



In the month of December we will be exploring fun, exciting and important themes that continue to develop your child's social and emotional skills as well as stimulate their natural curiosity of the world around them. At Kids Klub we take teaching children about nature and helping them understand the natural world around them very seriously as we feel that this is one of the most important lessons we can teach them. In addition, through our lessons and play sessions at Kids Klub, your child's development physically, both in the fine and gross motor skill areas, as well as cognitively with an increased understanding of the Science Technology Engineering Math subjects is enhanced each and every day by your teacher's questions and problem creating that sets your child on a planning and problem solving mission.

We will be focusing on teaching your children about change and learning how people all around the world for thousands of years have been embracing and celebrating change with the coming of the Winter Solstice. We will be looking at the changing seasons, finding signs of changing from Fall to Winter. We will be reading about the changing amount of sunshine and moonshine we have each day and why it is darker or lighter on our commutes to Kids Klub or back home again. We will be learning about how growing our food and migration and hibernation of animals are all part of the changing amount of sunlight and darkness there is and that change happens each and every day. We study all year through our 4 seasons study how change is beautiful. At Kids Klub we embrace change and teach the children how to transition from one part of their day to the next, from inside to outside, learning center to learning center, activity to activity, from home to Kids Klub and back home again. We learn, we play, we eat, we nap and learn and play again. Change is wonderful and brings new opportunities for learning about the world around us.

December also brings with it a new level of art and creativity as the children enjoy holiday art projects, music, songs, dance, costumes, and the making of gifts for others for the holidays. From colors and patterns, to rhythm and movement, your child will gain a new appreciation and level of understanding of art in its many forms with "gifting to others" a major theme this month.

In preparation for the holidays, we will be learning about the changing of the seasons from Fall to Winter and with this, all about winter holidays all around the world. The children will learn about the traditions, costumes, music, stories and foods that make these holidays unique and special not only here at home but all over the world. We will be learning to work together, share and cooperate as we enhance our following directions, listening, and teamwork skills. December is also a great month to incorporate the importance of feeling and bringing joy to others in addition to giving to others. Your child will learn what it means and feels like to make a gift for another person and then to feel the joy it brings to them and hopefully also to the person they give the gift to. The center will be filled with holiday spirit and your child will be learning holiday songs, reading holiday stories and making holiday gifts to give to others. Holiday colors, shapes, counting, patterns and lots of creativity will be used throughout our learning centers. The month will wrap up with the New Year lessons and your child will learn more about the calendar, the 12 months of the year, the last days of December and the celebration and beginning of the New Year.

The topic of changing seasons, the trees losing their leaves, the animals making changes to adapt to the changing weather and the focus on winter will continue throughout the different lessons and learning centers. The children will learn and discuss how to dress the babies warmly when taking them for a stroller ride during dramatic play time and role modeling with Hoppy's Home toys. The children will also be discussing how to keep themselves warm by wearing jackets, mittens, boots and hats on a cold winter day to keep their body heat from escaping from their bodies, head, hands and feet. Learning how to take care of their bodies is a key focus at Kids Klub and winter brings with it very important lessons in self-care.

We will be connecting several types of lessons together as we move through our learning centers reaching all kinds of learners with literature, song, art, puzzle solving, block building and creation, kitchen creation, science, math, and outdoor and indoor play where we will build and enhance our gross motor skills with the focus of winter a part of our learning. Ice and snow will be a topic of discussion and will transition into science lessons about how the animal world adapts to the changing seasons. The children have been studying nature and what it looks like changing from Summer to Fall and now Fall to Winter. We have watched the leaves on the trees turn colors, played with leaves as they dropped to the ground, used leaves in art and studied them in science. We have learned all the fall colors and shapes of fall items like leaves, acorns, pumpkins and more and now we transition to the beauty of winter. While many trees have leaves that change colors, other trees stay green all the year through and we will be studying these trees as part of our winter studies in the coming months.

We will continue to play and observe, discuss and predict using 4 of our 5 senses; see, touch, smell and listen to all the signs of winter. They will feel the cool breeze on their cheeks, smell the wet leaves on the ground after a rain; hear the wind blow through the branches and see the changes on the trees, the grass, the color of the sky and watch the rain and possible snow that will come with this season. The children will have fun going on Winter Nature Walks outside and looking with their eyes to find signs of winter, look for animals and creepy crawly insects and other types of bugs and worms and discuss what they are doing to survive the cold of winter. They will be touching with their hands to feel the textures of nature, the bark of trees, the texture of sand, the slimy feel of a leaf when it is wet. November was all about birds in our



animal kingdom lessons and December will start the lessons of animals that hibernate, migrate or adapt in many ways for the winter months. On their nature walks the children will also be closing their eyes and using their ears to see if they can hear birds in the environment. January will continue this animal kingdom set of lessons and take us to the polar regions of both the Arctic and Antarctic, where animals live in winter type conditions year around and we will study the adaptations they have made to survive in these cold environments.

