan 2

Providers receive these days off and the office will be closed.

Office Hours:

Monday ~ Friday

8:00am ~ 4:30pm

Closed most days between 12:00pm~1:00pm for Lunch

Winter Animals



Dear Providers,

I hope your Christmas was fantastic, filled with Family and Friends. I hope your break was refreshing.

This is a new year and I am excited to see what you all have planned in the coming months. Please let us know if you have any contracts that need changing for the Summer or if any of your families are changing hours.

It is our accreditation time in the coming weeks, I may need to contact you with some further evidence for accreditation. Thanks for all of your work and help.

I will be off for surgery for about a week this month. If you need us, please be patient with Gini as she will be very busy all alone.

~Angel

"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."

~ Lewis Carroll



Cooking Activities

Polar Bear

You will Need

Cottage Cheese
Melon
Raisins
Melon Baller
Ice Cream Scoop

Polar Bear Paw Prints

You will need:

Pear Halves
Sliced Bananas
Vanilla Yogurt
Shredded Coconut
Small Paper Plate

Place pear half cut side up on the plate. Have the children use fingers/spoon to cover pear with yogurt. Place three round slices of bananas on top of the pear (to resemble a paw print) Again cover banana with yogurt and sprinkle shredded coconut around paw print on the plate and you will have your paw print to eat.

Scoop some cottage cheese out for the head of the bear.

Use a melon baller to make two ears. Use the raisins for eyes and nose.



Bird Snacks

You will Need

Cups
Nuts
Seeds
Berries/Raisins



Mix together all of the ingredients above and have the children help you. Explain and discuss what kinds of foods that birds and other small animals collect for the winter. Explain to them that we can make bird feeders to help the birds eat through the cold months. While you are snacking ask the kids how they think the birds would eat.

Fun Activities

Art Activities

Polar Bear

You will need:

White Construction Paper
Pastel Coloured Chalk
White Paint
Toothbrush



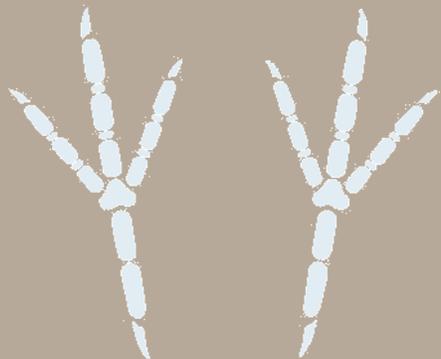
Children begin by rubbing white paper with coloured chalk. Rub, do not draw. After the page is filled with colour, take a tissue and smear the colours together so that it is a soft effect. Have the child glue a polar bear shape on it.

Animal Prints

You will need:

Prints of animal tracks
Paint
Paper

Have the children look at the animal tracks photos in snow. Allow them to make hand prints or foot prints with paint on the paper. Once dry, ask them what differences there are in their prints from the animals. Hang them all on the wall for them to look at.



Fun Activity

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, Penguin

Just as in Duck, Duck, Goose, have the children sit in a circle and have one child go around the circle touching each child's head saying "polar bear" when he says "penguin" the child he touches runs with him. Whoever reaches the empty space again is safe.

FUNNIES!



- Q:** Why do birds fly South for the Winter?
A: It's too far to walk!
- Q:** What do you call a baby bear with no teeth?
A: A Gummy Bear!
- Q:** What did the carrot say to the rabbit?
A: Do you want to grab a bite!
- Q:** How do you catch a squirrel?
A: Climb up the tree and act like a nut!
- Q:** What do you do if your dog eats the dictionary?
A: Take the words out of his mouth!
- Q:** What do you call a cold dog sitting on a bunny?
A: A chill dog on a bun!
- Q:** Where do the mice dock their boats?
A: At the Hickory Dickory Dock!
- Q:** Where did the sheep go on vacation?
A: To the Baaaahaaamas!

Fun Activities

Math Activity Snowflake Math

You will need:

Blue Snow Flakes

White Snow Flakes



Cut an equal amount of each colour of snowflakes. Number them from 1-10 each. So you should have 20. Allow the children to match the numbers. You may wish to laminate them.

Songs & Finger

10 Little Penguins

One little, two little, three little penguins.

Four little, five little, six little penguins.

Seven little, eight little, nine little penguins,
ten little penguin chicks.



Science Activity

Fun Bird Feeder

Pipe Cleaner/String

Cheerios

Small Bell



Tie a small bell at the end of each child's string. Allow the children to sting cheerios onto the string until it is full. Tie each string to a branch outside, near a window is great as the children will be able to see the birds eat. You will also hear the bell ring as they eat the food. Remember to tie them high enough that the cats will not reach the birds.

Hibernation Cave

Paper Bags

Grey Paint

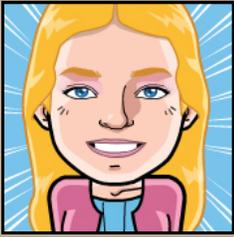
Glue

Cotton Balls

Allow the children to paint the paper bags grey. Once the paint is dry, allow the children to glue cotton balls to the top of their cave (snow.)

Have children place them in the day home with some animals, they can act out the hibernation process. This works really great if you read some stories about animals that hibernate during the Winter.

A Message

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NEW YEAR! – NEW YOU!

Happy New Year ladies!

I hope everyone had a wonderful relaxing holiday and your Christmas was wrapped in smiles and laughter!

