

DECEMBER 2023

# Family Newsletter

## December Book List

**Snowman Magic**

by Katherine Tegen

**Snowball Moon**

by Fran Cannon Slayton

**The Colors of Winter**

by Danna Smith

**It's Winter!**

by Linda Glaser

**Snow Party**

by Harriet Ziefert

**The Snowy Nap**

by Jan Brett

**Red Sled**

by Lita Judge

**The First Day of Winter**

by Denise Fleming

**The Snowy Day**

by Ezra Jack Keats

**Snowmen at Night**

by Caralyn Buehner

## CELEBRATING THE YEAR!

**DECEMBER HAS ARRIVED!** We know the holiday season can be busy, but in the center we are focused on enjoying the season and creating a positive learning environment each and every day.

This past year was full of giggles, birthdays, first steps, loose teeth and new friendships, each bringing us immense joy. We feel so privileged to have been a part of these important milestones. While some achievements may have been difficult at first, we are constantly amazed by the children and how quickly they learn.

Please remember to check with the center about holiday closures and center activities.

As with every month, **WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR THE CHILDREN IN OUR CARE** and the families that make up our community.

*Happy Holidays*

Cheers to a happy December!

# For Grins

(Answer on Page 2)

**Q: What do snowmen call their offspring?**



**Early Learning**  
Academies



# BRINGING IT HOME

## RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES



With the days growing shorter, we are all spending more time indoors. Here are a few ideas for indoor fun.

### INDOOR SNOWBALL TOSS

Grab a few pairs of socks and a basket. Make sure the socks are rolled up into balls, these will be your snowballs. Place the basket somewhere in the room and have your child stand a few steps away from it. Have your child toss the socks, trying to get them to land into the basket. If it is too hard, have them take a step closer. If it is too easy, try challenging them by making them take a step back or trying to throw the socks while standing on one foot.



### ICE PAINTING

Fill an ice cube tray with water. In each section, add a drop of food coloring. Place the ice cube tray in the freezer and allow the water to freeze. Pop the colored ice cube out of the tray and let your child move them around on a piece of paper. Watch what happens to the ice as it melts. To make this mess free, place the paper on a baking sheet. This way when the ice cube melts, the water will stay in the baking sheet.



### MELTING SNOWMEN

This is a fun way to hone your science skills! You will need baking soda, water, and vinegar. For added fun grab a couple of googly eyes and orange paper.

- Mix baking soda with a small amount of water so you can mold the baking soda into three balls to form a snowman.
- Add googly eyes and a small orange triangle for a nose.
- Place your snowmen in a bowl and slowly pour a little vinegar over your snow man. See what happens!



### HOLIDAY TOY SAFETY TIPS

It's a magical time of year! There are so many exciting toys to explore and enjoy but there are also a few safety hazards to beware of when giving and receiving toys to young children. All of these types of toys are not permitted in the center.

#### Water Beads (also known as Orbees)

Water beads, small plastic beads that grow 200 times larger when placed in water, are fun-feeling and very popular with children. The toy is featured in vases, kid foot spas, gardens, and other craft items. While these are fun to play with, they are harmful if swallowed or placed in a child's nose or ear. The beads grow in size and cause an obstruction requiring medical care and because of their material, they cannot be seen on x-rays. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/DecWaterBeads>.

#### High-Powered Magnets

##### (also known as Bucky Balls)

High-powered magnetic balls, better known as Bucky Balls, are small magnetic round balls or cubes. These high-powered magnets can be manipulated into a three-dimensional form; however, if digested can result in a serious medical emergency or even death. These toys are NOT RECOMMENDED for children. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/DecHighpoweredmagnets>

#### Button Batteries

Button batteries are featured in many children's toys and unfortunately, thousands of children are treated yearly for swallowing these little hazards. Button batteries can be found in remote controls, small devices such as watches, and many other small accessories. Their small, coin-like size makes them appealing to young children. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/DecButtonBattery>



For Grins  Answer: Chill-dren!

