

The Provider Chronicle

Contents

Dear Providers	1
Upcoming Stat Holidays	1
Cooking	2
Art	3
Sensory Activity	3
Dramatic Play Activities	3
Science Activity	3
Message from Donna	4
Funnies	4
Reading Corner	5
New Years	6



Upcoming

Statutory Holidays

Christmas/Boxing Day/New Years

December 26/27, 2011

January 2, 2012

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

The office will be
closed from
Dec 24, 2011 and
will re-open
Jan 3 2012

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday ~ Thursday

8:00am ~ 4:30pm

Friday

8:30am ~ 4:00pm

Dear Providers:

Merry Christmas Everyone! It is my favourite time of year, as most or all of you know! I love everything about the Christmas Season, but what I love a lot is seeing the wonder of Christmas in a child's eyes and expressions.

It is so fun to share Christmas with little ones. In this month's newsletter, I hope you will find many ideas that will inspire you and spark your Christmas Spirit! Whatever you plan for your children, just remember to have fun with them this month.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and that you make many memories with the children in your home.

~Angel

He who has not Christmas in
his heart will never find it
under a tree.

~Roy L. Smith



Cooking Activities

Reindeer Sandwiches

You will need:

Bread
Peanut Butter
Honey
Cherry
Raisins
Carrots



Before you start, mix peanut butter with a small amount of honey in a bowl. Make sure to check for any peanut allergies before you make this snack.

Give each child bread or toast that you have cut in triangles.

Allow children to spread the peanut butter/honey onto the bread. Give each child two raisins, two carrot slices and a cherry. Allow children to create their own reindeer.

Christmas Candle

You will need:

Half Banana each
Pineapple Ring
Half Cherry each



Have child place ring of pineapple down onto plate. Place banana in the middle standing up and the cherry onto the tip of banana. You now have a Christmas candle.



Christmas Tree

You will need:

Ice Cream Cone
Fruit Loops
Fruit Chopped up
Cream Cheese dyed green



Give each child an ice cream cone. Allow child to spread cream cheese spread onto the cone. Then encourage child to decorate the cone with fruit loops and fruit. When you are done, it should look like a Christmas tree. Now you can eat them!

Apricot Chocolate Christmas Mice

You will need:

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
1 tablespoon vegetable shortening
48 dried apricots
Wooden skewers
48 M&M's Minis
Black shoestring licorice
24 dry-roasted peanut halves



Place the chocolate chips and shortening in a microwave-safe bowl and microwave on high for 1 minute.

Stir and microwave for 1 minute more.
Stir until smooth.

For each mouse, press together 2 dried apricots, making a small point for the mouse's nose, and thread them onto a skewer.

Dip them into the melted chocolate and place on a waxed-paper-lined baking sheet. Use a second skewer to push the mouse off the first skewer; use your fingertip to cover the hole left behind with chocolate.

Add M&M's Minis eyes, a shoestring licorice tail, and peanut ears (we broke each peanut half in half again).

Refrigerate until hardened. Makes 24.

Sensory Activity Christmas Tree Fun

You will need:

Christmas tree branches
Child Scissors

In your sensory table, add cuttings of Christmas tree branches. Add some child scissors as well for the children to cut the branches. This is obviously a highly supervised activity. You can see that this uses many of our



senses, smell, touch and sight. Remember to talk to the kids about what they smell, feel and see. Make sure to encourage them to use all of their senses in this activity.

Dramatic Activity Christmas Tree Decorations

You will need:

Smaller Christmas Tree
Decorations
Garland
Tree Skirt



In your dramatic play area, set up a naked tree and a box with ornaments. Make sure to set the scene, make a pretend fire place out of a box and play Christmas music. Allow the children to use this area to decorate, undecorated and re-decorate the tree as many times and they like.

Art Activity

Stained Glass Ornaments

You will need:

Cookie Cutters
Crayon Shavings
Wax Paper
Ribbon
Iron



Give each child a piece of wax paper. Encourage children to choose any colour combinations of the crayon shavings. Encourage them to place many shavings all over the paper. Add a second piece of wax paper on top of shavings and place a paper towel on top of that. Have your iron set to medium and –Away from the children, run iron over paper until all crayon is melted.

Once cool, hand back to children and allow them to trace with cutters and cut out shapes. Punch hole in top and add string for hanging on a tree.

Science Activity

Gingerbread Boys

1/2 cup butter, cubed
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup molasses
2 teaspoons white vinegar
1 egg, beaten
3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt



Directions

In a saucepan, combine the butter, sugar, molasses and vinegar; bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat; cool to lukewarm. Stir in egg. Combine the flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon and salt; stir into molasses mixture to form a soft dough.

Divide dough into thirds. Shape each portion into a disk; wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours or until easy to handle.

On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with a floured 3-in. gingerbread boy cookie cutter. Place on greased baking sheets. Bake at 375 degrees F for 7-9 minutes or until edges are firm. Remove to wire racks.



