



# PRESCHOOL NEWS

January  
2012

## Mrs. Houldsworth's Class

### IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> - First day of school 2012  
Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - Professional Dev Day - No School  
Jan 16<sup>th</sup> - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day



### Themes This Month

In December we had fun creating snowmen. Thanks to all the parents who helped to make our snack party lots of fun. We hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful holiday break as we begin 2012! In January we will focus on a pizza theme. We will read Pete's a Pizza by William Steig, and Pizza Party by Grace MacCarone, and begin to set up our own play pizza shop in the classroom. We will also focus on rhyme and begin to recognize words that rhyme. Our color this month is brown and our shape is a triangle.

### Playdough Recipe

1-cup salt  
2 cups flour  
4-teaspoons of cream of tartar  
2 tablespoons oil  
2 cups water  
A few drops of food coloring  
Combine in a pan, cook over low heat stirring constantly until well mixed, (about 10 minutes). It will look like lumpy mashed potatoes. Remove from the pan and knead for 2 minutes. Store the playdough in an airtight container.

### Understanding Behavior

Wouldn't it be nice to have a magic formula for childhood behaviors? Of course there are no magic formulas but behaviors are driven by basic issues or possibilities that help explain a child's actions. Understanding these issues and being *reflective* rather than *reactive* will result in a more positive outcome for both child and parent.

1. **Is this a developmental stage?** Many problems that occur in childhood may be the onset of a new developmental stage. It is best to give the child choices, use humor and be firm but supportive.
2. **Is this an individual or temperament difference?** Not all children of a certain age act the same way. Biological factors such as visual impairments, tactile sensitivities, auditory and speech disorders or motor disabilities may affect a child's behavior. Temperament such as shyness moodiness or inflexibility may also account for the differences in children's behavior.
3. **Is the environment causing the behavior?** Sometimes the setting provokes a behavior that may seem inappropriate. For example the lack of appropriate number of toys can increase aggression or spark jealousy.
4. **A child does not know something but is ready to learn.** Clues to this situation include sensing that the child is in new or unfamiliar territory or is facing a new task or problem. For example, maybe he/she doesn't understand the concept of sharing. Ultimately, it is up to all of us to explain with patience and understanding to support and nurture the child.

### Vocabulary Words

We will be working on the following new vocabulary words to go along with our "Pizza" theme. Please take some time to talk about and use the following words at home; menu, chef, customer, waitress or server, anchovies, olives, salami, sausage, pepperoni, and crust.

### Help Us Out

- Disinfecting wipes