

DECEMBER
2015



KTK News of the Day

Notes from Our Feathered Friends

Baby Chicks: Winter is on its way, burr! The babies are staying warm by exercising their new skills. Some of our classmates are working on rolling to their tummy and back again, while other friends are steadying themselves while sitting up. The babies have been enjoying listening to stories and singing many tunes. Some of the Chicks have been testing out various foods and others are looking intrigued. This month we welcome our new friend Abraham to the Baby Chick family.

Penguins: Wow, it's already the end of the year. It has been a very busy month, and I hope you all enjoyed our Thanksgiving dinner. We had a couple of new faces join our room last month. Etta joined us from the Baby Chicks class and is doing great! Also Thomas, who is new to our KTK family, joined us as well. Welcome to our class – there is always something fun and exciting going on in our room. Please keep in mind that we do go outside until the temperature is 20 degrees (including wind-chill). Always make sure your child has warm enough clothing (with labels) for outside time. We spend time on the back deck, so boots are needed too; thanks!

Parrots: Kudos to the Parrot parents for doing a stellar job of making sure we have what we need to stay warm when playing outside. As a reminder, we go outside when the temperature (including wind chill) is above 20 degrees. Our highlights from November are experimenting with a few new foods and lots of fun turkey projects. December is one of my favorite times of the year, as we celebrate the holidays and being together with our families. We will, of course, explore Christmas traditions that we celebrate here in the US as well as those around the world. We will also look at holidays such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Of course, if your family has any special holiday traditions that we can include, please let us know. In addition, we are

looking forward to more snow exploration and welcoming Violet to our room, as she will soon be graduating from the Penguins.

Peacocks: A BIG shout out of thanks to everyone for bringing in warm duds to wear outside. Even though we aren't full of snow yet, it still gets cold playing out back in the wind tunnel. We are working very hard on self-help skills in our classroom. It would be much appreciated if your child could practice getting himself/herself dressed at home as much as possible. Being able to do things on their own is a great self-esteem builder for kids and it really helps us get outside in a timely manner. November was loads of fun. Besides seeing all the changes in nature, some of our highlights were comparing likes and differences with each other, making a castle out of a box, learning new songs (The Peacocks especially liked the "Yucky" song!) and having a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner together. Thank you to all who chose to attend! This month we are learning about the following themes: The United States, Snow, Christmas, Winter Holidays, and Winter.

Preschool: The preschoolers hope that everyone had a very happy and thankful Thanksgiving. We loved seeing all of our friends and their families at the KTK Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a huge success! The preschoolers had a great November. We talked about the letters I, J, K, and L. We even made homemade lemonade! This month our theme is: Let it Snow. We will be talking about Winter Weather, Polar Animals, Christmas/Holidays Around the World, and New Year. Speaking of snow, please make sure you always have a winter jacket, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens in your child's cubby. You never know when we will need it. This month we welcome Nya to preschool! It will be lots of fun having a new friend in our room.



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

Thanks to all those who were able to make our Thanksgiving get-together. The food was great and the company was even better. It was nice to see some of our former students who always make us smile.

The Early Childhood field is constantly changing, so in order for us to keep up with these developments, we sent a few of our teachers to attend the WECA Early Childhood Conference last month. Elissa, Charley, Sara, and Tammy all were able to attend and bring back some of the latest and greatest information to share with our staff. This helps re-energize the teachers and brings a huge benefit to the children here at Koala-T-Kare.

Don't forget that we are closed on December 24, 25, and 31 as well as January 1 for the holidays.

See you all next year!

Sue Schneider
Koala-T-Kare Director



Out of the Mouths of Babes

Ms. Kristi was looking at one of her friends, admiring his haircut. She said, "I like your haircut. You look so handsome." The little boy replied, "My haircut looks like a helmet."

Ms. Sue was helping in the Peacock room. It was time to clean up and the room was quite a mess. Ms. Sue pointed to a toy and said, "Who had this out?" A little boy quickly responded, "Someone else."

Ms. Kristi was busy putting away beds after rest time was over. One of her friends said, "Kristi, what are you doing?" She said, "I'm combing my hair. You know how I like my hair to look good." The little boy laughed and said, "No you're not – you are putting beds away." She replied, "Well, does my hair look good?" He said enthusiastically, "OH YEAH!"



