



## Prompting Our Play...

### Learning Centers

- ✓ Polar Bear Cave in dramatic play
- ✓ Building with magnetic materials
- ✓ Continued exploration with collage materials and glue

### What We Read

- ✓ Polar Bear, Polar Bear
- ✓ Bear Snores On
- ✓ The Three Bears (multiple versions)
- ✓ The Snowman
- ✓ Don't You Feel Well Sam?
- ✓ Frosty the Snowman

### What We Sing

- ✓ Nursery Rhymes
- ✓ "Love" songs

## Dear Parents:

Much to the children's delight, we embarked on an exploration of the wintery conditions of the Arctic. Having transformed our dramatic play center into a polar bear cave, the children continued their pretend play under the cave roof, amongst paper icebergs and a collection of stuffed polar bears, penguins and even a reindeer. They were able to further explore aspects of the arctic region as they looked through laminated cards depicting various animals and life scenes from the region. After a couple of weeks, the polar bear cave was replaced by another type of bear's lair. A camping tent became the place our toddler "bears" practiced hibernating. Our family of stuffed brown bears also took up residence in this cave. We worked with the children to use the cave as a quiet space for looking at books such as *The Three Bears* and *Bear Snores On*. The bear caves were fun story extensions that encouraged the children to make connections between the stories and the classroom.

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We read different versions of the story *The Three Bears*. Always a favorite, many of the children having heard the story so often can retell parts of the story using the pictures. Since many of the books on our bookshelf were stories about bears and snowmen, discussions focusing on simple similarities and differences between the stories emerged. The stories of *The Three Bears* also offered the opportunity to introduce the vocabulary “small”, “medium” and “large” and begin exploring simple size comparisons. Whether it was making three different size balls of play dough or providing 3 different sizes of Popsicle sticks at the art table we encouraged the children to use this language in conversation...”I made a small ball.” We also did a lot of counting to three working on 1:1 correspondence.

We have added a variety of magnetic building materials to the block center. These colorful pieces are generating some great building projects. They also offer us a new opportunity to talk about colors and shapes. Again, using the language as a natural part of our play...”would you like an orange square or a blue triangle?” In the Art Center we continued language building around color, shapes and size as we worked with collage materials. Various colored glue, Popsicle sticks, wood pieces, and glitter, were available for creative expression and for practice identifying colors.

We loved our visit from Animal Embassy...thank you PAC!! The children were thrilled to meet and in some cases pet some cool animals. The “friends”, our presenter, Chris, had with him included a tree frog, a gecko and a sand turtle. Chris also surprised us with a polar bear paw print he brought back from one of his many adventures around the world.

Whether you were away on vacation or enjoyed a staycation over spring recess, we hope you relished the time with your children. We look forward to being back together...when we will begin our exploration and celebration of spring!!!



**Maura,  
Allison and  
Diane**

