



The Giving Nest Preschool January Newsletter

Giving Nest New Years Resolutions

The arrival of 2026 will be celebrated at the Giving Nest with noisemakers and confetti. Each class will be challenged with a new skill to accomplish in 2026

- **The Ducklings** will begin getting their own coats at the end of the day and putting them on without help. They will use the preschool method of laying the coats on the ground and putting their arms in the sleeves and flipping the coats over their heads.
- **The Bluebirds and Cardinals** will begin zippering or buttoning their own coats and putting on their hats and gloves all by themselves.

The teachers have certificates to present to the children when they have successfully mastered the skill. Look for this in your child's backpack. Please note these are important skills to develop at your child's age. If he or she is having trouble please practice his/her classes' selected skill at home. Several of the children in each age group may have already mastered these skills, which is great. They will receive a certificate once they demonstrate the skill for the teacher.



Slipper and Pajama Day

During the cozy month of January each class will have PAJAMAS & SLIPPER DAY either on January 7th or 8th. Please check your class calendars for the correct dates. On PJ's/Slipper day, please have your child wear their PJ's and send a pair of slippers to school, placed in your child's backpack. During the day we will talk about cozy times in the winter. We will serve "semi" hot chocolate with marshmallows and whipped cream.

Manner of the Month

Starting January 2026 we will choose a different manner each month to discuss during Sing. In January we explain that is polite to listen quietly and not interrupt when someone is speaking. The Directors will tell the children that when someone is talking and you want to speak, the polite thing to do is wait until the person is done and then you can speak. We will

demonstrate this by playacting with other staff members and students. Next we will explain that sometimes we may have to interrupt; for example if you really have to go to the bathroom or someone needs help. In these situations it is polite to interrupt the conversation by saying, "Excuse me". The teachers will demonstrate these two situations during sing. Throughout the month we will have volunteer students come up at sing and demonstrate when to wait for a stop in the conversation or when to use the polite word "excuse me."

During this lesson a few years ago a very observant student mentioned that sometimes children are too short and if two adults are talking they might not see a small child; and that child could wait a very long time for there to be a stop in conversation. Taking this into account we started something new at The Giving Nest and it works beautifully. If a child wants to tell the teacher something and the teacher is engaged in conversation with another child or adult the child gently touches the teacher and waits patiently. The teacher gently touches the child to let him know she is aware he is waiting to speak. The teacher then finishes her sentence and addresses the child waiting. The children and teachers loved this! Many of the parents continued this practice at home and were very pleased with how well it



Progress Reports & Parent Teacher Conferences

This month we will be holding phone or in person parent teacher conferences. This will give you an opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with the teacher regarding your child. Please keep checking your emails for important information regarding conference sign ups and availability (will be sent out the week we return from break). Prior to these conferences, the teacher will be sending home progress reports. These progress reports are a great way to share with you what your child has been learning at school!



September 2026-2027 Registration

It seems a bit early to think about September 2026 but February is registration time for all preschools in our area. We have many applications on file and new parents are anxious to know if there is room for their child next year. So we conduct an in-house pre-registration in January. We do everything possible to ensure that you, our in-house families, are able to enroll in the class of your choice. We are limited to six classrooms and we try to be very creative with our offerings. You will receive an e-mail asking you to pre-register. We ask you to pre-register so we can determine if we need a lottery or an adjustment to meet all our In-house students' needs. Please carefully read the information in the e-mail regarding the procedures and why you must pre-registering your child. After pre-registration we will hold in-house registration. Then we will call the many families that have applications on file. So if you have not pre-registered we cannot guarantee you a spot for next year. If you have any questions regarding classes for next year or our pre-registration and registration procedures please call Kathleen at 908-222-1003 or email us at givingnest@yahoo.com. **Registration information to be sent on January 20th**

FLU SHOT REMINDER– VERY IMPORTANT

Influenza Vaccine: Children 6 months through 59 months attending any childcare or preschool facility must annually receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between **September 1 & December 31 each year**. It is very important you comply with this state mandate. The state sends a nurse to the preschools to check each child's medical paper work and ascertain all shots have been administered. If shots are not up to date the child may have to leave the school. **The nurse checks all immunizations.**

