

Dear Bear Parents,

January 15, 2016

Happy New Year!

This month we are spending time meeting with students individually in order to assess their mathematic and literacy development. We keep it light and playful...your student may have mentioned "The Skittles Game." The information we collect about the students helps to inform our planning and helps us to best meet your child's needs. We will be discussing this with you in a couple weeks at Parent Teacher Conferences (be sure to use the emailed link to sign up for a conference).

Some other exciting happenings in the Bear Room...

-**Reading** together books by Frank Asch. Asch's books explore scientific concepts through the eyes of a humorous and often confused bear. The children love knowing more than the characters!

-Identifying the **Letter of the Week** by sight and sound, share jars, writing each of the letters, and playing with the sounds (e.g. our silly "S names"...Bobby becomes Sobby)

-**Writing** and recognizing last names

-Playing The Skittles **Math** Game. Quantifying, numeral recognition, patterning, addition, subtraction, comparing quantities, and subitizing are some of the skills featured in The Skittles Game.

-**Book Making** at the writing table- many children are starting to add more details to their drawings and some letters and words to their books. Be sure to encourage your child to visit the writing table and celebrate their approximations ☺

-**Playing** in the Pizza Shop- renamed the "Star Wars Pizza Shop" by the children.

-**Creating** sculptures in The Studio

-**Dot to Dots**- numerals 1-10 (level 1) and 1-20 (level 2)

-Taking Care of Each Other- modeling and encouraging **Empathy** for classmates who are having a hard time. Wishing absent students well.

-**Independence** – getting our coats on and zipping them all by ourselves!

Wow! That is a lot of great stuff!

Thank you for sharing your child with us,
The Bear Team (Stacy Cathy, Lisa and Kelli)