



Dear CMCC Families-

CMCC Staff and Preschool Teachers are blessed to have your child as a part of our Preschool Program.

As a part of our commitment to offer you and your child the best possible Preschool experience, we have spent the last months reviewing and updating our curriculum to assure that your child will be prepared for kindergarten in the fall of 2018.

Because proven research tells us that children need to have their full body involved in learning and that children this age learn best through play, our curriculum will continue to be centered around proven developmentally appropriate learning practices. We will follow the whole child approach to learning - using music, movement, pretend play, and other child-led activities in order to help build and develop the needed skills for life.

We continue to be blessed to have local kindergarten teachers tell us they can tell the difference in a child from CMCC and one from another program. Children are ready to learn, ready to listen, able to focus, and stay on task.

We have developed a syllabus for your child's class that will provide a framework of all that will be going on with your child over the next school year. It also offers suggestions for things that you can do at home to reinforce learning and includes links for additional information and ideas.

All children are different, and our teachers will seek ways to help each child achieve success while here in our program. Please keep your child's teachers of anything you consider important in your child's life to help us in our mission.

This year will be active, fun, messy, and memorable for your child. Most importantly, this year will open a new world of wonder that is ages three and four.

And it will be over before we realize it.

Sincerely,

Colleen Smith, CMCC Director

Frances Savage, CMCC Board Chair



AUGUST 2016 (Weeks 1-4)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 1-Getting Acquainted, Week 2-Learning About Myself, Week 3-My Family Is Special, Week 4-Nursery Rhymes

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include making new friends, learning about our friends, learning about Jesus, reading by association, sharing about our favorite object, and talking about staying safe.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will stimulate interest in early math concepts by sorting, experiencing modeling dough, learning about sharing, and recognizing differences in objects. We will play matching games, color games, and work our fine motor skills through small finger work using modeling dough and puzzles.

ART CENTER will have crayons, paper, markers, and paint. We will do crayons rubbings, paper collages, and painting with various mediums.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve playing listening games, moving and grooving to music, learning about and taking care of our instruments, and having fun with scarves and bells. We will sing sing sing about rhyming things and chant Nursery Rhymes together.

HOMELIVING will be exploring safety, dressing up, and learning about our families.

BLOCKS CENTER will be learning about safety, working together, learning about streets, and building towers.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include observing objects from Nature, feeling different textures, experimenting with water and plants, stimulating our interest in Nature.

LITERACY/BOOK CENTER will begin stimulating interest in recognizing our language, talking about writing, finding our interests in books through association and read-aloud with teachers. ****Parents, READ READ READ as much as you can with your child... and then read some more.** This family tradition/habit is one of the best ways to raise a life-long learner!

Handwriting Without Tears (HWT): Our language is written in lines and curves. **Mat Man** will be introduced to the group in the first weeks as a group experience; as the children learn about **Mat Man**, they will begin to work with the wooden lines and curves alone and with a friend. We will begin making Vertical and Horizontal Lines in week 2. We begin our letters with vertical and horizontal lines because these are the easiest ones for the children to learn. The first letter of the year will be the letter "L". We will learn to recognize all of our capital letters first, and use modeling clay to roll shapes into the letters this school year. A child who is touching and working with the letter (like with modeling clay) will have greater success in letter recognition. "If it is in the hands, it is in the brain."



Home is the first school; Parents are the first teachers!

Getting Acquainted (August 8-12):

- All children will get to show off what they can do and learn more about the other children in the group. We will be exploring all that we can do together, talk about personal safety, and discuss our families. We will learn our differences and similarities and we will learn all about each other's preferences and interests.
- Bible Verse 1 Corinthians 3:9 - "We work together."