What is green, white and red all over? A sunburnt elf.
 What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when a fire is lit? Crisp Cringle.
 What is the best Christmas present? A broken drum, you can't beat it.
 What's red, white and blue at Christmas time? A sad candy cane.
 Why are Christmas trees bad knitters? They drop their needles.
 What's white and goes up? A confused snowflake.
 What do you call an old snowman? Water.
 What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas? Sandy Claws.
 What do sheep say to each other at Christmas time? Merry Christmas to ewe.
 What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsel-itis.



A Message from Donna:

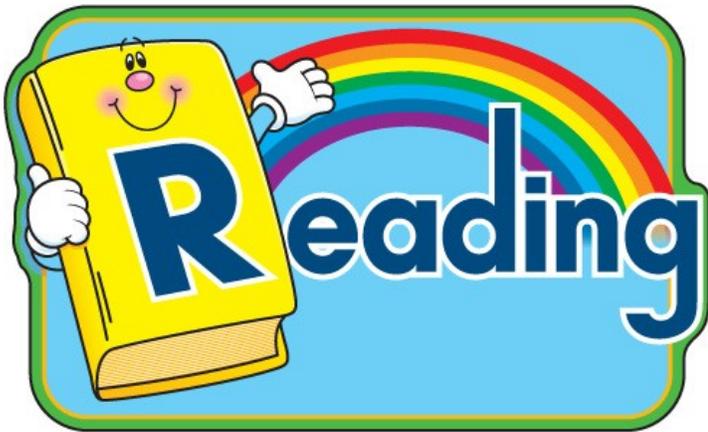
Hello everyone,

Just wanted to tell you all how much I enjoyed our Christmas Party/ Storytelling workshop. The food was excellent, and it was nice to meet socially. I hope you enjoyed yourselves too.

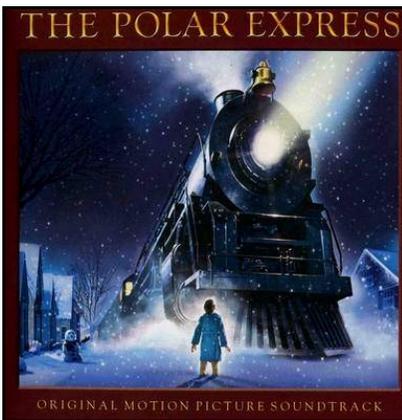
I know December is a busy month for all of us, I hope your holiday plans are coming together. I will be coming out to do a general government visit with all of you in December. During my visits, I would like to touch on 2 things; 1. Reminders on Christmas safety (lights, small decorations), and 2. Engaging a group in centre play. Even with small groups, centre play has strong advantages. Please have ready any questions you may have regarding these things, and we can discuss it when I come to see you.

Thanks again for all of your hard work,

Donna



Corner



The Polar Express

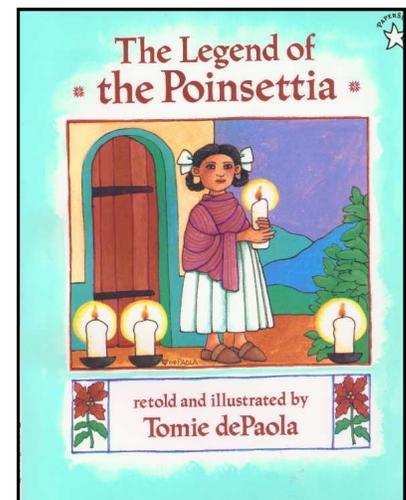
By Chris Van Allsburg

The artist's use of muted colors in his paintings creates a mood of mystery. A little boy who still believes in Santa, despite the fact that his friends don't, takes a magical train ride on Christmas Eve to the North Pole. There he encounters Santa and becomes a lifelong believer.

The Legend of the Poinsettia

By Tomie dePaola

Tomie dePaola's folk art illustrations create a vibrant impact in this retelling of the Mexican legend of the poinsettia. When her mother becomes ill, Lucida is unable to complete a blanket as a gift to place at her church's Christmas manger. A miracle happens when the weeds she has placed with love at the manger become beautiful poinsettias.



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.



Christmas Tree Fun

You will need:

Christmas tree branches
Child Scissors

Take a slice of white bread, with the crust cut off. Then flatten it and spread either red or purple jelly on it. After you have done this lay a piece of shoe lace licorice in the middle, roll it up and you will have an edible firecracker. Make enough for a couple per

ART ACTIVITY

Fireworks Spinning

You will need:

Coffee Filter
Salad Spinner
Paint Brushes
Paint

Use coffee filters that fit into the bottom of a salad spinner. Make paint extra wet and have child drip paint from brush onto coffee filter at the bottom of salad spinner. Put on the lid and let the child spin.

Looks like fireworks when you take it out.



Dramatic Activity

It's Party Time

Set up a New Year's party in your dramatic play center!

Add party hats, old fancy dresses, old men's suits, lots of jewellery, noise makers, and a clock set at 12:00.

Introduce the materials to the children and talk about how many people celebrate the new year. Put the props in your dramatic play center and let the party begin!

