

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Bright Beginnings NYC Parents,



Winter officially arrived with a snowy blast that got our students all excited about building snowmen and making snowballs! In keeping with the sudden change of temperatures, for the month of February, we will build on last month's "farm" theme by exploring the different animals that live in the Arctic and the desert!



January's farm study took us from the barn to the coop, as we learned about the various animals that live on a farm, what they eat, and the many things we eat from them. For example, we learned that cows make milk, and milk makes everything from hot chocolate to ice cream and cheese. To illustrate, our students sampled cheese that comes from both cows AND goats (they liked the goat cheese the best), and for snack time, everyone enjoyed an ice cream treat. We also learned about chickens, who make eggs, out of which baby chicks hatch. While we didn't quite answer which comes first, we all watched a video of a chick hatching from an egg, and our older friends worked on their sequencing skills by learning the life cycle of a chicken.





Last but not least, we created our own barn for the dramatic play area! Our younger group had loads of fun playing in their sensory bin filled with corn kernels. After watching a video of a tractor, they did some shape matching and manipulation to make their very own tractors, and tried mimicking the noises made by various farm animals. Mooooo!

Our older students worked on their fine motor skills, writing and counting as they practiced writing the names of different farm animals, sorting them into groups based on the number of legs they have, and counting ducks (and a few sheep at bedtime).



We also learned about different foods that grow on the farm, such as where in the ground they grow, and when they're harvested. Our littlest friends got to wash different vegetables and count the number of leaves on a carrot. Our older friends took things a step further as they practiced cutting some of the vegetables and peeled ears of corn. Together, we learned that carrots and potatoes grow underground, while celery and corn grow above the ground.

Our letter study continued with the letters G and H, while our newly added light table aided in color exploration, shape recognition and creative arts.



FEBRUARY will focus on the differences between the Arctic and sub-Saharan climates, the animals that live in each, and how they adapt to the cold/hot weather. Along with learning some fun facts about the animals, our younger group will also create sensory bins with real snow, as well as arctic slime!!!!



Our older group will continue their letter study with the letters I and J, and learn all about ice as part of our arctic theme.

We would like to welcome our newest students to the Bright Beginnings NYC family - Bryan, Maiya, Kei, and Jasper! We also would like to welcome Leona and Freddie back from their vacations, and congratulate Kotaro and David on moving up to the "older" friends group! We also want to congratulate Jasper on becoming a big brother - we can't wait to meet baby Dexter when the weather gets a little warmer!

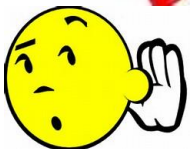
We want to take this opportunity to remind all parents/caretakers to check your children's cubbies and make sure they have a full change of clothes (underwear, pants, shirt, socks and shoes.) As the cold/flu season progresses, please also be mindful our students' health, and keep children the exhibit fever/stomach upset at home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours. Please refer to our Handbook for more guidance, and feel free to ask us any time you are in doubt. Also, please be mindful of the rules we expect all our students to follow in the school - and reinforce this vocabulary at home, too:



Gentle Hands



Walking Feet



Listening Ears

Lastly, please remember that there is **no school on February 15th in honor of Presidents Day.**

As always if you have any questions or suggestions feel free to stop by.

Sincerely,

The Bright Beginnings NYC Staff

