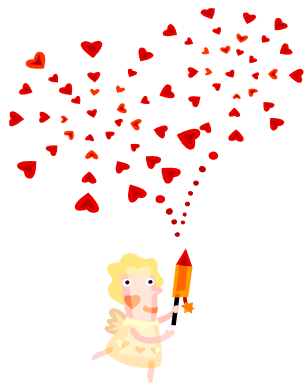




New Year, New Accomplishments!

A huge development task for this age-group is the children's increasing independence through self-help skills. The Kangaroo Team is very proud of the abundant endeavors the class has successfully taken on. The children have transitioned with great ease into the small plastic chairs. And although it can get a little messy, the children have also begun drinking from open cups during snack times! We have been encouraging the children to place all utensils and drinking cups into the teacher sink, and all paper plates and bowls into the trashcan. We've also encouraged the children to wipe up any spills or pick up any food they may have thrown onto the floor.



Dates to Remember

February

Friday, February 13th – RED, PINK, & WHITE DAY!

No, it's not to celebrate Friday the 13th or the premiere of the movie. It's for LOVE! We will have a family style lunch RED LUNCH consisting of just RED food, and the children are all encouraged to wear RED, PINK, OR WHITE!

Monday, February 16th – School Closed, President's Day

Wednesday, February 25th – Cornbread cooking activity

Thursday, February 26th – Bread tasting party (afternoon snack)

Friday, February 27th – Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please make a reminder that Kangaroo mid-year conferences will be held on **Friday, February 27th**, from 7am – 5pm. Keep a lookout for a sign-up sheet on the Kangaroo front door.

Emergent Curriculum

Gross Motor

All of the children have transitioned to taking steps to climb up and down the stairs (versus scoot-scoot-bump and crawling up the stairs). We will continue to work on this task for the remainder of the year. As they become more conscious about how their bodies move, we are encouraging the children to do exercise movements (lunge, squat, bow, etc), and using songs to incorporate motions (i.e. "The Hokey Pokey," "The Ants Go Marching," "I'm a Little Teapot.")

Things to do at home: Songs like "The Hokey Pokey" are a great way to introduce left side and right side.

Cognitive

The children have shown an increase developmental interest in pretend play. They are appropriately using the play food, dishes, and child sink/stove. They wash dishes, cook food, eat food (without putting their mouths on the plastic food), and get water from the sink. Teachers are constantly encouraging them, asking "What will you be making for lunch?" "Oh the plate is so dirty, it needs to be cleaned in the sink."

Self-Help

Also in the dramatic play area, we have brought in boots, which the children seem to have a great interest in. Our next self-help task is learning how to take shoes on and off. This task requires

- fine motor - Velcro straps
- gross motor - pull/push shoe onto/off of foot
- cognitive developmental skills - it's a step-by-step process; increases attention span
- emotional development – frustration, success

