

# January News

## Parent Conferences

Now is the time for the first semester of parent conferences. Please see your individual teachers for dates and times. Schedules will be posted later in January for these mid-year conferences. **This is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher concerning development** and to go over notes taken on your child throughout the year. If you would like to review the process before your conference, make sure your child's teacher shares a parent guide with you, before you attend this event. The parent guide will help you to understand the High/Scope evaluation process and prepare you for the information that will be presented.

### Special points of interest:

- Parent Conferences
- Thank You!
- Winter weather information
- Learning Activities
- Year end statements
- Children's dance
- **The center will be closed on Monday, January 17th in honor of Martin Luther King's Birthday.**

## Thank You!

Your teachers were able to have an extra special Christmas thanks to so many families and the Board of Directors who all gave extra during Christmas. Thank you for supporting those efforts and for helping your teachers have a Merry Christmas. This is one part of our teacher retention plan and it inevitably improves the overall quality of our program.



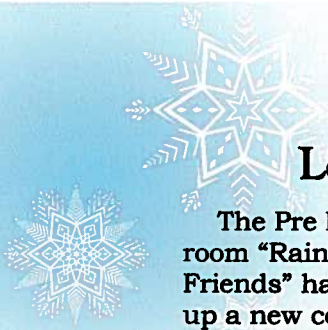
**Pre K III children played ice hockey last month in a ice rink that they built themselves using blocks and ice cubes. This activity focused on notes concerning hand-eye coordination and the ability to hit a moving object.**

## Winter Weather Information

In instances of inclement weather, when public schools are in session, the Center will follow Birmingham City School's closings. The message on the answering machine will also be

changed to reflect opening information. In the event that Birmingham City Schools are out of sessions, an announcement will be posted on the center's answering machine and voicemail.

We will make every attempt to send emails to families and post information on NBC channel 13.



## Learning Activities

The Pre K III classroom "Rainbow Friends" have opened up a new center in their classroom this month.... "*wood working*". The children will be able to use real tools including saws, screw drivers , hammers, nails and others to build their ideas in ways they have never thought of before. After individual skills are refined, children apply them in purposeful work which contribute to many skills including *hand-eye coordina-*

*tion, fine motor development, gross motor development, length and measurement...*to name a few. Combined with materials from art center this concept will allow for more creative representation and the use of more real items.

Pre K III children are also beginning to serve themselves at mealtime. They are using tongs to pick up items and measuring cups to pour their own liquids. These are important self help skills that incorporate other learning experiences. If you are interested in

seeing this in action, stop by and have a look. You'll be surprised!



Here Griffin Latham and Elliott Allen worked together in the woodworking center to saw a piece of wood.



Pre K II and Pre K III performing at there annual Christmas program on December 15th

## Year End Statement for Taxes

Earlier this week we prepared statements showing all activity for 2010 for your tax preparation purposes. On the bottom of those statements you will find our Tax ID. If you missed this handout simply let me know and I'll prepare another for you.

## Children's Dance

Many families have requested information concerning The Children's Dance Foundation and the type of activities offered in this program. We want to take this opportunity to tell you a little about this program and we will continue to give you updates throughout the year.

The Children's Dance Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that provides comprehensive dance education and movement to music experiences. We have

incorporated this program as an extra-curricular activity and the cost is added to your bill 3 times per year at \$30 per session. Creeper classes up to PreK III participate each week for approximately 20minutes each session.

During this time children's dance instructors focus on creative stories that allow children to move to music enhancing many experiences of our own curric-

ulum relating to *moving in various ways, moving with objects, feeling and expressing a steady beat and following directions*. The list goes on and on! Staff participate with the children and therefore help facilitate the learning experience. You are welcome to stop and see the class in action as they meet each Wednesday starting around 9:30 for Creepers. We will update you later next

month on specific curricula in this program as the instructors will be providing us with a description of this semester's ideas.