Upcoming Events

- Dec. 6: Hanukkah begins
- Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 21: Winter begins
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve - **KTK CLOSED**
- Dec. 25: Christmas - **KTK CLOSED**
- Dec. 26: Kwanza begins
- Dec. 31: New Year's Eve - **KTK CLOSED**



December Birthdays

- Dec. 9: Romus
- Dec. 17: Nya

New arrivals

- Nov. 7: Lincoln
McWilliams
- Nov. 19: Dalton &
Hugo Bender



Seeing the holidays through your toddler's eyes

Reprinted from www.babycenter.com

Your toddler understands more and more of what's going on around her — and is getting better at communicating her thoughts. Although she's still too young to really understand what the holidays are all about, she'll probably love participating in holiday rituals.

It's never too early to start your own family traditions, whether that means driving around the neighborhood to look at all the sparkling lights, lighting Hanukkah candles, reading aloud from a favorite holiday book, or listening to Christmas carols.

For all the joy, the holiday season can also present some special challenges for your toddler. Keeping her developmental stage and temperament in mind can help you both avoid problems and handle them with aplomb when they occur. A few troubleshooting tips you might find helpful:

Let her be leery. If you plan on taking your child to see Santa Claus, spend some time explaining who Santa is (an 18-month-old will understand better than a 1-year-old), and familiarize your child with his appearance by looking at pictures in books. Don't force her to sit for a picture with Santa if she doesn't want to — there will be plenty of time for Santa Claus in the years ahead.

Remember: 'Tis the season for tantrums. From 12 to 18 months, your child will be testing you at every turn. Say "No" when she reaches for the holiday punch bowl, for example, and she'll pause and look at your face — maybe even shake her head "No" in return — but she'll also test your responses to her behavior by doing it again.

Your child's ability to understand what's going on around her outpaces her ability to communicate, resulting in frustration and meltdowns when you don't respond to her needs. This may be a good year to celebrate at your house, where you'll have more control over the environment.

Take her along on strolls and shopping expeditions whenever you can move at a leisurely pace, but consider leaving her with your partner or a caregiver while you do your tantrum-free (and much more efficient) holiday errands.

Keep tabs on the stimulation. It's easy to get caught up in holiday merrymaking and forget that too many new faces, sights, and sounds can overstimulate even the most sociable toddler.

Pay attention to your child's cues: Put her down for a nap or bed when you see the telltale signs of sleepiness (like ear-pulling, eye-rubbing, and crankiness). If your toddler starts getting too wound up or upset, she probably needs some downtime — take her into a quiet room and read a book, or play quietly until the clouds pass.

Heed her schedule.

Disrupting a child's schedule causes many of the problems that arise during the holidays. Whenever possible, try to stick to your toddler's usual sleeping and waking times — better to find a room where she can take a nap than to spend the rest of the day with a child who is overtired.



Happy Holidays!

Employees of the Month



Fun Facts about Ms. Sue

What is your favorite ice cream?
Ben & Jerry's – almost anything!

What is your favorite children's book?
Are you my Mother?

What was your favorite children's toy?
Barbies

What is your favorite color?
Purple

What is your favorite holiday?
Christmas



Fun Facts about Ms. Tammy

What is your favorite ice cream?
Mint Chocolate Chip

What is your favorite children's book?
Curious George Goes To The Hospital

What was your favorite children's toy?
Spirograph

What is your favorite color?
Purple and Bright Blue

What is your favorite holiday?
Christmas

News from the Kitchen

Wow, December is here - time flies when you're having fun! Thank you to all the families that made it to our Thanksgiving dinner last month. Thanks for bringing in all those delicious pies, milk and rolls. It was greatly appreciated!

Does your family ever participate in a Christmas cookie exchange? I myself never have, but I always thought it sounded like a lot of fun. This year, you can get the kids involved and make a cookie exchange that's fun for all ages! Set up three areas, each with a different project, and invite guests—both kids and adults—to cycle through while enjoying snacks, music and holiday cheer!



Frosty the Snowman Station:

Have one adult make and bring plain cookies. Set out frosting and candy for kids to create their own version of Frosty's face.

Fudge Station:

Appoint an adult guest to be the head of this station and instead of having them bring cookies to exchange, request that they bring the fudge ingredients. At this station, kids can help pour the fudge into molds and decorate with candies.

Tie it with a Bow Station:

With all the cookies gathered in one area, provide tins, boxes and trays for guests to package the cookies. Don't forget labels! Set out pens and tags, plus ribbon and bows for finishing touches.