Learning About Myself/Favorite Things (August 15-19):

- Concepts to be emphasized this week are that there is no one quite like me, God made me Special, I am always growing and changing, the name I have was chosen for me, and some people have special needs such as wearing hearing aids, eyeglasses, or braces. Instead of remembering that each child develops at a different rate, sometimes we base expectations on a list of age-level characteristics. We will make a special effort to observe our children closely and prepare our lessons based on their unique interests and developmental needs.
- Handwriting Without Tears (HWT): Uppercase letter "L" will begin our HWT fine motor skills study
- Bible verse Psalm 139:14 - "God made me."
- We will begin Show And Tell on Friday, August 19; bring a small item to talk about that is a favorite thing or related to the letter "L".

My Family Is Special (August 22-26):

- We will learn about how God planned for families, and guide the children in learning to accept responsibilities within our families. A child's view of their family helps develop a strong self-image. We will talk about how our family takes care of us and that our families are made of different people, but that we all have a family that loves us.
- Bible verse 2 Timothy 1:3 - "I thank God."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "F".
- FAMILY PICNIC is Friday, August 26 at 11:00 a.m. Bring a lunch for you and your child, blanket, and anything else that will make the picnic more special. Check with your teachers for any questions.

Nursery Rhymes (August 31 to Sept 2):

- We begin the year learning rhyming words and Nursery Rhymes are a fun introduction to this very important literacy concept. There will be much fun, some major silliness, lots of counting, and brain connections made using Nursery Rhymes. Rhyming words will be a part of everything we do this week. Show And Tell will be on Friday morning.
- Bible verse Ephesian 4:29 - "Each word is a gift."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "E".

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Encourage self-help in dressing and undressing; this practice works the fine motor skills in little fingers.
- Another fun way to improve fine motor skills is with stickers. The practice of peeling the sticker off the page (small stickers) and placing it carefully on a piece of paper will also allow your preschooler time to focus quietly on a task for several minutes.
- Avoid screen time, if possible. If a program is watched, watch it together and talk about it during and after.
- Think about Nursery Rhymes and chants you learned as a child and teach them to your child in a fun way. Ask your child which one is their favorite. Pull out a Mother Goose book and read it together; there are more than you remember!
- Here are two wonderful articles about Nursery Rhymes for you:

<http://www.kbyuty.org/kidsandfamily/readytolearn/file.axd?file=2011%2F3%2F2+Rhymers+are+Readers-Why+Important.pdf>

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-tips/the-surprising-meaning-and-benefits-of-nursery-rhymes/>

SEPTEMBER 2016 (Weeks 5-8)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 5-My Five Senses, Week 6-Pets, Week 7 & Week 8-Community Helpers

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include learning about animal and human families and talking about God and how He made animals and people. We will grow in our awareness of all the senses God gave us to experience our world. We will talk and sing and share about dogs, cats, and other pets. We will spend time learning who all is a Community Helper and even have some special visitors come talk about what they do.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will stimulate interest in early math concepts by measuring units to compare sizes of different animals and people. We will work with several puzzles that include Community Helpers and match which jobs go with each helper.

ART CENTER will have lots of paper, crayons, markers, and paint. We will cut things, paint things, and make many many lines and marks on paper. We experience art using all of our senses! You might not get a piece of "artwork" that makes it home every day, but we will work on our sensory processes every day. Art is not a thing - it is a way.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve using all of our body and many of our senses. There will be songs about pets, songs about our senses, and direct instruction music to assess who can hear and follow directions.

HOMELIVING will be exploring family living and pet care, with a pet bed, bowl and dog/cat toys. We will have opportunities for pretend play involving the kitchen and dinner table, exploring tastes and smells. We will begin to better understand cooperating and collaborating this month, observing child-led activities and pretend play.

BLOCKS CENTER will include animals, people, and Community Helpers our activities. Children will classify the different animals, match and manipulate the different blocks set, and build on their spatial reasoning through building activities.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include water this month. Water is essential to all living things and we will explore its aspects, discovering what floats and talking about buoyancy and density. We will explore outdoors for fossils and look at fossils of different types.

