



The future is Important but it is achieved by making the most of each today.



### Upcoming Dates:

- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>** BOOK ORDERS due but can buy online whenever
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** Winter Stories Sing-a-long  
10:30-11:00  
Iowa City Public Library
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup>** Sock Snowmen-  
IC Public Library-  
2:00-4:00
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** Reindeer Games-  
IC Public Library-  
2:00-4:00
- Dec 22<sup>th</sup>** Winter Break-  
**Jan 4<sup>th</sup>** No Class
- Dec 30<sup>th</sup>** STEM Family Free Night  
Children's museum
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** Noon Year's Eve  
Children's museum  
10:00 am- Noon
- Jan 5<sup>th</sup>** Class Resumes

## November Wrap Up

We had a great Friendship Feast on Tuesday! We all worked together to make our snack and enjoyed sitting together and talking about our plans over our five-day weekend.

Wow has this year gone by so fast. I can't believe that it is already December. In just a few short weeks, we will be having our winter break. We have many exciting learning experiences and fun activities planned for this month.

Please remember to send all winter gear to school, for we will do our best to get out on days the temperature with wind chill is high enough. ☺



## December Overview

### Second Step

We will continue working on social play and peer interactions talking about stating the problem, thinking of solutions, and speaking up assertively

### Letter of the Week Sharing

Dec 2<sup>th</sup>- Cc    Dec 9<sup>th</sup>- Oo  
Dec 16<sup>th</sup>- Qq    Dec 21<sup>st</sup>- Gg

### Pint Size Science- Gizmos & Gadgets

We will be learning about what a machine is, how people use different machines, along with building some Lego machines ourselves.

### Math and Numbers

We will center much around our theme to work on data representation and probability, connecting numerals to quantities, and comparing height.

### Literacy and Language

We will continue to explore writing, listening for information in books, as well as, work on word families and syllables.

### Monthly Theme

The month of December will be spent enjoy gingerbread. We will read the many different versions of The Gingerbread Man, make our own gingerbread house, and many other crafts and games.



## Gift Ideas that incorporate learning

Set of wooden or foam building blocks

Manipulatives such as Duplos/Legos, Lincoln Logs, Bristle Blocks, Magna Tiles, MegaBlocks, Waffle Blocks, etc.

Tablet of blank paper and drawing materials (crayons, markers, colored pencils)

Paints

Playdough, Silly Putty

Scissors, glue, collage materials (feathers, craft sticks, tissue paper, sequins, buttons, etc.)

Puzzles

Kids' music on CD.

Puppets

Car mat or rug

Kids' camera



Flash light, Sleeping bag, Tent

Children's books

Board games (Candy Land, Hi Ho Cherry-O, Chutes and Ladders, UNO, Break the Ice, Memory, Headbands, Let's Go Fishing, Hoot Owl Hoot!, Hungry Hungry Hippos, Zingo, Quick Cups)

# Riddle Me This

Made-up riddles Riddles that kids make up themselves are more fun than any other kind because they're personal and unique. To encourage made-up riddles, start by announcing you're thinking of something and you have three clues to help guess what it is. Your clues could be size, color, texture, taste, smell, use, or form. For example, you might say, "I'm thinking of something that is red, round and it bounces. What is it?" The child who correctly guesses the answer—a red ball—takes the next turn and makes up a new riddle. Are the riddles too hard? Too easy? Too much alike? That's the nice part about made-up riddles—they can be tailored to fit the audience by adding or subtracting clues to make them easier or harder. Best of all, everyone can take a turn—and you can make up riddles almost any time or in any place you find yourselves. 😊

## Why we play at...

### Blocks

Blocks are one of the most valuable learning materials in our classroom. Children learn about sizes, shapes, spatial relationships, math concepts, and problem solving, as well as, balance, sequence, and gravity. When playing with blocks, children acquire logical thinking skills and increase their language abilities. They are also developing muscular coordination and emotional satisfactions when their constructions turn out how they planned.

### Drama

Dramatic play can be defined as a type of play where children accept and assign roles, and then act them out. It is a time when they break through the walls of reality, pretend to be someone or something different from himself or herself, and dramatize situations and actions to go along with the roles they have chosen to play. As children are involved in group play and communicating with one another, they are also developing skills in such areas as abstract thinking, literacy, math, and social studies, in a timely, natural manner.