

Wee R Kids Provider News – January 2011



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Dear Providers:

Welcome to 2011! It seems that we should be flying around in our space cars by now, doesn't it?

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great New Years with family and friends and that you are ready for this year to begin.

In this newsletter, I have combined lessons on both the Arctic and the Antarctic. It is really awesome to show the children the differences. For really small children, they may not see the differences as much, so in any case a map of the world is a great idea so that all of the children can see where everything is and how vast the north and south are.

I focused a lot on animals, but for older children (if you wanted to make the lesson plan longer) you could teach about the people groups that are in the north, and even the scientific explorations in both areas.

Whatever you do this month, be sure to share it with all of us online, either on facebook, twitter or our web site, it is always fun to share ideas and always great to pick up some new ones. Have a great January. Make lots of memories. Happy 2011!

Angel Dick

Upcoming

Statutory Holidays

None in January

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday ~ Friday
8:00am ~ 4:30pm

Reminder:

Most Fridays there is only one staff member in the office. Please call ahead if you need to see us.



We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time.

T.S. Eliot

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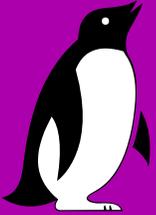
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- *Penguins are birds that cannot fly.
- *Their wings work as paddle for swimming.
- *The torpedo shape of their body helps them swim at high speeds.
- *Penguins have two eggs.
- *Male penguins take care of their chicks.
- *Parents take turns warming the egg.
- *In cold places, males balance eggs on their feet and cover with belly flap to keep them warm.
- *They eat snow as a source of fresh water.
- *They take small naps in the water.
- *Penguins use sign language to communicate with each other.



DID YOU KNOW?

*The Arctic region is essentially a frozen ocean surrounded by land. Conversely, Antarctica is a continent-with mountain ranges and lakes-surrounded by an ocean. Socially and politically, though, the Arctic region includes the northern territories of Canada, Greenland (a territory of Denmark), Russia, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the United States.

*The southernmost continent has roughly 90 percent of the world's ice, which amounts to nearly three quarters of the Earth's fresh water being locked away there. This has led some to float the idea of towing icebergs to quench dry, drought-stricken areas.

*The South Pole is not owned by anyone.

*Penguins and polar bears do not live together. Polar bears live in the Arctic and Penguins reside in the Antarctic.

*The Antarctic is so cold that the snow never melts in many areas of the continent. The region's average temperature is about -49 Celsius, making it the coldest climate on earth. In contrast, the Arctic's average winter temperature is -34 Celsius, but it gets warmer in the summer.

*Being primarily a thin layer of ice, the arctic is very sensitive to changing climate conditions. Warmer temperatures during the summer months cause the 12 to 15 feet thick ice sheet to melt and break apart. Last year, researchers reported for the first time that cracks in the ice had reached all the way to the North Pole.



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Iceberg Yummy

You will need:

- 3 3/4 cups boiling water
- 5 packages (4 servings) blue gelatine mix
- 2 1/2 cups cold water
- Ice cubes
- Whipped topping.

Mix together gelatine and boiling water; stir until gelatine is completely dissolved.

Add ice cubes to cold water to measure 6 1/4 cups. Add ice mixture to gelatine mixture. Stir until gelatine begins to thicken. Remove any un-melted ice.

Divide thickened gelatine equally among clear plastic cups. Chill until set.

Spread whipped topping over each serving to represent a layer of ice and snow.

Craft Activity

Snow Goggles

You will need:

- Cardboard
- Pencil
- Heavy-duty scissors
- Craft or utility knife (adult use only)
- Hole punch
- String
- Markers or coloured pencils



Snow-covered areas are very bright places, even though they are very cold. That's because the sun's rays reflect off the snow. Those reflections can damage a person's eyesight. To protect their eyes from these harmful rays, the Inuit (native people of Canada, Alaska, and Greenland) wore goggles that they carved from wood or whalebone.

