



# the discovery center

January 2024

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year! It's really hard to believe that a whole year has gone by. With the beginning of a new calendar year comes the preparations for the 2024/2025 school year! Current Discovery Center families will be receiving a "Projection Packet". This packet contains forms which enable you to request your ideal schedule for next year as well as to share any vacation dates or other future plans with us. It is also at this time that you may request a space in the program next year for siblings. While I know it can be difficult to anticipate the future, this is an important process by which we can better plan for and organize our classrooms and meet everyone's needs. The information you provide on the projection sheet allows us to gauge the student population for the summer and fall. It then gives us an idea of the availability in our program for families outside the center. If your child will be withdrawing from the program for some time off in the summer months, or you will be leaving our

## PROJECTION PACKETS!

program anytime during the year, please be sure to fill out a separate withdrawal form. The projection sheet information **DOES NOT** serve as notice of leaving the program. It is simply an indication of tentative plans. Deposits can not be credited if you do not complete this important, separate form. I greatly appreciate your help and involvement in returning the "Projection Packets" promptly. The due date for returning forms is Wednesday, January 31, 2024! Thank you for your help with your projections for summer and fall!

Hope the new year ahead is a safe, and happy one!

*Debbie*



## So Many Boots...So Little Time

Teachers and caregivers do know that playing outside is fun. And important, too. Children need the challenges and change of pace that outdoor play can provide. But getting twenty children dressed and ready to go is not easy task. Even in a mild climate, winter usually means extra clothing to keep track of...to tie...zip...buckle...button. (And unbutton, unbuckle, unzip, and untie for visits to the bathroom). You can give your child's teachers a hand, even when you're not there. Here's how:

- \* Label everything. Initials on the care labels will usually do. \*Have your child help you do the labeling, so he can locate the tags if needed.
- \*Put sticky paper dots on the inner edges of boots. Show your child how to line them up. When the dots touch, she'll be able to put her boots on the "right" feet.
- \*Check frequently to see that boots still fit. It's hard for preschoolers to pull size-four boots onto size five feet.
- \*Remember that mittens are easier for preschoolers to put on than gloves.
- \*Help your child learn the logical order to getting dressed. (Boots after snow pants might be something your child hadn't thought of).
- \*Give your child time to practice at home. Do it when you're not in a hurry.
- \*Have your child help you lay out, or pack in a bag, all the outdoor clothing items she will need for the next day.

Your efforts will help the teachers, of course. But they're also a daily reminder to your child that you care about his or her warmth and comfort on a wintry day.

## OUTDOOR PLAY IS IMPORTANT, EVEN IN THE WINTER!



Outdoor play is considered to be an important part of the day at The Discovery Center, just as all of the indoor components of the day are considered essential to a well-rounded program. School policy states that every child goes outside every day, with only three exceptions:

1-The overall temperature and/or wind chill factor is too low to ensure a safe play environment for the children ( $0^{\circ}$  and below are considered too dangerous).

2-The weather outside is too inclement to provide a safe, comfortable, play experience (thunder, lightening, downpours, excessive wind).

3-An individual child is recovering from a respiratory infection or is under a doctor's orders to remain inside (a note stating this is necessary). Children making recoveries from any other illnesses are deemed healthy enough to play outside if they are healthy enough to be in attendance.



Don't forget to send along warm winter clothing with your child each day. Even if there is no snow on the ground or expected in the weather forecast, winter clothing is a great protector against the cold, mud, etc. We greatly appreciate you including boots, mittens, hats, snow pants, and a warm jacket as a part of your child's gear. Thank you for your help with this!

## COMING EVENTS AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

### Storytelling with Laura:

Thursday, January 11th  
Tuesday, January 16th  
Thursday, January 18th

Yellow Room and Green Room  
Blue Room and Purple Room  
Red Room and Orange Room

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Projection Sheets for 2024-2025 due  
for all Discovery Center Families

