



Children's House January 2025 Newsletter

JANUARY THEMES

New Year Celebration!

Hibernation

Migration

Animals That Thrive in
Winter or Cold
Climates

Eskimos

Dressing for Winter

Winter Season in Warm Climates

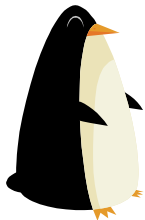
Winter Fun

Martin Luther King, Jr. (Pre-K)

Alaska and Antarctica
(Pre-K)

Snow and Ice

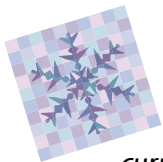
Peter and the Wolf



...and/or any other special topics of interest
voiced by the children.

*If you have any materials or other information
on these themes, please feel free to share
them!*

TAX INFO



Pam Frogameni will be sending out
notices by the end of this month to all
currently enrolled families which will indicate
the total tuition paid in 2024.

Our Tax ID # is: **81-4118965**

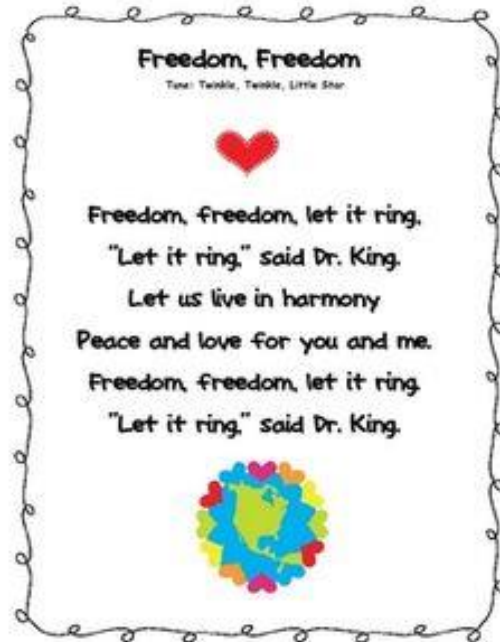
If you don't receive this information for
some reason, feel free to contact Pam
Frogameni at:

pfrogameni720@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/1/25 - Happy New Year! Center
Closed

1/20/25 Center Closed in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday



1/23/25 – Ed Popielarczyk of **Magical
Moments** will visit to share his hysterical
magic tricks with the Preschool and Pre-
K/K Groups – 10:00 am

In February...

The **SmilePros Hygienists** have been
rescheduled for **Tuesday, February 18th**.
All families should send in or re-sign/re-date
a current form indicating "yes" or "no" for
participation in this program by the week
prior to that date. To meet grant
requirements, all forms must be dated 2025.

FRONT DOOR ACCESS CARD & SAFETY

For those parents who wish to enter the building using the front door, an access card is needed. Access cards can be purchased for \$10 by enclosing \$10 in an envelope labeled with **your name** and a message saying you are requesting an **access card** and *placing that envelope in the tuition drawer in the main hallway.*

The intercom at the front door rings to our regular phone system. Staff are not always able to answer the phone which means those dropping off at the door without an access card may need to wait through a cycle or two of ringing before someone can pick up. **Having an access card allows parents immediate entry.**

For all those families who DO have an access card, please be sure to NOT label the card with our name or address. This causes serious security issues and our main goal at all times is to keep the center secure. If a card is lost, please notify the center immediately so that the card can be deactivated. Cards located in the parking lot should be turned in to the office. Replacement cards can be obtained for \$10.

PLEASE DO NOT LET ANYONE IN ANY OF THE DOORS OF THE BUILDING. This also causes a security risk as even an individual who is recognized may NOT continue to be an “authorized” person for a child. Just politely let the person at the door who hasn’t been announced or doesn’t have a card know that they need to ring the intercom. It’s awkward at times, but it is what needs to happen to keep unauthorized people out of the building. Parents may notice that even our staff do not open the front door – even if they see a parent there. This is per our policy. They *may* open it for a parent in *their* classroom only as they may not be

immediately made aware of custody changes, restraining orders or just changes in parent/guardian authorizations for children in other classrooms.



A NOTE ABOUT WINTER ILLNESS

Unfortunately, despite all our efforts, some children are still getting hit with coughs, colds, bronchitis and flu, RSV and pink eye.

