

# Great Beginnings Class

## January 2012 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

January 2012

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone for the very thoughtful Christmas presents and warm wishes.

This month our color is blue, and our shape is a diamond. We will be making blue snowflakes, mittens, and painting Cookie Monster. We would like everyone to wear blue and bring something blue on either **Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**.

This month we will be working on songs with movement: If You're Happy and You Know It, Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes, Thumb Song, Hokey Pokey, and Row, Row, Row Your Boat. The children straddle their legs with a partner on the floor and hold hands while moving back and forth to Row, Row, Row Your Boat. To honor cookie monster we are working on "Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?" The children are encouraged to participate by individually saying "Who me?" and "Couldn't be!"

We will be working on identifying blue objects at circle time, playing with blue shaving cream, and lacing beads. We will also begin working on some blowing activities. Activities that involve blowing use the same trunk and chest muscles that support breath and posture.

We would like to have a special show and tell next week in addition to wearing blue. We are asking that on either **Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> or Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** the children bring their favorite Christmas present. We will share these items at circle time, and ask that you work with your child to tell us what their toy is and/or why it is their favorite present. We like to encourage lots of words at circle time.

Lastly, we are working on some self help skills. At snack time the children wash their own hands and throw away their garbage. We will also introduce the flip method to have the children put on their own coats. This takes a little longer at dismissal, so please bear with us.

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Reverse Raffle. This is the school's largest fundraiser and your support is greatly appreciated. So get a group of friends together and have a great night of fun and prizes!

Thank You,  
Tonya, Sharon, Sue, & Cheryl

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## Winter 2012 Songs

### Thumbs Go Dancing

Thumbs go up and thumbs go down (move thumbs up and then down)  
Thumbs are dancing all around the town (make thumbs move all around)  
Dance them on you (say a body part and then tap that part with your thumbs)  
Dance them on your (pick a different body part)  
Dance them on your head  
And tuck them into bed (hide thumbs under your armpits)

Repeat with pointers

### Where is Thumbkin?

(Hide thumbs behind back)

Where is thumbkin?  
Where is thumbkin?  
(pull thumbs out one at a time)  
Here I am, here I am  
How are you today sir?  
Very well I thank you  
Run away, run away  
(make thumbs go behind your back and hide thumbs again)

### I Love You

I love you, you love me  
We're a happy family  
With a great big hug and a  
kiss from me to you  
Won't you say you love me too

Now repeat with each finger and then finally repeat with "Where is the family" and bring all the fingers out.

### Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?

Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar?  
(say a name) stole the cookies from the cookie jar.  
(that person says) Who me?  
(others answer) Yes you!  
(that person replies) Couldn't be!  
(everyone) Then who?

Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar?  
Repeat with another person

Then the last person answers "Yes I stole the cookies from the cookie jar". Usually Ms. Tonya steals the cookies and tickles the children's bellies and says and I ate them all up!