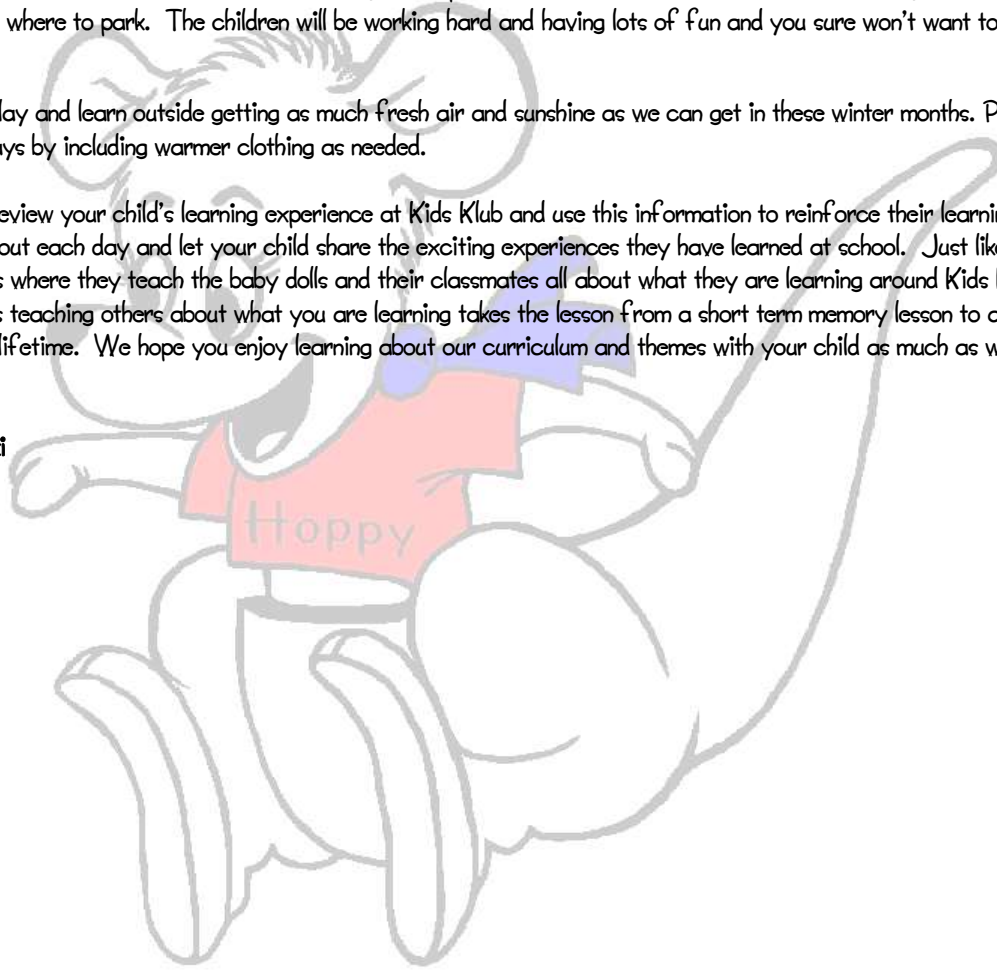
We will be also using our 5 senses throughout the month as we venture to our art lessons and kitchen creation lessons. Touching the art supplies, feeling the cool paint on our fingers, getting crunchy feeling glitter on our hands and seeing the sparkle that glitter adds to our creations along with the smell of our holiday kitchen creations, the sounds of the holiday songs being practiced for our holiday show and tasting the healthy holiday treats we create in our kitchen lessons really sets learning up for success. We are reaching all types of learners through teaching using all the senses.

We are excited to be hosting our annual *Holiday Extravaganza* performances this year and the children will be preparing & practicing in anticipation of show time. Watch for more details coming in a separate communication about the show including date, time, what your child should wear and even where to park. The children will be working hard and having lots of fun and you sure won't want to miss this special holiday performance.

We will continue to play and learn outside getting as much fresh air and sunshine as we can get in these winter months. Please help the children stay warm on cool days by including warmer clothing as needed.

Please take time to review your child's learning experience at Kids Klub and use this information to reinforce their learning at home. Ask specific questions about each day and let your child share the exciting experiences they have learned at school. Just like they do in Hoppy's School House lessons where they teach the baby dolls and their classmates all about what they are learning around Kids Klub, we hope they also teach you too as teaching others about what you are learning takes the lesson from a short term memory lesson to a long term learned lesson lasting them a lifetime. We hope you enjoy learning about our curriculum and themes with your child as much as we do!

Sincerely,  
Bambi Wojciechowski  
Curriculum Director





### Monthly theme: Holidays Around the World

**WEEK 14** Weekly theme: Winter Wonderland – The Changing Seasons & Holiday Show Time Letter: Nn, Aa-Mm review

Number: 14. 1-14 Color: White and Green Shape: Square compared with a rectangle, snowman, snowflake, pine tree

Pattern: AABBC, AABBC, demonstrate using shapes: snowman snowman, snowflake snowflake, pine tree pine tree

**Daily Circle:** Flag salute (English), calendar, numbers, fruits/vegetables, seasons, months, colors, shapes, songs, and animals (English and Spanish), What is a Season? The 4 Seasons, Why do the Seasons change? What season are we entering into now? Fall to Winter – what does Winter look and feel like? Continue discussing what is a Gift and making something extra special – taking your time, doing your best? And what it is like Sharing and Giving to others. Holidays around the World Month, discuss different holiday traditions, music, dancing, celebrations, special foods, decorations and more.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Art</b>	Time to work on holiday gifts, cards, tags, bags and handmade wrapping paper. Make sure each child makes their own gift and way to wrap the gifts up along with a child-made card with writing & artwork	Make a snowflake or two using paper or a coffee filter, snip away to create unique beauty just like snowflakes are and continue work on holiday gifts, cards, handmade wrapping paper, decorate gift bags and make tags	Time to work on holiday gifts, cards, tags, bags and handmade wrapping paper. For handmade wrapping paper & gift bags- use long pieces of butcher paper with stamps, paint, markers, crayons, stickers, glitter, dot markers, finger and hand prints are just a few ideas	Continue work on holiday gifts, cards, tags, decorate gift bags, and make handmade wrapping paper. Practice Patterns making paper chains to hang up around the center.	Continue holiday gifts, cards, tags, decorate gift bags & handmade wrapping. Create a special holiday family picture and plan to decorate and add a frame or border for the children to take home to their family.

**PM Art Time:** Continue to work on holiday gifts, cards, tags, decorate gift bags & handmade wrapping paper (butcher paper with stamps, paint, glitter, stickers, spangles, dot markers, self portraits, drawings, finger painting, hand prints, finger print art- whatever your class and child choices will be.) Also use art time to practice writing skills by making holiday hand-made card messages and writing out gift tags with To: and From: (name writing practice). Finish the holiday family picture with decorated border/frame. Use this time to paint and add holiday sparkle to the dough creations the children made in kitchen creations. If time permits, continue working on Nature Inspired Holiday Ornaments for the children to take home as gifts for their family or friends.