LITERACY/BOOK will include a good supply of short crayons, roll-a-letter with modeling dough and dry erase boards for children to build skills while enjoying Mat Man play individually. We will read, listen, begin to work on recognizing names of our classmates, and learn beginning letters of our names.

Handwriting Without Tears (HWT): We will continue working on Vertical and Horizontal Lines this month, and also beginning curves at the end of the month. We will learn about our "helper hand" and continue with Mat Man and drawing our lines.

I Learn Through My Senses (Sept 6-9; closed Labor Day):

- Three-year-olds use their senses to investigate, explore, examine, and observe as they learn about their world part by part. They are often more attune to the sights, sounds, and textures in their world than we are as adults. Common, everyday occurrences delight them! We will about how these senses are gifts from God and help them develop their language skills to describe these sensory experiences.
- **HWT:** We will work on Uppercase letter "H"
- **Bible Verse** Proverbs 20:12 - "God gave us ears to hear."

Show And Tell Friday. We will introduce Chapel this week on Friday morning at 9 a.m. Ms Colleen will lead Chapel with the story of "The Light"

Pets (September 12-16):

- We will learn about all the different types of pets and have opportunities to have pets visit us at school. We will learn about the responsibilities of taking care of a pet and their importance in our lives. Parents are invited to bring a pet to visit during this week or the next week; talk with your teacher about a time that is convenient.
- Bible Verse Genesis 1:35 - "God made the animals."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "T". (this is tricky because we begin making lines in the middle of the page)
- Skippyjon Jones will visit our Preschoolers from 3p to 4p on Tuesday, September 13 in the gym.
- Field trip scheduled to Crossgates Vet Clinic on Thursday, September 15.
- Friday morning Show And Tell and Chapel led by Ms Melanie at 9 a.m.

Community Helpers (September 19-23, September 26-30):

- This unit will help the children grow in their understanding and appreciation of the various people in the community who care for and help them and their families. They will become more comfortable when they encounter helpers in the community, and we will have some visitors come to our school. We will have opportunities for them to hear about, role-play, and meet some of these special people. Pretending and play out situations is a good way for threes to decide how they feel. God planned for people to love and help one another; we will learn about how we can be kind and helpful to others.
- Bible Verse Week 7 Galatians 5:13 - "Help one another."
- Bible Verse Week 8 2 Corinthians 1:24 - "We are helpers."
- Week 7 HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "I".
- Week 8 HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "U".
- Week 7 Friday morning Show And Tell and Chapel led by Ms Marquice at 9 a.m.
- Week 8 Friday morning Show And Tell and Chapel led by Ms Janet at 9 a.m.

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Snap crayons and pieces of chalk in half to encourage the pincer grasp for future handwriting. Stick with these and bring out markers and pencils later in the year. Get rid of chunky toddler crayons and pencils.
- If you have a pet at home, give your child a responsibility that they can succeed in, such as cleaning the water bowl and filling it up.
- Have your child help sort laundry at home: by color, by type (shirts, underwear, socks, solids/prints, etc.). This pre-math activity will help your child in developing future skills (and you might have to re-sort the laundry later, but this is a really good place to start).
- Setting the table helps your child in classifying and grouping items; filling glasses with ice (put six ice cubes in each glass) helps your child better understand the concept of one to one correspondence in numeracy.
- Make up hand motions for your child's favorite songs, looking for ways to promote coordination and cross the midline. Crossing the midline is crucial for future reading comprehension. Here is an article on that: <http://spectrumpediatrics.com/blog/2013/12/crossingmidline/>

Here are some websites and articles with ideas for home activities you can do as a family:

<http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/crossing-the-midline.html>

<http://www.todaysparent.com/toddler/20-fun-indoor-games/>

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/10/21-five-senses-activities-for-kids.html>

<http://notjustcute.com/>



That which we must learn before we can do, we must learn by doing.