This month I would really like to focus on your business as a day home provider, I would like all of you to pull out your Standards, your Handbook, your Home & Safety Visit sheets and your Gov't Visit sheets. I want you to read them again, and put them

somewhere where you can refer to them often, not buried in your binders where you don't know where they are! These are the most important tool for your business! In those sheets are everything you need to know about Standards, and Policies. The Visit sheets are the very same ones I bring to your home every month, so read them, learn them, and apply them! By applying these Standards, you will not have to worry at all about a licensing visit! Did you know that EVERY SINGLE non - compliance goes on the gov't website? Did you also know that they do not say your name... they say OURS! When you get a non – compliance, WeeRKids gets the black mark. This can affect all of the providers looking for children, as parents are able to access all that information when looking for an Agency.

By networking together within the Agency, we can help everyone stay above the Standards, don't be afraid to reach out to other providers, there is such talent in each and every one of you! Share your experience and knowledge together! Please remember we are the children's stepping stones to their futures! Some children spend more time with you than they do with their own parents! They need to learn life skills, from cutting with scissors, learning their colours, tying their shoes, all the way to learning language, and positive problem solving skills. We are their teachers! We love them like they are our own! Let's have some fun this year and really give our all to our children in care. Make craft time fun, get some ooey goeey science activities out, and please remember that we need to have outside time every single day, even if it is cold or windy.

I am so proud of our Agency and the Providers we have, and I would like to see all of you show your pride in your work as well!

I am so excited to start a new year with all of you, please know if you need help, I am here. I have a wealth of resource books that I do not mind to share, just tell me what you are interested in, if there is a certain area of interest (or concern) that you have, maybe we can incorporate it into a future workshop for everyone.

See you soon for our visit! I'll be expecting to see great things this year!

Gini



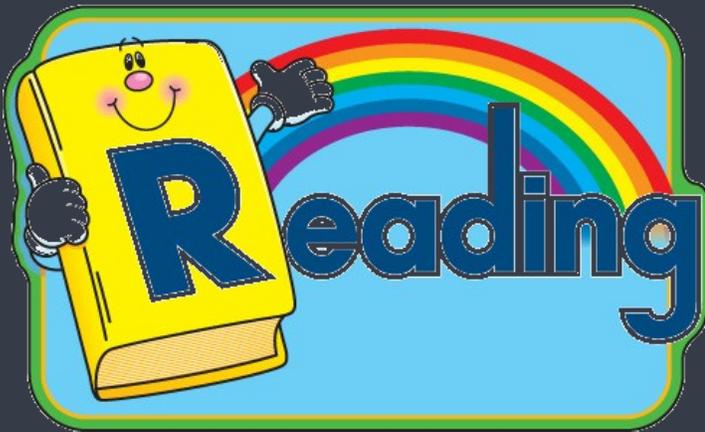
Provider Spotlight

January

Aurora is in the provider spotlight for January for her professionalism as a provider. Her children love to dance, they get outside every day, and I feel such a loving atmosphere every time I visit her home.

Aurora also has an impeccable observation recording system, and keeps beautiful profile books for her children.

Thanks Aurora!

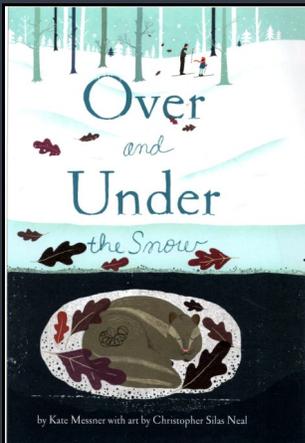


Corner

Christmas

By Kate Messner

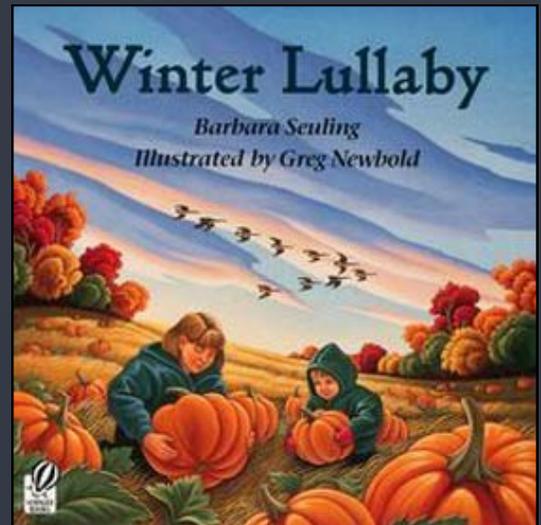
Over the snow, the world is hushed and white. But under the snow exists a secret kingdom of squirrels and snow hares, bears and bullfrogs, and many other animals that live through the winter safe and warm, awake and busy, under the snow. Discover the wonder and activity that lies beneath winter's snowy landscape in this magical book.



It's Christmas

By Barbara Seuling

As the natural world changes with winter's approach, young children worry about the creatures they see around them. Where do the ducks and other animals go? Will they find shelter from the cold? Will they be safe and warm? In *Winter Lullaby*, Barbara Seuling's reassuring, gentle verse and Greg Newbold's breathtaking paintings reveal what animals do to survive as winter takes hold.



Listed on this page are books that may be found in the Public Library, online or even in our Lending Library. If you have any other books that fit this theme, please let us know.