If your child has a fever prior to receiving any medication, *please* keep him/her home from school. Department of Public Health regulations dictate that centers are only permitted to accept children back to school when they have been *fever free for at least 24 hours having taken NO fever reducing medications.*

Children who aren’t eating or drinking well, who would have a hard time flowing with the regular center routines or have heavy cold symptoms with or without a cough must also be kept home *even if there is no fever.*

Pink eye is a typical illness seen during the winter season. Children with leaky eyes must be kept home until the eye(s) are no longer leaking clear fluid or pus. It is this fluid/pus that causes other children (and staff) to contract the illness. So, even if your child has been on the eye antibiotic for 24 hours, if the eye(s) are still leaking, he/she needs to be kept home.

We have also unfortunately been notified of a couple of children with stomach viruses. If your child complains of stomach pain and refuses to eat breakfast, he/she should not be brought to the center. It is a huge challenge to get children who are vomiting or have diarrhea to the bathroom in time. This puts the child in distress and



the clean up is a difficult task while trying to take care of the other children in the group – not to mention the level of contagion in the room after such an incident. Diapered children create the same issue when they vomit in the classroom or the diaper leaks on the floor.

With the proper documentation, staff can administer some medications during the day. Please ask your child's teacher for specifics and for required forms. Staff will place medications brought from home in a pre-designated location and will return medication to parents at pick up once the course of medication is over. **Medication of any type and lotions/ointments cannot be left in backpacks or cubbies.**

Parents will need to supply a dosing cup or spoon for each medication brought to the center. All medications must be placed in a separate labeled baggie to keep it from coming in contact with other medications stored in the center medication box/bag.

Parents, please understand, if your child is brought to school, we cannot keep him/her indoors if the rest of the group is going out. Children should have snow gear/cold weather gear at the center every day.

If the weather is very poor or below 30 degrees (including the wind chill temp), the children will stay indoors and the staff will 'get their wiggles out' by offering a variety of fun, indoor gross motor activities.



PHYSICAL, IMMUNIZATIONS, HEALTH CARE PLANS, MEDICATION AND LEAD TEST INFO

NEED CONSISTENT UPDATING

Please ask your child's physician to complete (or print from their own system)

an updated health form EVERY time he/she is seen for a well-child visit.

Please be sure information submitted to the center includes the date of the well child exam, a current immunization list and current lead test. Lead tests must be completed yearly from 1 year through age 3. An additional test must be done at age 4 if the child resides in Springfield, Chicopee, Westfield or Holyoke because these cities are on the MA list as "high risk" locations for lead poisoning.

Please bring a copy of the updated information to the center as soon as possible after the visit. Medical info can be handed directly to your child's teacher or emailed to Pam Flowers (pjflowers720@gmail.com)

We have lots of files to stay on top of, so if parents could help us out by sending the info in before the staff have to request it, we would really appreciate it!

Thank you!

INCLEMENT WEATHER



Those who have been with us a few years know that Children's House carefully considers weather conditions before making the decision to close or delay opening. We recognize how these types of delays can be very inconvenient for families.

In the event we must close full day, have an opening delay or early closure, announcements will be shared with parents as described in the flyer entitled "In Case of Emergency/Disaster/Storm".

This flyer is available to parents on our website: www.childrenhouseinc.org.

If we plan to **close early**, parents who are connected to us via email will be notified via email.

Only parents who have not given us an email address or who specifically ask to be called instead (notify teacher in writing with phone # at which you wish to be contacted) will receive phone calls.

Please check emails often on poor weather days.

If we are open and you plan to keep your child home, it would be so helpful if you would let us know.

If staff are not available to answer the phone, the automated answer system will pick up. Please leave all messages in the **general mailbox**. These messages will be distributed to the teachers as soon as possible. An email can also be sent to pjflowers720@gmail.com and Pam will pass notifications on to staff.



To all our families who did a little something special for our staff over the holidays, thank you so much!

Some families sent in heartfelt gifts for their classroom staff and others provided treats for the entire staff!

We all truly appreciate every gesture of kindness and support families offer and look forward to partnering with you all in 2025!

~Children's House Learning Team

Let's Welcome 2025!



Bring on the NEW YEAR!