CMCC K-3 Preschool Syllabus 2016-17

OCTOBER 2016 (Weeks 9-13)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 9-Fall, Week 10-Pumpkins/Apples, Week 11-Animal Habitats, Week 12-Farm/Harvest, Week 13-Health

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include learning about the different seasons, all about different foods we eat in the Fall, where animals live in our world, what a farm is and what farmers do in the Fall, and how we can be healthy by living healthy. We will talk about what foods are not healthy and how Daniel chose good food to eat. We will invite special visitors to tell us ways to stay healthy.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will stimulate interest in early math concepts by creating a balanced healthy plate; we will play folder games that will match an animal with its house, we will work on one to one correspondence with counters, beans and rice.

ART CENTER will have a variety of non-traditional mediums for creativity; while we will not make food art, we will talk about and create art projects with food in mind this month. We will even make art stampings from apples.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will include seasonal songs and we will learn all about the Farmer in the Dell (and what a dell is!). We will become wiggly worms who eat the apples and we will move move move our healthy bodies.

HOMELIVING will be exploring food, farms, restaurants, kitchens and gardens. Child-led pretend play will help teachers observe each child's social awareness and understanding of the concepts learned in other centers.

BLOCKS CENTER will include things that roll and move while we build. Farms with animals will be created and we will continue to work with blocks, planks, and tubes to develop a better understanding of spatial awareness.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include opportunities to learn about corn and shuck corn to eat. Children will explore nature in our own backyard and see different plants that we can grow and eat.

LITERACY/BOOK CENTER will include books that involve nutrition and healthy habits as well as picture books of the changing seasons. We will learn about all the things that might make us sick and ways we can be healthy. Reading as a group and reading by association in the reading area will build on the children's curiosity about written language. We will have non-fiction books about children just like us as well as story books.

HWT: We will continue to invite Mat Man to play with us daily and the children will work in this center on their own and in teams to assist each other in building letters with the wooden template pieces... these wooden lines and curves make every letter of our language and the children will be exploring the uppercase letters that we have studied so far this year.

Discovering Fall/Autumn (October 3-7):

- God made our world and special times of the year called seasons. Many fruits and vegetables ripen and are picked in Autumn; we can use all of our senses to explore this time of year and all the things that go with it. We will look for nature opportunities so that we can discover more of what God has created in our world. We will talk about being thankful for all that God has given us.
- HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter "C"
- Bible Verse Genesis 1:11 - "God made the trees."
- Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Varonica

Pumpkins & Apples (October 10-14):

- We will explore all the foods that Fall brings us. This week we will talk about Pumpkins and make a visit to the Nichols-Boyd Pumpkin Patch to pick our very own pumpkin to take home. We will enjoy tasting some things that we make during class. We will learn what is inside our pumpkin by cutting into it. We will have the opportunity to eat pumpkin seeds and taste some pumpkin pie. We will taste different types of apples and make a chart with all the different characteristics of the apples.

- **Bible Verse Psalm 136:25 - "God gives food to us."**
- **HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "O".**
- **We will ride the BIG BIRD yellow school bus to a field trip to Nichols-Boyd Pumpkin Patch Thursday, October 13. Parents are invited to help chaperone for the trip. We will ride on a tractor/trailer as we see all the interesting farm animals.**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Colleen**

Animal Habitats (October 17-21):

- **Animals don't live in houses like we do, but they all have special places to live. We will explore their habitats the week and will be utilizing the MS Museum of Natural Science's Growing Up Wild curriculum to enhance our learning. We will also look at all the different fur and hides that the MMNS provide for us to see how God made all of our exteriors different and that each are beautiful in their own way. We will talk about how some animals live in the jungle and in the forest and that zoos are a place where some wild animals live.**
- **Bible Verse Psalm 146:9 - "God gives food to the animals."**
- **HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "Q".**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Melanie**

Farm & Harvest (October 24-28):

