

# The Kindergarten Chronicle

January 2015

## Curriculum Corner Language Arts



In January, we will focus on the following areas:

### Speaking and Listening

We will continue our work on retelling stories. We will also be focusing on giving simple descriptions of past experiences. Being able to do this ties in nicely with our Writers Workshop where the children will be writing stories based on real events that happen in their lives. One way to strengthen the ability to orally give descriptions of past experiences is to have conversations. Talk is so important!

### Reading and Viewing

We will begin to learn and practice reading strategies in our small guided reading groups. This month, we will

begin our “Reading Bag” homework. More information will be provided at the end of this month.

### Writing and Representing

At this time of the year in kindergarten we begin to spend a significant amount of time on writing. Now that the students have mastered their letter names and sounds, we are beginning to teach the students how to use that knowledge to become independent writers. There are many components that we consider when teaching and assessing student writing and we would like to discuss one of them with you this month.

### Phoneme Segmentation

Being able to segment

words is a difficult but important component of early writing. We often refer to this as “sounding out a word” with the students. This refers to breaking a word apart to hear its individual sounds. For example, if we ask a student to sound out the word ‘mop’, we are looking for them to answer with /m/ /o/ /p/. For the more kinesthetic students we encourage them to attach actions to the breaking apart of sounds by making a chopping motion with their hands as they say each sound.

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### You and Your World

We will begin our unit on healthy lifestyles. Students will be expected to describe the importance of personal hygiene and practice it in order to reduce the spread of germs.



## Math

This month in Math, we will continue our unit on numbers to 5 and will begin to explore numbers 6 to 10. Another focus for us in January is learning our five partners (4 and 1, 2 and 3, 3 and 2, 1 and 4). It is very important for children to know these partners.

We will also be continuing our work with patterns. One particularly tricky component of this outcome for students tends to be reproducing a pattern. In reproducing a pattern, students are given a repeating pattern (i.e.: blue, green, blue, green ...) and they are asked to represent the pattern in a different way (i.e.: A, B, A, B). Consider practicing this skill at home when you have a chance.

- Ask your child to create a repeating pattern and your task might be to create your own pattern that follows the same pattern rule.
- Experiment with sound patterns while driving in the car (i.e.: clap, snap, clap, snap could also be represented with stomp, pat, stomp, pat).

