




# December 2017

## Monthly Concepts:

Shape: Square  Color: Green Opposites: Below/Above  
Values: Compassion Motor Development: Balancing

December 4-8, 2017

### The Wonders of Winter

- \* Discussion: Once I was on a winter adventure and I... Encourage the children to share ideas
- \* Read-n-Cook: "Hidden Gingerbread Baby"- Read story, then prepare, hide, find and enjoy!
- \* Sensory Experience: Make cinnamon play dough; add tools
- \* Science Experiment: "How Do You Make an Egg Float?"
- \* Arts & Crafts: Cut out snowflakes, paint a winter scene, and mold snow boys & girls with clay

December 18-21, 2017

### Of More Than One Culture

- \* Discussion: "I am special because..."
- \* Family Focus: Include family-inspired activities
- \* Arts & Crafts: Winter Tree Silhouette
- \* Critical Thinking: Assemble "Me" puzzle; teacher help dictate three characteristics about child
- \* Science Experiment: "Noisy Paper" and "Snow...Er! Ice Balls!"
- \* Outside Activities: Go on a Nature Walk; collect green items for a classroom collage

### Special Events ~

**November 30 & December 1:**

Santa Claus Visits. Santa Photos are available via sign-ups using the link sent through "This Week at Turtle Rock" email.

**Day 1:** Santa Meet & Greet

**Day 2:** Santa Sing Along

**December 8:**

Formal Child Assessments Are Sent Home

**December 9:**

Admissions Community Open House

**December 11-15:**

Parent-Teacher Conferences

**December 15:**

**Staff Holiday Celebration; School Closes at 5PM**

**December 21:**

Kids' Night Out (KNO) and Spirit Shirt Day (SSD). Sign-up for KNO are available using the link from "This Week at Turtle Rock" email.

**December 22, 2017-January 2,**

**2018:** School Closed for Winter Break

December 11-15, 2017

### Appreciation of the Arts: Drama, Music, Art & Dance

- \* Discussion: "My favorite type of art is..."
- \* Arts & Crafts: Poinsettia Still Life painting & Watercolor-Salt Snowflakes & open-ended lacing
- \* Dramatic Play: Pretend to be a puppeteer
- \* Music & Movement: Freestyle Freeze Dance
- \* Sensory Experience: Cornmeal and glitter mixture
- \* Outside Activities: "Jump the Snake", "Tricky Tape Lines" and balance beam (promote balance & spatial awareness)

January 3-5, 2018

### Happy New Year

- \* Discussion: Share about our winter break. "What kinds of things did you do with your family and friends? What would you like to learn this year?" Chant, "10-0 Countdown!"
- \* Learn & Sing: "Cheer, Cheer" fingerplay
- \* Outdoor Activities: Go on a Nature Walk and throw balls at rectangle targets, hopscotch and "Hula Hoop Hop"
- \* Sensory Experience: Green cornmeal and Mung Beans mixture with funnels and spoons

### Bridging School to Home

#### Sparkly Peppermint Playdough Recipe

2 cups water      4 teaspoons cream of tartar  
 2 cups flour      4 tablespoons oil  
 1 cup salt      4 tablespoons peppermint extract



Mix all ingredients in a heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon until the mixture thickens and pulls away from the sides of the pan. Form dough into a ball, sprinkle with glitter, place on waxed paper and cool completely. Store in an airtight container. Activities like this promote fine motor development by strengthening muscles and providing children with opportunities to further explore their senses.