



# December 2023

## NEWSLETTER

### Themes

#### Five Super Senses


Sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch—these are the five super senses! This theme provides many opportunities for hands-on discovery and learning. Children will explore seasonal textures, sounds, scents, and more. Tips on sensory development will be offered as well.

#### Merry Memories

Enjoy this festive time of year by making merry memories together! This theme will cover baking, family traditions and celebrations, and all the sights and symbols associated with December holidays. Reflect on the current year together, and make goals for the new one!

#### Alphabet Words

jeep, jelly, jet, jump,  
kettle, keyboard, kite, kitten,  
lamb, lemons, lion, lizard

Color/Shape	Letters/ Numbers
	Jj, Kk, Ll 9, 10

#### Sign Language



### Learn with Me!

#### • Exploring Senses

Collect child-safe items from around the house and place them in a basket. Ask your child to join you as you set the items on a tabletop. Go through each item and explore its features. Invite other family members to participate. Can your child name and identify each item? Ask, "What senses do we use as we play and explore this item?" Challenge your child to sort the items by those we see, smell, taste, etc.

#### • Collecting Memories

Take photos to capture activities that your family enjoys during this time of the year. Gather all of the pictures and create a photo album with your child. If photos aren't available, print clip art to represent favorite activities. Attach the pictures to a poster board to make a collage, and invite your child to add decoration with drawing tools.

#### My Project: Jingle Bell Painting

When I bring this project home, we can:

- Explore the features of the unique painting tool I created.
- Create marks with this tool and other painting tools on assorted colors of paper.



#### My Project: Cardinal in Winter

When I bring this project home, we can:

- Find similar birds in books and on the Internet.
- Display the art project in a special place.



*Graphics are intended to show samples of projects.  
Materials may be substituted or used differently.*

## FAMILY CONNECTION

## Book List

## My Five Senses

*by Aliki*

## Listening to My Body

*by Gabi Garcia*

## Big Feelings

*by Alexandra Penfold*

## I Feel a Foot!

by Maranke Rinck

## Is It Hanukkah Yet?

*by Chris Barash*

## My Family Celebrates Kwanzaa

*by Lisa Bullard*

## *The Joyful Book*

*by Todd Parr*

## Shanté Keys and the New Year's Peas

*by Gail Piernas-Davenport*

## Songs

## Senses All Day Long

Sung to "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes"

Sight, hearing, smell, and taste—  
And also touch.

Sight, hearing, smell, and taste—  
And also touch.

We can use these senses all day long,  
Sight, hearing, smell, and taste—  
And also touch!



## Recipe

## Candy Cane Twists

**¾ cup butter, softened**

**½ tsp. vanilla extract**

1 large egg

**1 tsp. peppermint extract**

1 cup sugar

2 ¼ cup flour

red food coloring



Preheat the oven to 375°F. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar. Add the egg and beat well. Stir in the peppermint and vanilla extracts. Gradually mix in the flour. Divide the dough in half. Color one half with red food coloring and leave the other half plain. Roll small portions of both colors of dough into ropes. Twist the ropes into candy cane shapes, and pinch the ends together. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet until set, but not brown.

# Happy New Year

Sung to "Are You Sleeping?"

Happy New Year! Happy New Year!  
Shout "Hooray!" Shout "Hooray!"  
Let's give a great big cheer,  
2024 is here.  
Shout "Hooray!" Shout "Hooray!"



## Reminders

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.