

KINDERGARTEN
TWIN RIDGES HOME STUDY

FIFTH LEARNING PERIOD
PART B
By Marguerite Vulfs

Circle

Drawing

Movement

Science & Mathematics

Story

CIRCLE

Your January Circle easily transitions at this time when you continue to follow the seasons. This is the last week of the fifth learning period which began what seems a long time ago. Start fresh. Change your nature table even if it is simply a new candle for the New Year. A few fresh evergreen branches are all you need. If you are more inclined, create a King Winter type theme using darker blues, whites, silvers etc. with crystals.

Songs can all be about the weather. However I have also picked a bird theme and use that at this time of year as well. Whatever you choose try to keep it simple as the children get a little overwhelmed doing too much the first week back after a long holiday time. This first week of the New Year you can also integrate a Kindness Chart as the theme this whole month is about new beginnings moving toward kindness. During sharing time, you might use small "dragon tears" filling up a container for different ways your child speaks about being kind.

A Kindness Chart might list different ways to be kind in your home with family, to friends and in the community. Some kids love collecting things like stars and hearts on a chart. Every time something is listed and repeated, a star can be placed. All of this moves toward Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 21st and having a way to recognize his work.

DRAWING

Begin the year simply by drawing every day. A lot of inner growth can happen during the Holiday Break in a child's development. This can be a good time to capture some of that in drawing as well as prepare for more focused work in actual writing of letters in a couple of weeks.

Day 1 - Have your child draw themselves and perhaps your family if they would like to. Encourage the full use of the page and all of the colors.

Day 2 - Have your child draw a house. It can be as elaborate as they would like it to be. Or as simple. Same rules apply though of filling up the whole page.

Day 3 - Create a still life that is interesting but simple. It can be a bowl of fruit or some fun toys. Have them draw as best they can what they see.

Day 4 - Free drawing. They can draw whatever they would like.

Day 5 - Repeat from the above choices whatever they enjoyed doing the most.

Save this exercise for when you feel like your child just needs some quiet time. Kids often work things out within themselves with their drawings or they reveal things through the drawings that they themselves often do not even know are happening.

Please keep this part confidential as children need to be able to feel free to express themselves in this way without this knowledge.

MOVEMENT

A lot of this week will probably be rainy or snowy so it is a good moment to gather up some movement resources for things to do inside.

Some ideas - Jacks, large floor puzzles, jump rope, guided somersaults, yoga, freeze dancing, rolling, clapping games, etc are all things that can take the edge off of not going outside.

Listen for the rain to stop and have your coats ready to jump into for a quick outside play moment should the weather lighten up a bit.

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

For Science help your child to make a calendar for January with all 31 days. Keep track of the weather each day of school = rain, sun, clouds, snow, mist etc. Some days the day might have more than one weather presentation. Note any rainbows when the rain stops and the sun comes out.

For Mathematics take a look at the work that has occurred since school began. Use this week once again to catch up and repeat. During the next Learning Period, Mathematics will take on a new beginning. Pay attention noting where your child struggles and figure out how best to help them. Use the Resource Room and plan to check out something from there that is new and different.

STORY

A wonderful first story for the year is "Mother Holle" by the Brothers Grimm which I mentioned in Part A. One of the reasons I like it is that it has encouragement to make good choices in its theme. I always feel that this time of year is a good moment to begin something new. You can easily tell/read this story carrying it into the next Learning Period. Please read the story to yourself first. Sometimes depending on the version and the child, I have changed the wording for one of the sisters from "ugly" to "not attractive".

This story lends itself to a puppet show. This is a fun story to add props as well to the show - feathers, gold stars or glitter, etc. You can collect simple dolls that you might have in your house for the show. Move them with a purpose but rather slowly. The gestures are simple.

Created by Marguerite Vulfs January 2019