- **We will learn more about what happens on a farm and how important the farmers are to our community. We will learn about how food is grown and the path it takes from the farm all the way to our tables. We will talk about all the animals we might find on a farm and will learn about what different animals do on a farm. We will learn what it means to harvest crops and will learn how to shuck an ear of corn and to shell peas and will get to eat what we have worked on.**
- **Bible Verse Genesis 1:311 Corinthians 3:9 - "Everything God made was very good."**
- **We will have "Harvest" Parties on Friday, October 28. Children are invited to dress as farmers or animals. More information will be provided to you from your teachers closer to the date.**
- **HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "G".**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday led by Ms Marquice**

I Can Be Healthy (October 31-Nov 4):

- **Young children have an instinctive interest in their bodies but haven't yet learned that they have a responsibility to help keep their bodies healthy. We will talk about and explore simple ways that we can apply healthy living to our lives. We will talk about healthcare professionals who help us take care of our bodies, like doctors, nurses, and dentists. Healthy habits are established early! Since our taste palates are set early in life, we look for ways to introduce different and interesting foods that might not be an every day food. Let your child's teachers know if you would like to provide something healthy or come and share with the class.**
- **Bible Verse Psalm 100:3 - "God made us."**
- **HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "S".**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday led by Ms Janet**

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- **Include your child in grocery shopping and talk about where the different foods come from. Children may believe that apples come from Kroger and not a tree. Part of being a preschooler is learning what a potato looks like and where it comes from. Spend some time with your child in the produce section and ask questions as well as answer them... then plan a meal with something new!**
- **Have a deck of cards? Ask your preschooler to sort them by color, by number, by suit. Teach them the names of each suit and show them the shapes that give the suit its name. (heart, club, spade, diamond).**
- **Articles and interesting websites to visit to support this month's learning:**

CHILDREN'S CENTER <https://greenacorns.wordpress.com/2015/09/23/four-fun-explorations-for-fall/>

<http://happilyevermom.com/kids-nature-bucket-list/>

NOVEMBER 2016 (Weeks 14-17)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 14 & 15-Indians & Pilgrims, Week 16-Thanksgiving, Week 17-Children Around the World

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include learning about how God made us all different and all the same in our own way; we will learn how to do a two-step pow-wow dance, we will bring in and share food together to make a friendship stew; we will talk together about all that we are thankful for and help each other appreciate friendships. We will hear about children from other cultures and talk about how we are different and how we are the same.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will have a variety of counters, shapes, pegs, etc. for child led discovery. Of interest in this area will be counting out the days in our month and marking off the days on our class calendar.

ART CENTER will have colors to mix and discover as we talk about the changes in the seasons. We will do crayon leaf rubbings, painting with feathers, and plan for the unexpected, depending on the children's interest.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve dancing an Indian dance, singing with Ms Colleen all the fun Thanksgiving songs we learn each year, banging tom-toms that we make in class, and learning how to two-step.

HOMELIVING will be ready to dress up in Indian tunics and headdresses; the children will have opportunities to act out the stories we learn about Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims that came to America.

BLOCKS CENTER will include opportunities to build a ship like the Mayflower and even a teepee or wigwam to live in. We will continue building on our already acquired skills to develop a better understanding of cause and effect when building and spatial representation within the center.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include favorite leaves that we find at home and at school. We will look at what happens to trees and plants during Fall.

LITERACY/BOOK CENTER will include many books on Fall, Seasons and Children in other cultures. We will read and learn about the different words we use to describe people and learn about our nation's history.

HWT: We will go over the different songs that include Mat Man and read more about his adventures in our MM books. We will continue working on our curves and use our dry erase boards to practice our lettering.

