

KINDERGARTEN
TWIN RIDGES HOME STUDY

FIFTH LEARNING PERIOD
PART A
By Marguerite Vulfs

Note to Parents

Circle

Crafting

Science & Mathematics

Story

Physical Education

NOTE TO PARENTS

Hello Parents ,

Learning Period 5 will be divided up into 2 sections. One will be for the month of December which you will be able to access now. The second will be later in December for the one week in January which this learning period includes.

Learning Period 5 has so many musical possibilities - please look ahead briefly in The Union's Prospector for events such as the ballet "Clara and The Nutcracker" or take part in the many musical offerings at the various fairs through December 23rd. As well, in January plan ahead now for a possible field trip to Colusa National Wildlife Refuge to see the many birds there.

Crafting abounds this month. The school has many craft books available in the book shelf close to the door of the Kindergarten. Crafting can help children with the excitement of the season by keeping focused on making. Giving is something they very much enjoy!

Stay warm and be well.

Blessings on your December,
Marguerite

CIRCLE

What a great month for music! This is a good moment to reinforce your musical circle. If you have been struggling with it, this is a moment to try to visit it again. Begin with your opening verse or song and then move to familiar holiday songs you may know. Relaxing with something you know is easier than trying to learn new songs to introduce. Two seasonal songs that children of this age really seems to like are "Deck the Halls" and "Jingle Bells". Both are lively and can include some some bells.

Some nursery rhymes to consider are "Pat a Cake", "To Market", "Wee Willie Winkie", and "I Saw a Ship A-Sailing". All can be found in The Real Mother Goose Book illustrated by Blanche Fisher Wright. You can choose and create your own hand gestures for each one.

Make sure that you say "good bye" to Autumn and "hello" to Winter during the week of December 17th. The official day of the Winter Solstice is December 21 this year.

"Autumn good - bye, Autumn good - bye
You may no longer stay
Because Winter is on its way."

On the day of the Solstice, replace the last sentence with "Winter is here today."

CRAFTING

First Week - Recycle your glass items and cover with tissue paper and a glue/water mixture or modge podge/water mixture. You can cutout yellow or white tissue paper stars for your child to layer on them. Make sure you use light colors of tissue as it reflects the light better. Try experimenting with it yourself first. Unusually shaped glass often makes the best projects!

Second Week - Make wreaths and swags from evergreens, cedar, sticks and plant material you may have saved from Autumn. A swag is gathered material, bound with a rubber band at the stick end of it and tied with a ribbon, twine, yarn or burlap. You can also glue gun various cones, seed pods, etc onto it. (Note: Recommend that only adults use the glue gun.) Fun to gift and almost free to make! Hospice in Nevada City often has a selection of ribbon for sale.

Third Week - Get some candle molding wax and cut small shapes like stars, hearts, etc. You can use a very small cookie cutter for this. Have children press gently onto store bought candles. You can also make your own beeswax candles. There are many youtube videos on this. You can also quite simply use wicking and melted beeswax & the dipping in the wax and then cold water method. Make sure you straighten out the wick after each dip in cold water before you dip in the hot wax again.

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

Go through the offerings of the last four learning periods. Choose areas that your child may have missed or needs more practice with. For the three weeks in December focus on this. Some situations may not be applicable as the season has shifted. You can also add the following:

First Week - Observe the formation of frost, ice and crystals in nature. Intentionally freeze some things outside and observe the structure and texture.

Second Week - Observe the plant life. Notice most of the trees having lost their leaves. Choose different evergreen branches and see their different textures. Make sure your plants are mulched.

Third Week – Observe the animals especially the birds, the squirrels and the deer. Are their behavior patterns different than they were in the summer and fall? Are they migrating with new birds arriving while others seem to have gone away.

For each week have your child draw a picture about their observations.

STORY

For the three months in December, "The Elves and The Shoemaker" from Grimms Fairy Tales is a good story for this time of year. Another good story is "The Story of Rufusi Rynecker" from The Seven-Year-Old Wonder Book by Isabel Wyatt.

December is a great month for a new story every day. This can often help with the restless nature that staying inside during inclement weather causes. Try to choose the same time each day for your story reading or tell your "school" story.

Your six year old and almost six year old may like "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement C. Moore. If you read it enough early on, your child may surprise you by memorizing it.

The story for the week in the January learning period will be "Mother Holle" by the Brothers Grimm. The poem for that time will be "Happiness" by A. A. Milne.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Children of this age should know how to throw a ball back and forth to you. It is a great gift to help your child with this.

I begin with an underhand throw. Have your child get their hands "ready" by cupping them together in front of their stomach.

Do not throw the ball until they make eye contact with you. That means they are ready.

Try to resist for this exercise throwing the ball overhand. You are practicing keeping the connection between you with the underhand throw, gradually stepping back until the throw is farther apart.

Try not to throw balls that are the size of a child's head. As the young child is pictorially active, for the very sensitive child, this might be distracting. Experiment with different size balls and weights.

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