**Balance & Coordination:** **Team Work, Cooperation** -Let's learn to work together using the round like the sun parachute. Go round and round, up, down, in and out and wavy. We can have lots of Parachute Fun with our friends tossing the ball, the stuffed animal, and multiple balls, half of us letting go and running underneath and then coming back to our handles so the other half can then run underneath. Use the large parachute first and see how much cooperation you can do as a class. Then Pair Up and use the small parachutes and see if two can work together to toss a ball, or stuffed animal up in the air. Can you wave it? Can you send it up and come in together under it as it floats downward? Most of all have lots of fun with parachutes this week. (Group participation, cooperation and following directions)

**Blocks & Trains:** **Lesson 1:** Use your imagination and build a Holiday Land for all the animals complete with paths and even a train to ride on. Work with your friends to see how big and how far this block fantasy land can stretch (cooperation & imagination, planning and connecting)  
**Lesson 2:** Math and Engineering merge - count to 14 over and over again while stacking 14 or more blocks until they tumble - work on how to make taller and taller towers and what you could do to stabilize the tower and build higher- solve the problem of your towers falling over by changing the shape & size blocks you put on the bottom and which blocks you put on the top. (math, engineering, problem solving)

**Dramatic Play Time:** Begin these special play and role modeling sessions with a holiday story book and then talk about Season of Winter, the weather - temperature, rain, snow, wind, and the Holidays that come in Winter. Have fun role modeling, learning life skills, pretending and playing with your friends.

**Happy's General Store:** Read a Holiday Food themed book and talk about what people eat for the holidays. Have fun shopping with your friends to get ready for these holidays - what do you need? Then "cook" all your food to share with your friends. Set the table, add some special decorations for the holidays, and practice your table manners. Don't forget to leave time to sort and return all your shopping items to the store in their proper place.

**Happy's Home:** Read Winter and Holidays book and discuss. Dress the babies for Winter weather making sure they are keeping their body warm by covering their hands, feet, heads and bodies with warm clothing. Set the table, add some special decorations for the holidays, and practice your table manners. Then "cook" all your food to share with your friends. Practice making holiday time special. Leave time to put everything back in place.

**Happy's School:** Read a winter and holidays book. Discuss what we have been learning about. Then dress the dolls warmly for the winter weather then tell them all about/teach them all the things you are learning in school. Use the felt, magnets, and gears to teach with. Have fun playing teacher while turning short term memories into longterm lessons learned.

**Kitchen Creation:** Playdough mixing time - Let's make a different size batch - this time smaller - what do we need to change in the recipe? How much should we add of flour, salt, water, oil? Let's make something special that is white - A snowman? A snowflake? Your house? A car, pet, winter fox or a polar bear? Form with your hands or cut out with a cookie cutter. Save these special little creations and let them dry. Then you can paint and add holiday sparkle with glitter, spangles, pipe cleaners and more if you wish and wrap them up as a gift for someone special after they dry. (measuring, critical thinking, fine motor skills, following directions and gift giving)

**Library Times:** Read Holiday Stories and talk about holiday ceremonies, songs, traditions you read in the books. Share a Family Holiday story with the class. Discuss if anything in the stories is something similar in your holiday time at home with your family. Have fun predicting what happens next in the story or how it ends. Have fun learning about different kinds of celebrations that happen all around the world.





Read at circle time, at the beginning of each learning center time, at lunch time, at outdoor time, at music and movement, theater and even balance and coordination time. Tie the stories to the children's math, science, blocks, kitchen creation and art lessons. Literature helps make connections to the lesson goals we have. Reading throughout the day builds vocabulary, speech, reading skills & imagination.

**Puzzles & Manipulatives:**

Puzzles, counting, patterns, and fine motor creations – have fun teaching the children with your choice of manipulative teaching toys. **First:** read the storybook and talk about what we are learning this week. **Then:** Set-up your rotations stations and explain to the children what they will be doing at each station. Then have the children learn as they rotate through play. This is not a free for all manipulative time but one with specific stations and learning goals -have fun with your children developing fine motor skills and spatial skills, color & patterns and creativity. Don't forget to leave plenty of time for sorting, finding all the pieces, putting things back on the proper shelves and in the bins if they have them. Have the children sort by shape, color and then by collection and have them search the floor for pieces they may have dropped. Clean up time has many learning lessons in it and sorting is a huge part of our basic math skills and understanding so use this precious time wisely.

**Music & Movement:** First: read a special story that is connected to our learning goals. **Use this time to practice for the holiday show as needed.**

**Then:** Since this month we are celebrating all the holiday around the world ask Alexa for some diverse sets of holiday songs so the children can hear different melodies, rhythms, instruments and beautiful music to dance to. Finish this amazing music and movement session with the children doing some deep breathing and yoga calming time, please enjoy a yoga story with all the poses- teaching the children these breathing, stretching and calming techniques are so special and important for their wellbeing all throughout their life. The holidays can get stressful so it is never too early to start teaching these stress-reducing skills.

