



December 2019

Play and Learn at Annapolis
580 Taylor Avenue, B1 ~ Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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Visit us at www.playandlearnmaryland.org ~ Tax ID: 52-1259566



From the Director

Seasons Greetings! Let the winter and holiday festivities begin at Play and Learn with plenty of learning, laughter, and wonder. We have added some Wacky Wednesday dress-up days! Join in the fun!

On Wednesday, December 11, at 5:00 p.m., in conjunction with our "Under Construction" Unit, we will be hosting a Family Involvement Activity, "Building Gingerbread Houses". Parents are invited to come and work with their child to construct their own gingerbread houses. All supplies will be provided by Play and Learn. While this activity is geared towards the classrooms using The InvestiGator Club Curriculum, all are welcome to participate. Please let Mr. Charles or Ms. Beth know if you would like to join in the fun, so we will have enough materials for everyone.

On Friday, December 13, at 4:00 p.m., we will enjoy a Holiday Sing-Along in the DNR Tawes Building! Families are invited! Light refreshments will be served following the program.

On Wednesday, December 18, the children will enjoy classroom holiday parties. In addition, we will expect a special visit from Santa! (Please provide a wrapped gift (\$5 or less), labeled with your child's name, for Santa to pass out during his visit.) To add to the fun, the children are invited to wear their holiday pajamas on this day! No slippers, please.

On Friday, December 27, the center will operate for fewer hours, due to the parking and transportation impact from the Military Bowl being played at the Navy Stadium at noon on that day. Since staff must park at the Calvert Street Garage on this day, which opens at 6:30 a.m. (and then ride the trolley to the center), **we will not be able to open the center until around 6:45 a.m. In addition, we will be closing the center at 3:00 p.m.** Please be aware that heavy traffic and delays will occur on this day, so please plan accordingly when dropping off and picking up your child. Area road closures along the pre-game parade route (including Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard) typically begin around 8:45 a.m.

On Tuesday, December 31, the children will have a New Year's Eve celebration at the center. We will enjoy making festive party hats and a special snack, and we will dance (almost) into the "New Year"! The festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and we will ring in the "New Year" at 12:00 noon. Please join us for this fun event!

Important Reminder! It is critical that your child remain under your direct supervision at all times in the center before you deliver your child to his or her teacher, as well as once you have picked your child up from his or her teacher. Although we want the children feel very at home in the center, we know that accidents and injuries can happen very quickly when a child is not under adult supervision. Thank you very much for your assistance in helping your child understand this very important safety rule.

Warmest Holiday Wishes!

Mr. Charles, Ms. Beth, and Superstar Staff

**Happy December Birthday to
Emily H., Emilia H., Nora M., Michael S., Maxwell S.,
Ava T., Elizabeth G., and Ms. Chelsea!**

**NOTE: We will be CLOSED on Tuesday, 12/24, Christmas Eve, and Wednesday, 12/25, Christmas Day.
We will be closed on Wednesday, 1/1/2020, New Year's Day.**



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Page 2 - Parents' Corner

The Importance of Sharing Holidays You Don't Celebrate in Preschool - by Makinya Ward (an excerpt)

When preschool teachers and parents teach children about holidays from a variety of cultures and beliefs, they are helping children to develop empathy and understanding for other people and ideas.

Holidays Teach Similarities

Most holiday celebrations in every culture focus on teaching traditions, history, and the reason a group of people cares for one another. Teaching children about the holidays of other cultures helps them to see that no matter what differences we all have, we also have many things in common, such as:

- **Family:** Most holiday celebrations are times when extended families gather together to enjoy special food, traditions and one another.
- **Respect:** Most cultures use holiday celebrations to honor their history and past. By explaining holidays to preschoolers, teachers and parents can help children to understand and respect the sacrifices of people in history.
- **Love:** Most celebrations include special foods, enjoyable activities and a special focus on children. Preschoolers can learn that all people have a great love for their children and enjoy doing fun activities together, even if they have different looks, beliefs and traditions.

Explaining Holidays Brings Understanding

Children notice differences and often wonder about them, but may not always ask questions. During a time of talking about holidays and celebrations of different cultures, teachers and parents have a chance to open up discussions about differences and give children a chance to develop an understanding of why people have different beliefs and practices. Some ways for children to learn about holidays in preschool or with parents are:

- **Meeting People:** Talking with adults and children who celebrate different holidays can be a wonderful way to understand not just the facts of a holiday but how it is practiced and what it means to the people who celebrate it. In a preschool classroom, children and their parents can share their own family holiday traditions and bring decorations or food to try.
- **Doing Activities:** Doing a craft, game or activity from a holiday celebration helps children explore and experience different holiday traditions in an age-appropriate way.
- **Attending Events:** Many groups invite others in the community to celebrate with them during their holidays. Consider taking your child to some of the local holiday celebrations such as a Chinese New Year Parade, a Christmas Eve Service at a Catholic or Protestant church, the daily menorah lighting at a local synagogue, etc.

Holidays Bring People Together

Even within cultural and religious groups, there are often many differences of opinion about practices or beliefs, just as there are sometimes disagreements among family members. However, holidays are times that people can unite around something bigger than themselves. Learning about holiday celebrations, especially ones celebrated by other students in their classroom, helps children to develop an appreciation and understanding for what is important to their friends, neighbors and other people they meet.

Explaining Holidays to Preschoolers Through Books

Parents can reinforce explaining holidays to preschoolers by reading multicultural holiday books. One benefit of reading holiday books to your children is that you will have the opportunity to explain your own beliefs and traditions and answer your child's questions. Better yet, you can learn along with your children if you don't know much about the holiday either.

Enjoy Learning with Your Child

Many adults have not had the opportunity to learn about the beliefs and cultures of other people, so take this opportunity to grow in understanding along with your child. Teaching children to value the cultural traditions of other people is an important part of raising a child with healthy emotions and social connections. Parents and preschool teachers can help children learn to be culturally sensitive by explaining holidays to preschoolers and helping them to learn why different people celebrate differently.

<https://www.kids-konnect.com/blog/the-importance-of-sharing-holidays-you-dont-celebrate-in-preschool>