



WCA Preschool Times



January 3, 2023

It is so wonderful to be back in the classroom! The last week we were together feels like so long ago, but also not, as I think about the activities we did and conversations we had. The class had been working on various ornaments to bring home before break. They all did a great job and had asked many times when they would get to take them home. I believe they were excited to share with you! We had been adding cotton balls to Santa's beard each day as well. I hope you enjoyed doing this much anticipated daily activity at home with your child. There were some activities that we just didn't have time for that I had planned. They are in my plans the next few weeks and will tie in well with our new unit of focus. As we enter into the new year we will be shifting our focus to animals. This is one of my favorite units! Children are instinctively drawn to nature and animals. We will kick this unit off with studying hibernation and what it means when animals do not migrate or adapt to the changing cold weather conditions that Michigan has.

We will read *The Mitten* and then retell the story by making our own mitten book. The class will use construction paper and yarn to make a stuffed bear. In science we will simulate the feel of insulation that animals need to have in the winter months by using ice water, zip lock bags and shortening. Take advantage of the web addresses on the back! There are some great resources to further engage your preschooler exploring animals and their interesting lives. Many zoos also have live web cams and various videos of animals. We will review the sight words they have already learned and add a new one mid-week. According to the weatherman, the weather will be warmer and rainy the next few days, but the winter weather will be back at weeks end. Hopefully we will get to enjoy some snow in the weeks to come. I just love sledding with the class! We will go outside each day the weather permits to enjoy the fresh air! Dress your child in

Areas of Focus

Animals; Hibernation

Sight Word Review: the, to, and, a



Literacy and Language



- Books: *Good Night Bear!* *What the Moon Sees*, *Six Snowy Sheep*, *The Mitten*, *One Snowy Night*, *Beavers*, *The Hat*
- My Mitten Book (*The Mitten* by Jan Brett)
- Read and Write Around the Room

Focus Words

burrow * underground * den * hibernate

Math, Science, Sensory

- *Counting Bear Balance Scale
- * Animal Insulation Experiment
- * Art/Sensory: Making a Stuffed Bear
- * Light Table Animal X-rays
- * Coffee Filter Snowflake



Important News

- ➔ Please, send all winter gear every day; boots, snow pants, hat, gloves. We will be playing outside and going on nature hikes as long as the weather permits.
- ➔ Check backpacks for wet mittens and hats!

Poem

A-Hunting We Will Go
(Rhyming Words)



A-hunting we will go,
A-hunting we will go,
We'll catch a fox
And put him in a box
And then let him go.



Online Resources About Animals

Ranger Rick (National Wildlife Foundation)

<https://www.rangerrick.org>

National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Smithsonian National Zoo (webcams)

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/WebCams>

Interactive animal games for Pre-schoolers

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/preschool/animals.htm>



Smithsonian

