

# Wee R Kids Provider News – December 2010



#200, 529—6<sup>th</sup> Street S  
Lethbridge, Alberta  
T1J 2E1

## Contents

Dear Providers	1
Upcoming Stat Holidays	1
Christmas Tree Safety	2
Did You Know?	2
Art	3
Cooking Activities	3
Music	4
Sensory Activity	4
Gross Motor Activities	4
Math Activities	5
Dramatic Play Activities	5
Science Activity	5
Reading Corner	6 & 7
Monthly Visits/Reminders	8
Provider Appreciation	8
Provider Birthdays	8



Lynda Leslie - Family Day Home Coordinator  
Angel Dick- Family Day Home Consultant

## Dear Providers:

I thought I would share a photo with you all, the view from our office as I write to you today, brrrr! It is a chilly -18, and the weather network informs me that it feels like -28... It certainly is feeling like Christmas!



I am sure that most of you are quite excited about sharing this time with the children in your day homes, there is so much that you can do, inside and out. Children love to bake goodies, make gingerbread houses and decorate the day home for the Christmas Season.

You may want to set up a wrapping centre in your home where the children can wrap up boxes in paper and bows, or you may like to bring some snow indoors in your water play area, so the children can make snowmen and decorate them with mini carrots and raisins.

You may be playing Christmas music, or taking the children out doors to make snow angels, no matter what you do this season, please let us know so that we can share in the fun.

I am sure the children are even more excited about the snow and the coming fun. Please remind parents to bring the winter clothing that is needed.

Just a note, the Wee R Kids office will be closed for Christmas and New Years from December 25, 2010 and will re-open January 3, 2011.

May you be filled with joy and peace this Christmas, looking forward to seeing you all in December.

*Angel Dick*

## Upcoming Statutory Holidays

### For Christmas

December 27 & 28, 2010

### For New Year

December 31, 2010

Providers receive this day off and the office will be closed on this day.

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Monday ~ Friday**  
**8:00am ~ 4:30pm**

# CHRISTMAS Tree Safety

- \* Choose a healthy, fresh tree. Here's how: Grasp a branch between your thumb and forefinger, and slide your fingers down the branch. If the tree is fresh, very few needles should come off in your hand.
- \* To ensure that your tree stays a vibrant green, make a cut straight across the bottom of the trunk (about a quarter of an inch above the previous cut) before placing the tree in the stand.
- \* Keep the tree stand filled with water. As a general rule, a fresh tree will absorb more than a gallon of water in the first 24 hours and one or more quarts a day thereafter.
- \* Place the tree away from household sources of heat, such as fireplaces, radiators, television sets, and vents.
- \* Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections, and broken sockets before placing them on the tree.
- \* Don't overload extension cords -- no more than three strings of lights per cord is the rule.
- \* Never leave your tree unattended while the lights are turned on.
- \* Keep them child-friendly In homes with small children.

Take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid them from swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.



## Did you know?



- Louis Prang, a Bavarian-born lithographer who came to the USA from Germany in the 19th century, popularized the sending of printed Christmas cards. He invented a way of reproducing color oil paintings, known as the "chromolithograph technique", and created a card with the message "Merry Christmas" as a way of showing it off.
- If you received all of the gifts listed in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song, you would receive 364 presents!
- Christmas trees become popular in the UK from 1841 when Prince Albert erected a tree in Windsor Castle following a German tradition!
- A Christmas wreath hanging on your front door symbolizes a sign of welcome and long life for all who enter!
- During the Christmas season, 1.76 billion candy canes will be made!
- How many houses must Santa visit on Christmas? 842,000,000!

## Reindeer Sandwiches

### Ingredients:

Pieces of square brown bread

Fillings (Anything you like)

Stick pretzels

Maraschino cherries

Raisins

### Directions:

1. Make your favourite sandwich between two slices of square shaped brown bread. Trim off the crusts and cut the sandwich in two diagonally.

2. With the longest cut side across the top, and one tip facing you, decorate the sandwich with two stick pretzels on each side of the top for antlers, two raisins for eyes and a half maraschino cherry for the nose.