To make your own pair of snow goggles, draw an hourglass shape on the piece of cardboard. Be sure the shape is large enough to fit on the front of your face. Cut out the shape.

Cooking Activities

Penguin Sandwiches



You will need:

- Whole Wheat English Muffins
- Carrot
- Cream Cheese
- Sliced Black Olives

Slice the carrot

and cut two small triangles in two pieces for the feet. Save one of the triangle pieces to use as a beak.

Separate and toast the English muffin.

Once toasted, cut the each side of one half of the muffin to create two wings for your penguin.

Spread cream cheese on the belly of your penguin and lay it on a plate. Arrange the wings next to your penguin.

Add the carrot beak and feet as well as an olive slice for an eye.

Have an adult mark slits on the cardboard where your eyes are. (You hold the cardboard on your face, and the adult can mark the cardboard.) Have the adult use a craft or utility knife to cut out narrow eye slits.

Punch holes in the upper corners of the goggles. Cut two 18-inch pieces of string. Feed an end of a piece of string through the hole on the side of the goggles, and tie a knot. Repeat for the other piece of string and the other hole.

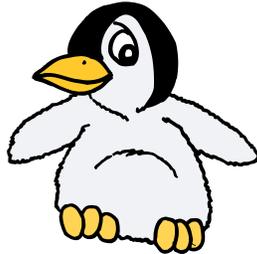
Add a decorative border along the edges of your goggles with markers or coloured pencils. Try out your goggles!

(Remember, you cannot use these to look directly at the sun.)

Songs and Finger plays

I'm A Little Penguin

(To the tune of: I'm a Little Teapot)
 I'm a little Penguin, in the sea
 I can swim as fast as can be
 When I catch a fish
 just look at me
 I'm as proud as I can
 be
 I'm a little Penguin on
 the ice
 I think cold is very
 nice



Arctic Explorer

Walking through the arctic
 (children echo)
 And what do think I saw?
 (children echo)
 A great big polar bear and
 he said "stand up"(children
 stand up) "and shake, shake, this way,
 shake, shake that way, shake, shake,
 this way and then sit down."



Walking through the arctic
 (children echo)
 And what do think I saw?
 (children echo)

A big fat walrus and he said
 "sit down and grunt like me,
 grunt like me, grunt like me, "sit down
 and grunt like me, grunt like me, grunt
 like me."



A very tall caribou and he said
 "stand up"(children stand up)
 "and walk like me, walk like
 me, walk like me, stand up and
 walk like me, walk like me,
 walk like me, and then sit
 down."



(You can add many other animals to
 the song as well.)

Gross Motor Activity

Acting Like the Animals

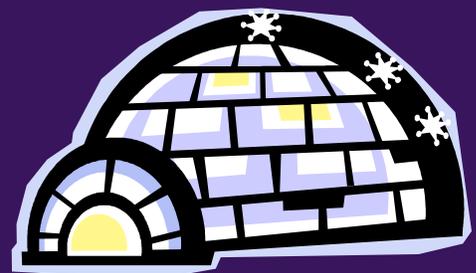


Prepare cards with photos of animals from the Arctic and Antarctic. Cut them out and laminate them. You can find photos of animals online. During circle time, have each child take turns picking a card and then acting out that animal. You can even have the other children guess what they

Sensory Activity

Make your own igloo

Bring some snow into your home in a short Rubbermaid container. Have photos of igloos and other snow structures on the container or on the wall behind. Allow the children to make their own snow fort. You can explain why people used and still use igloos today. You can put small animals into the snow as well. Have mittens and gloves available, but let the children feel the snow with bare hands as well. If you do not have snow during this activity, then use shaved ice or ice cubes.



Animal Count

Materials:

Small arctic animal toys
A small basket

Have children take all of the toys out of the basket. Then help them count the toys. They can sort them into types, or even into two piles, those from the Arctic and those from the Antarctic. How many different sorting games can you make with these animals, the ideas are endless.