**Science:**

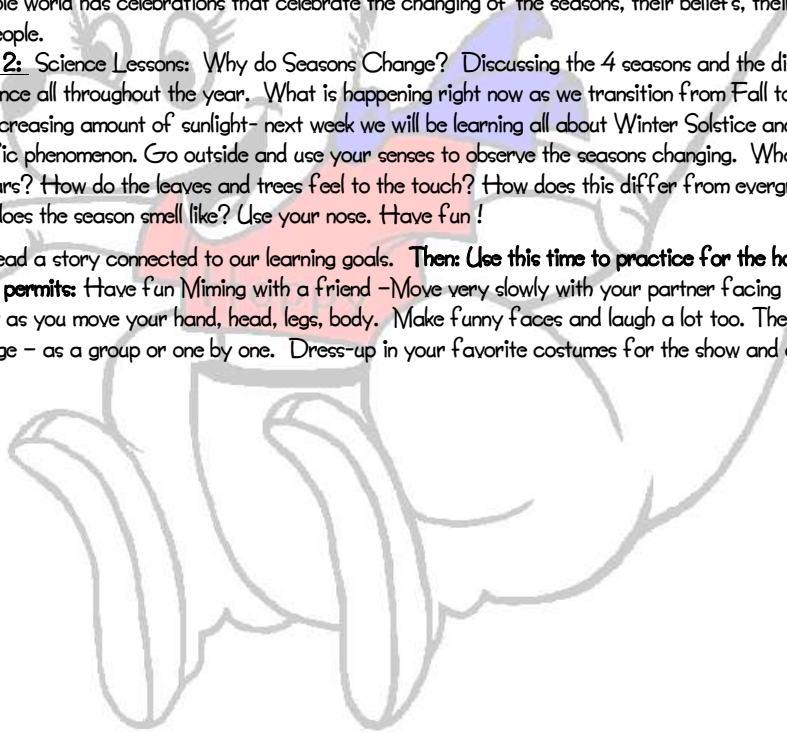
**Lesson 1:** Holidays Around the World Social Science Lessons Continue as we learn about all the different ways people around the world celebrate the many different winter holidays. We will be reading stories, poems, learning songs, looking at costumes, dances, listening to music, seeing holiday art, making it in our art sessions, seeing special holiday foods, and ceremonies and understanding that the whole world has celebrations that celebrate the changing of the seasons, their beliefs, their faiths, their harvests, their families and their people.

**Lesson 2:** Science Lessons: Why do Seasons Change? Discussing the 4 seasons and the differences in each of them that we experience all throughout the year. What is happening right now as we transition from Fall to Winter? Connect the seasons changing with decreasing amount of sunlight- next week we will be learning all about Winter Solstice and the Celebrations surrounding this scientific phenomenon. Go outside and use your senses to observe the seasons changing. What do you see with your eyes? Hear with your ears? How do the leaves and trees feel to the touch? How does this differ from evergreen trees we have in our play-yards? What does the season smell like? Use your nose. Have fun!

**Theater:**

First read a story connected to our learning goals. **Then: Use this time to practice for the holiday show as needed.**

**If time permits:** Have fun Miming with a friend -Move very slowly with your partner facing you and see if you can follow each other exactly as you move your hand, head, legs, body. Make funny faces and laugh a lot too. Then have a holiday song and dance show on the stage – as a group or one by one. Dress-up in your favorite costumes for the show and create some beautiful moves.





### Monthly theme: Holidays Around the World

**WEEK 15 Weekly theme:** Winter Holidays Around the World- The Winter Solstice & Holiday Shows **Letter:** Oo, Aa - Nn review  
**Number:** 15, 1-15 **Color:** Red, White, Yellow for the Sun **Shape:** Circles for the Sun and All shapes review **Pattern:** AAB, ABB

**Daily Circle:** Flag salute (English), calendar, numbers, fruits/vegetables, seasons, months, colors, shapes, songs, and animals (English and Spanish) The 4 Seasons, Winter comes after Fall, Winter Weather. Winter holidays around the World - The Winter Solstice - the longest night and the shortest day of the year. It is the first day officially of the Winter Season and happens on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Why does this happen- the earth North Pole is tilted farthest from the sun on this day? Celebrations happen all around the world this week and on this day. We are connected by the changes we have in nature. Change is natural and the solstice is a celebration of this change and the coming of more sunlight as we rotate and revolve around the sun. What is special about each celebration you read and talk about?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Art</b>	Continue working on holiday gifts, cards, creating wrapping paper and gift bags, creating decorations for the center and for the child's homes.	Continue working on holiday gifts, making cards, creating wrapping paper, gift bags, tags & creating decorations for the center and for the child's homes.	Make a Winter Solstice holiday celebration headband. Continue working on holiday gifts, making cards, creating wrapping paper and gift bags.	Easel painting winter scenes. Continue working on holiday gifts, making cards, creating wrapping paper and gift bags. Then-create decorations for the center and home	Using Marble(& Golf Balls) paint a sparkly snow storm. Continue working on holiday gifts, making cards, creating wrapping paper and gift bags, Then-create decorations for the center and for home

**PM Art Sessions:** Continue to work on holiday gifts, cards, tags, decorate gift bags & handmade wrapping paper (butcher paper with stamps, paint, glitter, stickers, spangles, dot markers, self portraits, drawings, finger painting, hand prints, finger print art- whatever your class and child choices will be.) Also use art time to practice writing skills making holiday hand-made card messages and writing out gift tags with To: and From: (name writing practice). All month work on Sparkly nature inspired Holiday ornaments and decorations for the children to hang around the center and then wrap up as gifts or take up home for decorations - use sticks & branches, pine cones, leaves, pieces of wood, stones all from nature, add popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, spangles, glitter, paint, colored pasta, cardboard, paper plates, yarn, ribbon and more. So many cute ideas, have fun creating with your class.

**Balance & Coordination:** Winter wonderland crazy obstacle course outside if weather permits -rotation, spinning, spirals, round and round like a snowflake over and under the poles, through the dark winter tunnel and out into the sunlight again like the changing of the summer and winter solstices, hop through the hoops, stepping stones, dots, shapes, and exercise moves as we build gross motor skills, balance, coordination and the concepts of over and under & have fun. Practice counting, letters, signs and symbols using the exercise mats, path markers that are arrow, letters, numbers creating the paths and stopping here and there to do a certain number of exercises. Use the number, shapes, colors and letters of the week cards, rugs and mats to build into the large crazy obstacle course you and your children create to connect learning with physical movement - the best way to solidify a learning concept. (large motor skills, following directions, signs, symbols and a course and using imagination)

**Blocks & Trains** Lesson 1: Use a collection of blocks to build a winter solstice circle of roads, train tracks, and even a spiral pathway to symbolizing the round star called the sun and its light and the center symbolizing the light within us all. How big of a spiral can you build with your friends - can you follow it and turn around and spiral back out of it/ symbolizing find the light within yourself bringing it back out to share with others. (promote sharing and imagination)

Lesson 2: Read a Story about Santa coming down the Chimney -Then Build a big fireplace chimney for Santa to come down-envision, plan, build, solve problems (STEM). What is a fireplace? Using imagination, how does Santa fit down it? How big would it need to be to fit Santa? How tall would it need to be to connect the inside fireplace with the roof of your house to let the smoke out? What does it need to be built with? Why? There are lots of fun things to talk about when building a fireplace chimney for Santa to come down. Have fun and solve life's mysteries as you learn to plan, think, hypothesize and solve problems you may run into.