## Cooking Activities



## Candy Cane Cookies

### Ingredients

1 cup margarine

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup powdered sugar

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract

2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon red food coloring

1/2 cup peppermint candy canes, crushed

1/2 cup white sugar for decoration

### Directions:

In a large bowl, cream together the margarine, sugar and powdered sugar. Beat in the egg, vanilla and peppermint extracts. Combine the flour and salt; stir into the creamed mixture until well blended. Cover or wrap dough and chill for at least one hour.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets. Divide dough into halves. Color one half red by mixing in the food color. Roll a small amount of each dough into a 2-inch-long worm. Roll them together in a twisted rope and curve the end like a cane. Place onto prepared cookie sheets.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. In a small bowl, mix together the crushed candy cane and remaining sugar. Roll hot cookies in the sugar mixture.

## Toilet Roll Santa

## Craft Activity

### You'll Need:

Recycled toilet paper tube

Construction paper (red, white, pink, and black)

Markers or crayons

Glue (or glue stick)

Cotton balls

Google eyes



### Directions:

1. Wrap a cardboard tube with a 4 x 2 inch sheet of red paper and glue in place.
2. To make the face, use a 3 inch wide circle of pink paper and glue in place.
3. Cut a 4 inch wide half circle and roll it into a cone. Glue in place. Glue the cone on top of the tube to make Santa's hat.
4. Cut a thin black strip of paper that is long enough to go around the tube. Glue it in the middle of the tube to make Santa's belt.
5. Use the markers or crayons to make Santa's facial features. You can use the optional wiggle eyes if desired.
6. Tear apart cotton balls and glue onto the tube to make the beard and hatband. Make a small ball of cotton and glue it to the point of the hat.

*"Christmas, my child,  
is love in  
action. Every time we  
love, every time we  
give, it's  
Christmas."*

~Dale Evans-Rogers



## Up on the housetop

Up on the housetop, reindeer pause  
 Out jumps good ol' Santa Claus  
 Down through the chimney with lots of toys  
 All for the little ones, Christmas joys  
 Ho, Ho, Ho! Who wouldn't go?  
 Ho, Ho, Ho! Who wouldn't go?  
 Up on the housetop, click, click, click  
 Down through the chimney with good Saint Nick

First comes the stocking of little Nell  
 Oh, dear Santa, fill it well  
 Give her a dolly that laughs and cries  
 One that will open and shut her eyes  
 Ho, Ho, Ho! Who wouldn't go?  
 Ho, Ho, Ho! Who wouldn't go?  
 Up on the housetop, click, click, click  
 Down through the chimney with good Saint Nick

Next comes the stocking of little Will  
 Oh, just see what a glorious fill  
 Here is a hammer and lots of tacks  
 Also a ball and a whip that cracks  
 Ho, Ho, Ho! Who wouldn't go?  
 Ho, Ho, Ho! Who wouldn't go?

## Christmas Songs



## Reindeer Pokey

Sung to: Hokey Pokey  
 You put your antlers in,  
 you put your antlers out,  
 you put your antlers in,  
 then you shake them all about.

You do the reindeer pokey  
 And you turn yourself around,  
 That's what it's all about.

Red nose  
 Tail  
 Hooves  
 Whole Self

## Sensory Activity

### Gingerbread Play-dough



Ingredients:  
 1 Cup flour  
 1/2 Cup salt  
 2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
 1 cup water  
 1 teaspoon vegetable oil  
 Spices--Cinnamon, Allspice, Ginger, Nutmeg

## Gross Motor Activity

There are so many gross motor activities to do in the winter time. How about going for a walk and singing Christmas carols for the neighbours, or going sledding, skating, or build a snowman, or for that matter, a whole snow family.



If outdoor play is out of the question because of the weather, you can always bring snow inside for the children to play with in a child size pool, build snowmen inside the house, or dance and sing to Christmas music in the living room.

### What you do:

Mix the dry ingredients. Add spices a small amount at a time until the dough smells and looks like you want it too. Mix water and oil together first and then add them to the dry ingredients and stir. In a pot, cook the mixture for two to three minutes, stirring frequently. The dough will start to pull away from the sides of the pot and stick together. When this happens, take the play-dough out of the pan and knead the dough until it becomes soft and smooth. Allow the dough to cool and then store it in an airtight container.