Math Activity

Dramatic Play Activity

Flags in the Antarctic

Have the children help you make flags of different countries, secure the flags to long doweling poles.

Place out forms in foam. Have coats, mittens, goggles, scarves, hats, boots and all other cold weather apparel.

Then encourage the children to "climb" the imaginary mountains to place their flags in the "snow"



(This can be done outside as well, in real snow.)

Science Activity

Arctic exploration in the back yard

Before the children arrive, make different, safe areas in your yard. Maybe a mountainous area that the children can climb onto. A flat and snowy land, you can also fill up a child's pool with water and throw ice cubes into it.

Give the children a map with the different areas in them. You can name the areas after the children, and make it even more fun, like "The Thomas Mountain Range"

Then have the children explore the areas, what do they see? You can put stuffed animals all over as well. You can also set up a tent, so that the children can "spend the night" in the Arctic. When you are all done exploring, go inside and talk about all the things they saw.

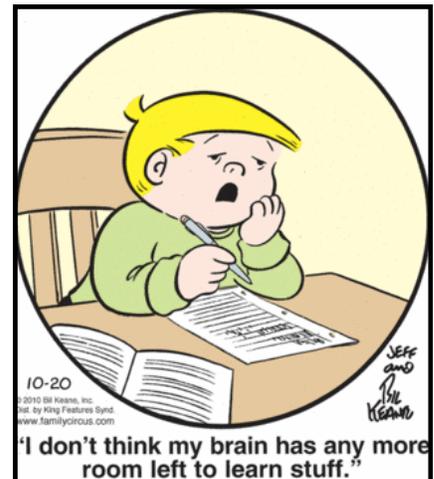


HA! HA!
HA!

Joke Corner...

Q: What do polar bears eat for lunch?

A: Ice Burgers

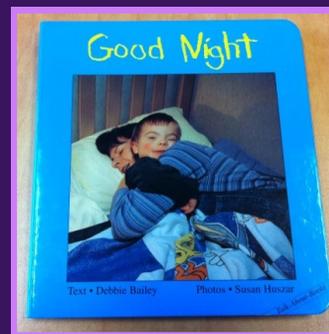


The Reading Corner

Good Night

By Debbie Bailey

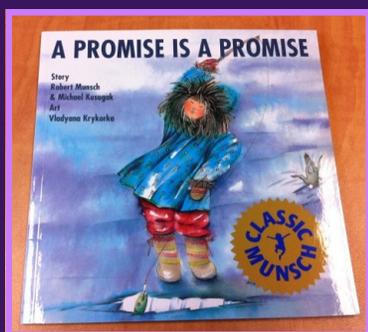
What do you do to get ready for bed? Bath, story, snack, cuddle or even kisses from mommy and daddy. Whatever you do, you will find this a great storybook about bed time, full of pictures of kids just like you.



A Promise is A Promise

By Robert Munsch

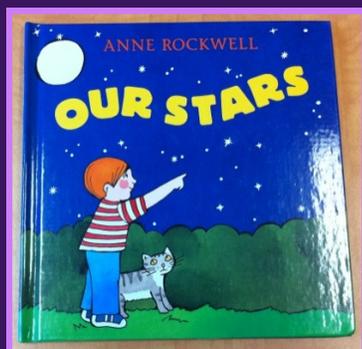
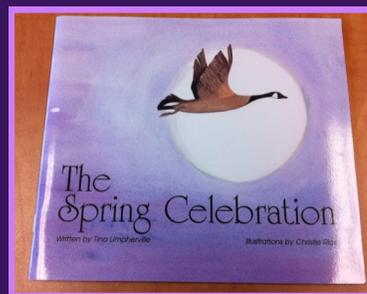
In spite of her mother's warning about the Qallupilluit, Allusha goes fishing alone on the sea ice. At the edge of the ocean, not seeing any Qallupilluit, Allusha starts doubting her mother and calls the creatures by names and goes so far as to challenge them to catch her. When the Qallupilluit finally appear, they drag Allusha down beneath the sea. She escapes by promising to bring her brothers and sisters to the sea creatures. With the help of her mother, Allusha is able to keep her promise, but when the family comes to the cracks in the sea, the Qallupilluit are not there, for they are still dancing with Allusha's father and mother in the house.