**Dramatic Play Time: Hopsy's General Store, Home and School Lessons: Dramatic Play Time:** Begin these special play and role modeling sessions with a holiday story book and then talk about Season of Winter, the weather - temperature, rain, snow, wind, and the Holidays that come in Winter. Have fun role modeling, learning life skills, pretending and playing with your friends.

**Hopsy's General Store:** Read a Holiday Food themed book and talk about what people eat for the holidays. Have fun shopping with your friends to get ready for these holidays - what do you need? Then "cook" all your food to share with your friends. Set the table, add some special decorations for the holidays, and practice your table manners. Don't forget to leave time to sort and return all your shopping items to the store in their proper place.

**Hopsy's Home:** Read Winter and Holidays book and discuss. Dress the babies for Winter weather making sure they are keeping their body warm by covering their hands, feet, heads and bodies with warm clothing. Set the table, add some special decorations for the holidays, and practice your table manners. Then "cook" all your food to share with your friends. Practice making holiday time special. Leave time to put everything back in place.

**Hopsy's School:** Read a winter and holidays book. Discuss what we have been learning about. Then dress the dolls warmly for the winter weather then tell them all about/teach them all the things you are learning in school. Use the felt, magnets, gears to teach with. Have fun playing teacher while turning short term memories into longtime lessons learned.

**Kitchen Creation: A Holiday Cooking Story first - then: Healthy Snack Baking: Pumpkin Bread:** Follow the recipe, measure the ingredients, counting, fractions, chemistry and nutritional lessons all in the baking of this special holiday bread. Use your 5 senses as you touch the ingredients, smell the pumpkin pie spices, see what each ingredient looks like, see the batter and watch how adding heat from the oven transforms the ingredients into something solid from something liquid. Listen with your ears as you build vocabulary, learn to follow directions- what comes first, second, third, last? And Last but not least-use your Taste buds to enjoy this special healthy holiday treat



that you have been a part of making with your class. **While the bread is baking**-Mix up some **Pumpkin Spice Playdough**- add a little holiday sparkly glitter to the dough and talk about the Winter Solstice and the sparkly shine of the sun. Each child will measure, pour, stir with their fingers for fine motor skill building and strengthening-**Have fun creating Winter Solstice Sun creations** to take home after they dry. Paint and add more glitter and sparkles to the creations before they fully dry to make them extra special for the Solstice celebrations we have been learning about.

**Library Time:**

Read Holiday Stories about the Winter Solstice Celebrations and about the season of Winter. Share Family Holiday stories with the class. Discuss if anything in the stories is something similar in your holiday time at home with your family. Have fun predicting what happens next in the story or how it ends. Read at circle time, at the beginning of each learning center time, at lunch time, at nap time, during outdoor time, at music and movement, theater and even balance and coordination time. Tie the stories to the children's math, science, blocks, kitchen creation and art lessons. Literature helps make connections to the lesson goals we have.

**Puzzles & Manipulatives:**

Special story first -then: Sort out Yellow & White for the sun from the connectors, thistles, pegs and stackers and have fun creating with these colors- make patterns, count, and build. Have fun playing with Holiday puzzles to enhance holiday lessons and develop your spatial skills. Clean-up time is an important lesson too - have fun sorting the pieces and getting them back into the correct bins. Don't forget to check the carpet for all pieces to ensure the puzzles are complete. (color recognition and fine motor skills)

**Music & Movement:**

**Winter Solstice Celebrations** -Read a Special Winter Solstice Book then see if you can you spin in a circle like the earth does around its axis and around the sun? Can you walk in a spiral created on the floor to the middle and turn around and walk back out on the spiral path? Can you hold hands with your classmates (after carefully washing/sanitizing hands) to spin and dance in a circle like the Winter Solstice celebrations do to celebrate the coming back of the sunlight in greater and greater amounts each day following the first day of Winter on the Winter Solstice- the shortest daylight day of the year. Next: read and do all the posing in the Yoga Hello Sun Story. Have the children roll out their mats, use them during the story, wipe them with a wipe, and roll them back up again for fine motor skill building and learning to help and clean-up after themselves lessons all wrapped in one.

**Science:**

**Lesson 1:** Social Science Lessons: Start with a story about Holidays Around the World-this week we are talking and learning about Winter Solstice Celebrations all around the world. Celebrating the Winter Solstice helps children welcome in Change in their environment - embrace it, there is nothing more predictable in life than change and we can help children understand change by celebrating it, learning about it, waiting for it and wanting it. How do they celebrate the Winter Solstice in Iran? England? Learning about celebrations around the world ties us all together in celebration regardless of our religion, our beliefs, Solstice is a tradition that is celebrated universally and inclusively and helps children realize that we all share the Earth. With this lesson in connection to others comes the developing of empathy-a very abstract idea to our youngest but by making these celebrations, and connections a regular ritual, we will deepen these lessons quite naturally as they grow.

**Lesson 2:** Social Science Lessons: Start by Reading a Story about Holidays and Gift Giving-then talk about Gift Giving, the feeling the children are having about their special gifts they are making for the parents, their family members and others. Use this time to finish up your holiday gifts, holiday cards, holiday tags, gift bag decoration, wrapping paper making and start wrapping up any finished gifts the children have made and get them ready for the children to take home for their families.