## Math Activity

### Christmas Countdown

Materials: A Christmas tree pattern cut out of green paper, sticky tack, ornaments cut out of various coloured paper, felt pen.

Description: Cut out tree, write numbers from 1-24 all over the tree, have children make and decorate 24 small ornaments. Each day, have the children hang one ornament on the number of the date you are on, and then count how many days until Christmas.



### Dramatic Play Activity

#### Decorating the Tree

Have a small tree that the children can decorate and re-decorate. Put some child safe decorations, garland, ribbons, candy canes, and non-breakable ornaments in a box and allow the children to place them on the tree as they would like. Have Christmas music playing in the room as well to add to the mood. When the children are done, they can un-decorate their tree so that others can decorate too.

### Science Activity

#### The Smells of Christmas

Children will use their noses to guess what's inside containers. Place different smelling Christmas items into individual containers (or individual clean socks) that prevent children from seeing what's inside. Children can smell each container and guess what's inside.

Great smelling items for this activity include, peppermint candy, cinnamon stick, a snip of Christmas tree, gingersnap cookie, cloves.



HA! HA!

HA!

### *Joke Corner...*

**Q:** What did the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?

**A:** A cookie sheet

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

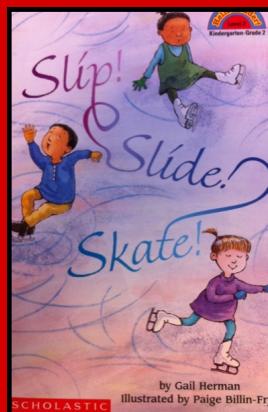
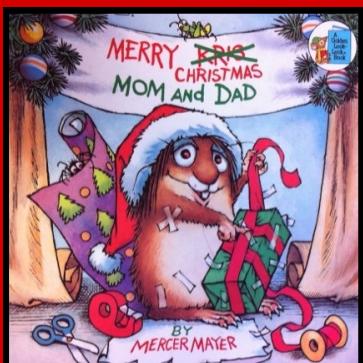


## The Reading Corner

### Slip! Slide! Skate!

By Gail Herman

A young girl tries to be the best at everything she does, but on the day of the Ice Show, she trips and causes everyone to fall down. Instead of being angry with her, her fellow skaters laugh. She finds herself laughing too and discovers that enjoying what you do is just as important as being the best.

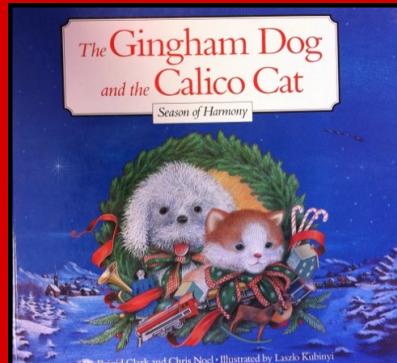


by Gail Herman  
Illustrated by Paige Billin-Fry

### Merry Christmas Mom and Dad

By Mercer Mayer

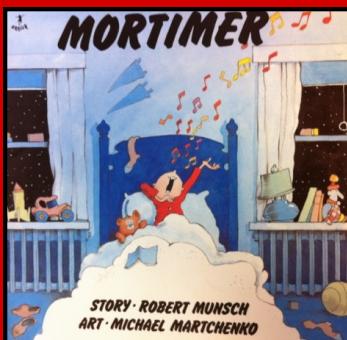
Little Critter is so excited about Christmas. But in his excitement things tend to go wrong. Follow him through his Christmas adventures.



### The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat

By Bridgid Clark & Chris Noel

The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat are two Christmas presents who just don't seem to get along. Even Santa Claus can't get them to be friends. Then, on Christmas Eve, they fall out of Santa's sleigh and land in a snowy forest. There the two toys learn to work together as they make their way through the forest toward the lights of a cozy cottage. Brought together by their adventure, they soon become friends, and when they finally make it to the cottage, their love for each other brings peace and harmony to the entire household.