Pilgrims and Indians/Native Americans (November 7-11 and November 14-18):

- We will talk about the original people who lived here by all the various names we have learned: Indians, Native Americans, Indigenous Peoples and Sovereign Nations; we will talk about how the settlers came to America to create this great country we call the USA. We will dress up, paint our faces, give ourselves native names, sing, and dance to the tom-toms.
- HWT Week 14: We will work on Uppercase letter "J"
- HWT Week 15: We will work on Uppercase letter "D"

- **Bible Verse Week 14 Psalm 73:1 - “God is good to us.”**
- **Bible Verse Week 15 Psalm 136:1 - “Give thanks to the Lord.”**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday, November 11 led by Ms Janet**
- **Chapel Friday, November 18 led by Ms Colleen**

Thanksgiving Week (November 21-23; CMCC Closed Nov 24, 25):

- **We will focus on all that we are thankful for in our lives while we prepare for Thanksgiving and talk a bout what Thanksgiving means in our families; we will learn more about the early settlers in America and watch the Charlie Brown story of the Pilgrims’ trip to America. We will make friendship “stew” and enjoy it with each other and we will enjoy time with our families on Thursday and Friday.**
- **HWT: Review; no new letter this week**
- **Review Bible Verse Psalm 136:1 - “Give thanks to the Lord.”**

Children Around The World (November 28-December 3):

- **We will exploring the concept that the world around us is filled with different types of people and that people are all over the Earth. We will look at photographs of children and learn how different cultures dress and how the weather is in other parts of the globe. We will have some visitors who were born on other continents tell us about what things are different and what are the same as they are here in Mississippi. Our goal is to expand our children’s knowledge of the world and help them better understand the concept of community.**
- **HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter “P”**
- **Bible Verse Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind to one another.”**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Varonica**

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Make a Thankful Tree as a family, using brown paper and cut out paper hands for leaves. Have your child tell what he is thankful for, and write down with a marker on each leaf. Your child will love being allowed to use glue and scissors at home.
- If you carve a pumpkin this year, get more than one and make a family affair of it. Then make something fun with the innards. Pumpkin pie, roasted pumpkin seeds, pumpkin bread, etc.
- Scissor work is a great way to develop the muscles that will be holding pencils in school... find appropriate ways for your child to use scissors as much as possible around the house. Make sure all scissor use is supervised; even child’s scissors can cut hair! Usually that will only happen one time :)
- Make your own friendship stew snack mix at home by combining every family member’s favorite snack item together in a big bowl and sharing it with each other.
- Ask your child to sing some Thanksgiving songs that they have learned at school: we will learn Five Fat Turkeys, The Lord Is Good To Me (aka the Johnny Appleseed Song), Ten Little Indian Girls and Boys, and Let’s Have a Pow Wow during this month.
- Articles and interesting websites to visit to support this month’s learning:

<http://www.dumblittleman.com/2008/11/20-fun-things-you-can-do-with-family-on.html>

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/slideshow/thanksgiving/35209.html>

<http://www.choctaw.org/culture/clrCLMaudio.html>



Play is the highest form of research — Einstein

DECEMBER 2016 (Weeks 18-21)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 18-I Like Church, Week 19-Sharing Christmas Joy, Week 20&21: Christmas/Advent

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include singing and dancing together, rehearsing for the Christmas Program on December 15. We will learn about how different people celebrate Christmas and we will talk about what we can do to help others at Christmas.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will stimulate interest in early math concepts by looking for seasonal items that we can compare, sort, and manipulate. We will use our fine motor skills to help in making decorations for our Christmas tree and around our room.

ART CENTER will have crayons, paper, markers, and paint. The colors of the season are Red and Green, but children also love the white of snow, the blue of the sky, and the gold and silver of decorations. There will be various child led projects involving Christmas and giving. Drawing is the trace of movement! Children will continue to discover the relationship between how they move and marks they make with paint, markers, sand, and shaving cream.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve learning Christmas songs and carols; we will learn a scarf dance and we will work on our singing skills to perform in the Christmas Program.

HOMELIVING will invite children into a world of imagination and self-directed play with dress-up clothes, babies, kitchens, and school settings. Children will be active in moving, turning, and directing each other in play.

BLOCKS CENTER will include learning about positional words in what we build; children will practice to learn top, bottom, up, over, under, around, beside, through, etc. working within the world of building blocks.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include sensory items to stimulate touch, smell, and sight. Since we will be talking about Christmas, we will explore some of the holiday scents of pine tree needles and cinnamon.