**Theater:**

Read a story about Snowballs then -Put on your imaginary warm clothing - coat, hat, mittens, boots and pretend to play in the snow and build a snowman, have a snowball fight, pretend to be your favorite animal in the snow - how do they move? How do they communicate? How do they keep warm? Do they like to play in the snow? Do they slip and slide around? (Imagination, language development)





Monthly theme: Holidays Around the World

**WEEK 16** Weekly theme: Christmas and Christmas Around the World Celebrations Letter: Aa-Oo Review Number: 16, 1-16 review  
Color: Red and Green Shape: Triangle & Christmas Tree Pattern: Tree, Candy Cane, Tree, Candy Cane

**Daily Circle:** Flag salute (English), calendar, numbers, fruits/vegetables, seasons, months, colors, shapes, songs, and animals (English and Spanish), Holidays Around the World -Christmas around the World – how does it differ from one country to the next? How is it the same? What kind of songs, dances, food, and decorations does each country have for this holiday? How do the children get their gifts from Santa in each country? Some countries put out stockings, some wooden shoes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Art	Create a piñata, work on finishing touches of holiday gifts as needed	Create Christmas trees & work on finishing holiday gifts	Create an evergreen wreath, work on finishing holiday gifts	Create paper plate holiday art, work on finishing holiday gifts	Finish holiday cards, work on finishing holiday gift tags To: and From with the child practicing writing their name on each tag

**PM Art Sessions:** Use this time first to finish up any holiday gifts, have the child finish all gift wrapping in their own hand-made wrapping paper, creation and writing in their hand-made cards, attaching their hand-made tags, or wrapping in tissue and putting in their hand-decorated gift bags and tying with ribbon. Once complete use this time to make holiday art indoors and outdoors, let nature inspire you with the season of winter and let the stories of the world wide celebrations of the Winter Solstice, Hanukah, and Christmas all around the globe.

**Balance & Coordination:** Read a holiday story and then have the children help Build a Holiday Obstacle Course- use stepping stones/cone/dots to build paths to follow, use all their favorite things to go over poles, crawl through tunnels, balance on balance beam creations and walk on tippy toes, hop on 1 foot, 2 feet, and anything else the children love to do – see how fast they can go through the whole obstacle course safely and then see how slow motion they can go and still get through all the obstacles and challenges set up for them to do. (develop large motor skills)

**Blocks & Trains:** Lesson 1: Read a special Holiday book then have fun building & stacking 10, 11, 12, 13,14,15,16 blocks of different shapes and sizes –can you make them stack without falling over? Problem solve by trying over and over to get them to all stack up (STEM activity)  
Lesson2: Read Polar Express and then build the Polar Express Train to the North Pole, people & animals celebrate – how big can you make the train tracks to the North Pole? How many people and animals can you take there to visit Santa/s Workshop? (encourage working together, planning, and sharing)

**Dramatic Play Time: Hopper’s General Store, Home and School Lessons:** Begin these special play and role modeling sessions with a holiday story book and then talk about Season of Winter, the weather – temperature, rain, snow, wind, and the Holidays that come in Winter. Talk about Christmas around the world and what it looks like in the different countries, cities and homes of the people who celebrate it.

**Hopper’s General Store:** Read a Holiday Food themed book and talk about what people eat for the holidays. Have fun shopping with your friends to get ready for these holidays – what do you need? Then “cook” all your food to share with your friends. Set the table, add some special decorations for the holidays, and practice your table manners. Don’t forget to leave time to sort and return all your shopping items to the store in their proper place.

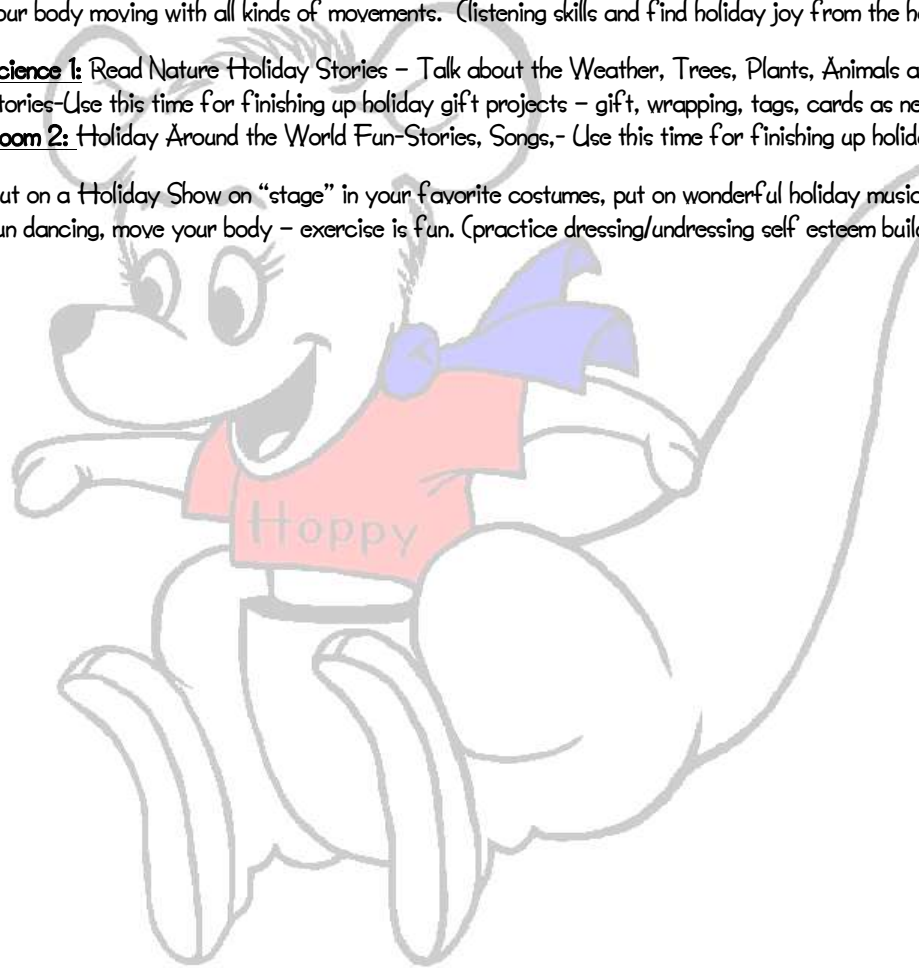
**Hopper’s Home:** Read Winter and Holidays book and discuss. Dress the babies for Winter weather making sure they are keeping their body warm by covering their hands, feet, heads and bodies with warm clothing. Decorate the tree, set the table, add some special decorations for the holidays, and practice your table manners. Then “cook” all your food to share with your friends. Practice making holiday time special. Leave time to put everything back in place.

