



The Learning Place Preschool

Mrs. Judy, Mrs. Julie, and Mrs. Karen

It's hard to believe February is here already! We did so many fun things in January that the time flew by us.

We did a unit about mittens at the beginning of January. We read the book [The Mitten](#), by Jan Brett. We worked a lot on story-telling and re-telling. We took turns acting out the story.

The next week we read lots of books about Bears. We continued to work on re-telling with puppets and the puppet theater. We read three different versions of [Goldilocks and the Three Bears](#) and then compared and contrasted them. We also learned how bears hibernate during the winter.

Our friendship and peace week was exciting. We practiced saying nice things to each other. Each child made a heart, and then we wrote nice things about each person on their hearts. We also had a pajama day that week where we wore our pajamas to school, read some fun bedtime books, and listened to lullabies.

We concluded the month learning about penguins and doing snow activities. We walked like penguins, made a penguin picture that will be entered in the school art fair in April, measured ourselves next to a four foot Emperor Penguin picture, painted with colored ice cubes, patterned with penguins and eggs, sprayed snow with liquid watercolors, and did a snow melting experiment. We also had fun building snow forts and snowmen outside.

This month we also spent a great deal of time during Character Counts talking about respect. We learned a new song called "Encouraging Words." Below are some tips that you can use with your children at home. The tips are taken from illinoisearlylearning.org.

1. Notice specific good acts and comment on them.

- Instead of saying, “What a good girl/boy you are today,” try saying, “You put your book back on the shelf.” She/He will see her/his own action as helpful.
 - Pay attention to the things that your child gets right. For example, if your child usually pushes to the front of the line but remembers to wait this time, you might say, “I’m glad you remembered to wait to go down the slide when you saw Jason get to the ladder first.”
 - Use words to help your child become aware of her /his own approach to problems. “I noticed Maria wanted to play a different game than you did, so you suggested playing her choice and then playing yours. You looked like you were having fun together.”
2. Notice your child’s efforts and be honest in praising it.
 - Support your child’s good intentions. Rather than saying, “What a beautiful card! You’re a great artist!” Try saying, “Daddy will really like the get well card you made.”
 - Be careful not to go overboard with praise. Your child may doubt your judgment if you constantly tell him that he’s the fastest boy, especially if he knows others are faster.
 3. Avoid compliments that insult your child or others.
 - Don’t praise your child in a way that sounds like criticism. Saying, “You actually remembered to put your coat away for once” is not encouraging. If something your child has done is worth complimenting, let the compliment stand on its own.
 - Avoid insulting others while encouraging a child. Saying, “You are a much better helper than your sister” may cause competition and resentment.

Say things like “I love you,” “I’m proud of you,” and “I’m so glad you are my child.” Children and adults feel good when they hear these words.

Next month we will be doing units on love, dinosaurs, math, and dental health. We are looking forward to having Nurse Deanna come in and tell us about our teeth.

As always, if you have any questions, please call us at 443-2715 or email us at jrobinson@pcwolves.net.