

~Toddlers~

Oh what fun it was to sing carols and see lights as we visited lots of worldly sights. We counted days in anticipation of multi cultural traditions, games, dances and shared food delights.

After all those diverse festivities we settle into a quiet, cozy classroom cabin to marvel at winter's sparkly white wonders. Wordless books will tease us with their silent stories. A flurry of benefits will pile in on us. Reading without text develops comprehension and understanding of a story structure, sequencing (beginning, middle, end) and plot (how actions affect outcomes). Wordless books require the ability to infer what's happening, remember what has already happened and predict what might happen next. Modeling storytelling techniques connects questioning with predicting. It allows children to practice retelling stories with developing verbal skills, new vocabulary and natural independent free flowing responses. The ability to recognize visual cues (emotional and foretelling) transfers into help with reading unknown words later on. Storytelling also influences later writing by incorporating vocabulary and sentence structure. A blizzard of similar benefits transfers from textless books into real life experiences. The books; Snowman and Snowman's Story open appreciation for the science behind snow. They introduce words for snow conditions and deliver excitement for creative expression. As children build snowmen and castles outdoors they exercise muscles doing "heavy play" They work on coordination in unrestricted space. They practice social skills and teamwork creating with others. They use thinking skills like observing, questioning,, selecting tools and strategies to solve problems. They use math to measure, place, count and compare. They share sensory experiences and build a bigger understanding of the natural world. Just think of how water, frozen or fluid unites everyone in caring for our earth. The final weeks of January expand that understanding to include other things sparkly white and frozen like the arctic habitat (and especially it's penguins). The last day of January brings us back to multicultural celebrations and games; namely Chinese New Year and the Winter Olympics. We'll be seeing lots of tigers and golden moments.

Thanks to "Pizza pie Snowman" and "10 Ways to Hear Snow" for brining new vocabulary skills to our room this month!

Just a reminder to maintain outdoor gear well labeled. We appreciate the help.

Happy new beginning,

Your Toddler Staff