LITERACY/BOOK CENTER We have almost a hundred books on Christmas, giving to others, Advent, and Jesus' birth. We will read together and even sing some of the books as we learn more about the Season of Advent, which simply means "waiting." We will talk about waiting and patience, hope and expectation.

HWT: We are approaching the middle of the school year and we will scaffold the knowledge and skills we have achieved the first months to approach the remainder of the uppercase letters in practice as well as begin to introduce the corresponding lowercase letters. Lines and curves; lines and curves. The English language is made of these and we will continue the practicing of our lines and curves.

I Like Church (December 5-9):

- We will spend time this week learning about what church is. Three naturally think of church as a building, and we will talk about how church is a place, but that it is also the people of the church. We will talk about ways that we can take care of the church building and those who need help. This will be a time we discuss ways we

can help those in need and we will begin our Christmas Giving drive that we've done in past years, "adopting" grandparents in a Jackson nursing home and providing Christmas for them. Our little world will get larger this month. We always want our children to have happy experiences in their early years regarding church.

- Bible Verse Psalm 9:2 - "Be glad and sing songs to God."
- HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter "B"
- Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Melanie

Sharing Christmas Joy (December 12-16):

- We will continue learning about how we can give and share our joy with others at Christmas and the true meaning of this holy day. Children will discuss things that make them happy and find ways to make those we love happy. We focus on the giving aspect (it gives us joy to give; it is better to give than receive) of the holiday so that they will learn at a young age about Jesus, who gave himself for all of us.
- Bible Verse Matthew 2:1-7 - "Jesus was born in Bethlehem."
- HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter "R"
- Show and Tell Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Marquice (last Chapel of 2016)
- Preschool Christmas Program, Thursday, Dec 15, at 7 p.m. in the CUMC Sanctuary.
- Birthday Party for Jesus on Friday, Dec 16.

Christmas/Advent (December 19-22, December 27-30 — CMCC Closed Dec 23 and Dec 26):

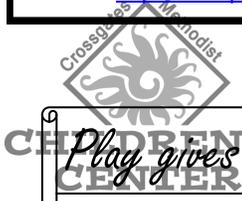
- Since this time is Christmas Holidays for the school district, we will talk about traveling at Christmas to spend time with our extended families. We will have some shaving cream fun and will work with small groups in learning about Advent—the Season of Waiting for Christ. We will talk about the upcoming year and how we measure time and days in our world. We will welcome a special visitor from the nursing home to come tell us all about the grandparents we "adopted" and ways we can help others.
- Review Bible Verse Matthew 2:1-7 - "Jesus was born in Bethlehem."
- HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter "K"

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Make your own modeling dough instead of buying play-doh. Allow your preschooler to help in the process and use cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla, or a scented oil (like peppermint) to give the dough a wonderful scent. Our olfactory sense is the strongest connection to memory. Store the dough in a plastic ice cream bucket and it will last all year — no color needed, but you could color with unsweetened powdered Kool-Aid. Here is a recipe: <http://www.diynatural.com/homemade-playdough/>. Working with modeling dough makes the muscles of the fingers really work hard; keep some plastic knives, plastic scissors, and bottle caps, jar lids, etc. in the bucket with the dough and it will be a bucket of fun for your preschooler while providing important skills for future pencil holders and writers!
- Read to your child every night; make sure your child sees you reading books. The best way to raise a learner is for them to see value and interest in reading. Read articles out loud from the newspaper; share the comics section with your child. Get a subscription to Guideposts for Kids and read them as a family. Reading Guideposts together can begin a love of reading that never dies.
- Articles and interesting websites to visit to support this month's learning:

<http://www.messforless.net/christmas-fine-motor-skills-activities/>

<http://www.parents.com/fun/entertainment/books/the-all-time-best-books-for-preschoolers/>



Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning. -Fred Rogers