### Mortimer

By Robert Munsch

It's Mortimer's bedtime, but he would much rather sing his song. Mom, Dad and even the police can't get him to quiet down, until they become so distracted by each other that Mortimer drifts off to sleep.

### Wee R Kids Lending Library

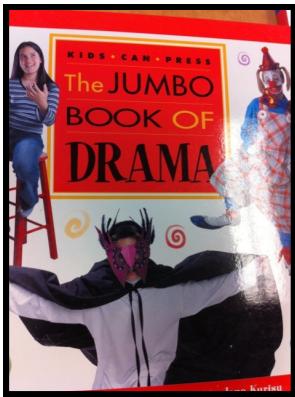
All of these books are available

through our lending library. We have over 250 titles available. Come and take a look! If you are looking for a book on a specific title or by a specific author, let me know, we might just have it here in the office.

to pro-

## The Reading Corner

### Staff Resources



#### The Jumbo Book of Drama

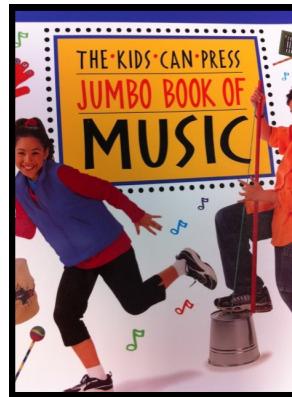
By Deborah Dunleavy

Filled with fun and entertaining activities to suit the needs of the class clown, the wallflower or the natural-born actor, *The Jumbo Book of Drama* will help kids discover and hone their dramatic abilities. With 200 pages of theatre games, plays, sample scripts, costume ideas, a glossary and more, this book provides all the inspiration they'll need to really get their act together!

#### Jumbo Book of Music

By Deborah Dunleavy

Beat out a trash-can rhythm, bang on a water-cooler bass drum or blast a tune from a rubber-hose bugle! This Jumbo Book has instructions on how to make and play instruments from all over the world. From creating a thumb piano to playing a didgeridoo, the activities in the book are fun and easy. Kids learn about different musical styles and make music on their own or together without needing technical musical knowledge.



### Lending Library

These are a sample of some of the wonderful things we have to borrow in our Lending Library. Check out this **Lacing Card Activity** and our **Bear Balance Set**. If you are in need of something different, please make sure to check our shelves out next time you visit with us.



#### Wee R Kids Lending Library

All of these books are available to providers through our lending library. We have over 250 titles available. Come and take a look! If you are looking for a book on a specific title or by a specific author, let me know, we might just have it here in the office.



## December Visits:

This really seems like a short month, and it will be with all of the holidays, however, I will be coming out to your homes for a visit. This month will be a general visit with a focus on observations. I am looking forward to seeing you all this month, and to seeing the fun things you have planned for December!

*Angel*

## Reminders:



Just a reminder that even as the weather is colder, most days outdoor play can still be done. There are many fun things that can be done in the winter weather.

Remember that playpens cannot have blankets, pillows or toys used in them.



## Provider Appreciation

The provider that we are honouring this month is **Pascale Brown**. Pascale has been a provider with Wee R Kids since November 2007.

Pascale often takes the children in her care out to events and activities around Lethbridge. She can often be found at the Family Centre or the Library.

Pascale always offers the children fun things to do, and the day home area in her home is fun and colourful.

We would like to thank Pascale for all that she does. She is friendly and loving with the children in her care and offers a lot of support and care to them.

If you see Pascale this month, remember to pat her on the back for all the great work she does in her day home.



**HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:**  
**AURORA 9TH**  
**LINDSAY W. 13TH**  
**HEATHER 15TH**  
**HOPE YOUR DAY IS FANTASTIC!**



## Suggestions

This newsletter is for you, the providers and we would like to hear from you. If there is anything that you would like to see in this newsletter that hasn't been added please let me know. Any suggestions you might have can be forwarded by email to [weerkids@telus.net](mailto:weerkids@telus.net), call the office or suggest it at a provider meeting whatever format you are most comfortable with.