**Hopper’s School:** Read a winter and holidays book. Discuss what we have been learning about. Then dress the dolls warmly for the winter weather then tell them all about/teach them all the things you are learning in school. Use the felt, magnets, gears to teach with. Have fun playing teacher while turning short term memories into longtime lessons learned.

**Kitchen Creation:** Holiday Creative Healthy Snack - decorate a whole wheat graham cracker using this set of ingredients- be creative while combining grains, dairy and fruit for a healthy snack: cream cheese, cheerios, dried cranberries and raisins. (self-reliance, vocabulary building, creativity, trying new things, the four healthy food groups) Then if time permits: Playdough mixing time – Let each child make a bowl. Measure, pour, stir. Add cinnamon for a touch of holiday season scents. Have fun creating Christmas creations, use cookie cutters, make 3d creations, whatever you wish to make to take home after they dry. Paint them after they dry and add yarn, pipe cleaners, glitter and sparkles to make them extra special for the holidays. (measuring, fine motor skills, creativity)



- Library Time:** Read Holiday Stories, Share a Family Holiday stories with the class. Discuss if anything in the stories is something similar in your holiday time at home with your family. Have fun predicting what happens next in the story or how it ends. Read at circle time, at the beginning of each learning center time, at lunch time, at outdoor time, at music and movement, theater and even balance and coordination time. Tie the stories to the children's math, science, blocks, kitchen creation and art lessons. Literature helps make connections to the lesson goals we have.
- Puzzles & Manipulatives:** Holiday Puzzles, linking chain patterns – use the red and green to make patters, and find the red and green thistle blocks to build red and green creations. Since it is the holidays – use the sweet treat color, shape, patterns, math toys to enhance basic math skills. Make sure to leave plenty of time for sorting and putting all the toys back in their proper bins – search the floor for all the pieces to each puzzle and ensure none are left for someone to trip or step on. (fine motor, hand-eye coordination)
- Music:** Dance, sing and listen to holiday songs-loud and soft, fast and slow, use bells, scarves, ribbons – play “Santa says” and get your body moving with all kinds of movements. (listening skills and find holiday joy from the holiday music)
- Movement:**
- Science:** Science 1: Read Nature Holiday Stories – Talk about the Weather, Trees, Plants, Animals and Signs of Winter in the Stories-Use this time for finishing up holiday gift projects – gift, wrapping, tags, cards as needed  
Room 2: Holiday Around the World Fun-Stories, Songs,- Use this time for finishing up holiday projects as needed
- Theater:** Put on a Holiday Show on “stage” in your favorite costumes, put on wonderful holiday music. – Sing Holiday songs, have fun dancing, move your body – exercise is fun. (practice dressing/undressing self esteem building, confidence)







### Monthly theme: Holidays Around the World

**WEEK 17** Weekly theme: Holidays Around the World – Kwanzaa, Hanukah, Christmas & New Year’s Fun **Letter:** Aa – Oo review

**Number:** 17, Review 1-17 **Color:** Silver and Gold **Shape:** Circle, Square, Triangle, Rectangle, Oval Review

**Pattern:** Review 1212, abab, 11221122, AABBAABB

**Daily Circle:** Flag salute (English), calendar, numbers, fruits/vegetables, seasons, months, colors, shapes, songs, and animals (English and Spanish), Holidays Around the World – Kwanzaa, Hanukah and Boxing Day, What is Kwanzaa? Celebrated December 26<sup>th</sup> - January 1<sup>st</sup>. Kwanzaa was started in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga to bring together the African American community and celebrate their heritage. He took traditions from the African harvest or “first fruit” celebrations and highlighted 7 symbols that represent values and concepts reflective of African culture. What is Hanukah? How is Hanukah is celebrated – Hanukah is also called the Festival of Lights. What is a Dreidel? How do you play with it? What is a Menorah? What is it used for? Christmas, why do we decorate a Christmas Tree? What is the New Year Holiday? Why and How do people celebrate the New Year around the world?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Art	Kwanzaa Art- the special celebration has 7 symbols for 7 values – Make a Kinara with the 7 Candles Make Blue & silver and Silver & gold for Hanukah New Year’s headbands, and necklaces	Dreidel & Marble (Golf balls for safety of our youngest artists) painting in our trays- a blob of paint, a plastic dreidel and some fun spinning and creating dreidel art.	Closed for Holiday	Closed for Holiday	Closed for Holiday

**PM Art Sessions:** Hanukah Art and Kwanzaa Art- handprint a Kwanzaa wreath, handprint Kwanzaa Kinara, Woven or Decorate Kwanzaa Placemats, Paper chains garland, Necklace and Silver and Gold New Year Art Creations –marble or golf ball painting, finger painting with silver and gold paint, silver and gold pipe cleaner creations, gold and silver bead stringing, gold and silver pasta stringing or pasta creations art.

**Balance & Coordination:** Read a special Winter Activities Story then have fun exercising and building coordination skills. Jump into and out of little and big hoops on the ground, weave around the cones and jump through the standing up in their stands hula hoops, jump over foam poles then crawl under the poles, walk across the balance beams and get your body moving with exercise cards along the way. Do the course over and over again and change up the course throughout your session if you wish.

