



December 2019

Play and Learn at Eastpoint
1005 Northpoint Blvd.-Suite 701 ~ Baltimore, Maryland 21224
Phone: 410-282-2057 ~ Fax: 410-282-6056 ~ Email: EPDirector@playcenters.org
Visit us at www.playandlearnmaryland.org ~ Tax ID: 52-1259566



From the Director

Welcome to the Holiday Season! 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!

To kick off the season, on Friday, December 6, at 10:00 a.m., we welcome Mr. Mike Perrello for his winter magic extravaganza! The children will be delighted as Mike performs optical illusions and silly magic tricks! The fun begins at 10:00 a.m. Permission slips available soon.

On Wednesday, December 11, the children will follow a recipe to measure, mix, and create cookies. Yum!

We will be partnering with The Salvation Army for their "Stuff a Stocking" program. In each classroom will be a stocking that we invite you to help us fill with age appropriate toys and other items for a child the same age as the children in that classroom. All donations to this great cause should be brought in by Friday, December 13. If you should have any additional questions, please direct them to Ms. Paula.

Our first Parent Investigation Day will be held on Wednesday, December 18, at 5:00 p.m. Parent Investigation Days are a time for parents to join us for a fun activity that will spotlight the wonderful learning that is occurring through The InvestiGator Club curriculum. During this Parent Investigation Day, in conjunction with the "Under Construction" Unit, parents will work with their children to build holiday gingerbread houses. More information on this event will be forwarded as the event draws closer.

What better way to get into the holiday season than with song? Come and enjoy the sounds of the season as only the children at Eastpoint can perform them. Our Holiday Program will take place on Friday, December 20, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Please stay after the program to enjoy conversation and cookies. Keep an eye and ear out for a special holiday *visitor* as well!

Beginning on Monday, December 23, and continuing all week, the children will enjoy Pajama Week! Soft and cuddly, wacky and wild...do your thing as you wear your favorite pajamas all week!! Please remember that shoes must be worn instead of slippers.)

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!

- Reminders: *
- With cold temperatures upon us, please take time to ensure that your child is fully equipped with extra clothes that are seasonally and size appropriate. If your child is potty training, an extra pair of shoes would be important for your child to have on hand as well.*
 - Cold season is here with a nasty punch. Please keep your child home if he/she is sick.*

Warmest Holiday Wishes!

Ms. Paula, Ms. Ro, and Superstar Staff

Happy December Birthday to Scarlett W. and Ezra K.!

**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>