The Spring Celebration

By Tina Umpherville

A story all about a young girl, a picnic and the first signs of spring. It all takes place in a remote community in Manitoba.



Our Stars

By Anne Rockwell

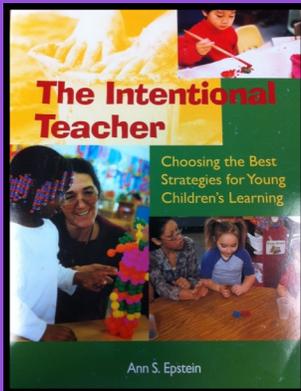
What are the stars, where are they during the day, how old are they and what can we learn from them? A little boy's journey to learn all about the stars in our sky.

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.

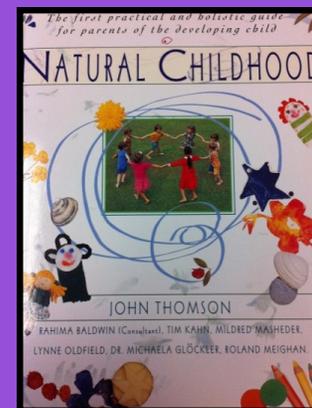
The Reading Corner

Staff Resources



Natural Childhood By John Thomson

An holistic parenting book that will give great, practical ideas to childcare providers as well. Ideas that are not included in ordinary parenting books. Interesting insights into the internal development of the child by leading psychologists, educators, councillors and doctors.



The Intentional Teacher By Ann S. Epstein

A book about the middle ground between the child initiated, vrs adult-directed debate in Early Childhood Education. A place where both adult and child share the responsibility for learning, which breeds a love of life long learning in the child. A great book for teachers of children as well as parents, no matter what side you are on.

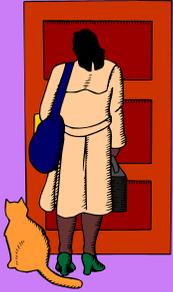
Lending Library

These are a sample of some of the wonderful things we have to borrow in our Lending Library. Check out our **Puppets** and all of our **Puzzles**. 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.



January Visits:

Happy 2011 everyone! I hope you are all excited about the new year. This month's visits will be focused on folder games. I will be bringing out some fun ideas for you.

There is so much that you can do and make at the family centre. See you all soon!

Angel



Reminders:

Please remember to have all of your documents posted each week. You should make sure to have them up Sunday night for each Monday morning.

If you are unsure of what you need to have up, please ask me when I am out, or call the office, we would love to help you.

Please also remember, we need a phone call if you are going out on a field trip, for a walk or to the park. The only reason we would not need a phone call is if you have a VERY detailed schedule stating where and when you will be gone each day.



Provider Appreciation

The provider that we are honouring this month is Gabi Andersen. Gabi has been with Wee R Kids since September 2008.

Gabi's day home is in Magrath. She has just had a new baby and is still operating her day home.

Gabi's home is always cheerful and she plans fun activities to do with the children. Gabi and her family seem to enjoy having the children join their home during the day, and the children seem to have fun there.

Gabi plans fun outings weekly with the children and always has something special to do for each holiday, even planning a Christmas party for the children.

Thank you Gabi for all that you do. If you speak to Gabi this month, make sure to thank her for all she does for the families in her care.



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:



VIRGINIA ~ 18



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, call the office or suggest it at a provider meeting whatever format you are most comfortable with.