

Building Blocks Preschool Newsletter 2005

Since our return from the holidays the children have readily settled into the routine of school. During the opening circle, when first arriving at school, the children are sitting for a longer amount of time. Children sing a greeting song and listen to instructions about the various activities, including art, available in the play room. This time is important in that turn-taking is required, as well as participation within a large group. Concepts and memory games are done at this time as well.

Mrs. Vammus and Mrs. Quibell have commented on how well the children are participating in various activities in the room and trying out the different centres. We continue to work at your child's level and to work on *age appropriate skills*. * The children are very relaxed and happy at school.

We had a fitness routine during circle time the first week back in January. The children seemed to enjoy the different exercises and greatly delighted in the use of balls, hoops, scarves and a parachute. We spent almost 30 minutes doing these activities. The children all stayed very focused considering they had just come back from a 2-week holiday.

With the themes of Winter, Shadows and Groundhog Day, we had much fun discussing weather and singing various snow and shadow songs.

Valentine's was great fun with many group games, like musical hearts and many friend songs. A new favourite and much requested song is "See the little Sandy girl/boy". The children all love getting a turn and love when someone picks them to dance with.

Nursery Rhymes Weeks have been a great way to introduce lots of drama and role-playing. During our small circles for these weeks the children thoroughly enjoyed being Humpty Dumpty, a spider scaring Little Miss Muffet, cows jumping over the moon and pretending to be contrary - to name just a few activities. Children who had been shy the first day of Nursery Rhymes were actively calling out what they wanted to be in the following days.

We are counting numbers every day on the calendar, singing about the days of the week and a month of the year song. Children have really come to anticipate the song with the corresponding actions and tune: *January first is January, January first month of the year* – to the tune of *Allouetta*; *In the month of February I'm so very glad* – to the tune of *Yankee Doodle*.

Once circle time is over many of the children choose to colour, glue, play with fine motor activities and work on puzzles while working with Mrs. Freer and Mrs. Sanger.

Your child's day is very full and busy while he/she is at school.

We appreciate all the parents who sent in snacks for our Valentine's party and for your positive feedback. Thank you for your support in helping make our school so successful.

If you have any questions we'll be happy to talk to you after class.

* A parent who supply-teaches for the school board told us that our preschool program is more enriched than any of the JK or SK classes she has taught in!