**Blocks & Trains:** **Lesson 1:** Read a story about a Holiday Parade –then Cooperatively Create a parade route of block roads all around the classroom using all sizes, shapes, colors of blocks then add vehicles and people participating in the parade along the roadway. Don’t forget to add the people and their pets watching the parades along the sides of the road. Holiday Parades are fun – have fun putting on a parade your parade route.

**Lesson 2:** Building with blocks fun and creation of your choice – please make sure to leave enough time for sorting and returning all the blocks and toys to their proper bins and shelves at the end of class. (Creation, imagination, planning, cooperation with classmates, hand-eye coordination and tie-in to our lessons on the coming of the New Year and traditions and celebrations of change that happens)

**Dramatic Play Time: Hoppy’s General Store, Home and School Lessons:** Read a couple holiday books at the beginning of the session looking carefully at the pictures of the special items used during the special celebrations. Talk about the holidays happening this week. Celebrate by playing with some of the special items Kwanzaa, Hanukah and Christmas have as part of their special holiday celebrations. What is a Kinara? What is a Menorah? What is an advent calendar or advent wreath? How do you use them? What do you celebrate at home? What are some of the items you and your family use to decorate and celebrate your special holidays at this time of year? Have fun role modeling, learning life skills, pretending and playing with your friends.

**Hoppy’s General Store:** Read a Holiday Food themed book and talk about what people eat for the holidays. Have fun shopping with your friends to get ready for these holidays – what do you need? Then “cook” all your food to share with your friends. Set the table, add some special decorations for the holidays, and practice your table manners. Don’t forget to leave time to sort and return all your shopping items to the store in their proper place.

**Hoppy’s Home:** Read Winter and Holidays book and discuss. Dress the babies for Winter weather making sure they are keeping their body warm by covering their hands, feet, heads and bodies with warm clothing. Decorate the tree, set the table, add some special decorations for the holidays, and practice your table manners. Then “cook” all your food to share with your friends. Practice making holiday time special. Leave time to put everything back in place.

**Hoppy’s School:** Read a winter and holidays book. Discuss what we have been learning about. Then dress the dolls warmly for the winter weather then tell them all about/teach them all the things you are learning in school. Use the felt, magnets, gears to teach with. Have fun playing teacher while turning short term memories into longtime lessons learned.

**Kitchen Creation:** Read a Special Holiday Baking Book –then **Learn How to Make Healthy Holiday Sweet Treats:** Mix Cream Cheese with a little marshmallow fluff to create a sweet dip for apple wedges( Fraction Lessons: talk whole, half, quarters, eighths as you create the apple wedges). **Then: It is Happy Holidays Sparkly Playdough mixing time** – Have each child mix their own batch of dough with added glitter and sequins in it. Talk about Measuring 1 whole cup or ½ cup or ¼ cup – Fractions lessons at their finest. Have fun creating sparkly



creations for the holidays with your dough. Let it dry, paint it if you wish. (math, measuring, fractions, fine motor skills, self-reliance, healthy creativity)

**Library Time:** Read Winter and Holiday Stories, Share a Family Holiday stories with the class. Discuss if anything in the stories is something similar in your holiday time at home with your family. What is happening in the story? What do you think will happen as we keep reading? Have fun predicting what happens next in the story or how it ends. Talk about the New Year and what you think will happen in the New Year? What do you want to do? Read at circle time, at the beginning of each learning center time, at lunch time, at outdoor time, at music and movement, theater and even balance and coordination time. Tie the stories to the children's math, science, blocks, kitchen creation and art lessons. Literature helps make connections to the lesson goals we have for the children. (Lesson: Past, Present, Future)

**Puzzles & Manipulatives:** Holiday Stories first: then enjoy Holiday Manipulative Fun- have fun building spatial skills with the holiday puzzles, learn math while building fine motor skills as you use the number pegs and count along. Practice matching shapes and colors with the holiday treat cupcakes, cookies and other sweet treat learning toys. Please help the children use the learning toys properly and completely put away the toys. Search the floor for missing parts and stay longer if longer clean-up time is needed. Sorting and cleaning up are all important lessons to learn. (math and spatial skills, numbers, patterns, colors, fine motor, hand-eye coordination)

**Music & Movement:** Read a special holiday party book. Throw a Holiday Party with your class. Hand out the instruments and have a Celebration by playing music together. Then listen to holiday songs, sing along, then have a dance party with line dancing and follow the leader (creating holiday traditions, music lessons, and music appreciation)

**Science:** **Science 1:** Read a book about the Changing Seasons-Review Seasons of Summer to Fall to Winter. Teach about body warmth - Using your jackets, hats, gloves and rain boots if needed to keep your body from losing the heat it needs to live. Review the 5 Senses and use each of them going on a Nature Walk Outside. What do you see, smell, hear, feel and use your taste sense at snack, lunch and kitchen creation time. Look for Creepy Crawlies that we learned about in October and find signs of Animals preparing for Winter. Review November Animal Science : Can you see or hear any birds? Are they using their wings to fly? What sounds are they making that you hear with your ears? Signs of the Seasons Review: Are there still leaves on some of the trees? Do all trees lose their leaves? Does Kids Klub have Evergreen type trees in their yard?

**Science 2:** Holiday fun -Magic School Bus Holiday Special Science Lessons: Science video of your choice from the Magic School Bus Collection? Encourage good posture, listening skills and science passion as we travel with Ms Frizzle to learn all about science.

**Theater Time:** Have a Kwanzaa, Hanukah, Christmas and New Year's Eve Party - read the storybooks about each holiday then dress up, "light" the candles, put on some party hats, get some noise makers, turn on the music, sing along with the holiday songs from each of these special celebrations, then when it is "time": countdown to "Happy New Year" for math practice - backwards counting, forward counting and then dance dance dance to fun music with the disco ball turned on for some fun lighting effects. After all that dancing - Read one of the many Yoga Story books as you follow along with all the yoga poses throughout the story, breathe and calm your body and prepare for your next wonderful learning center and lessons.