



Smile Maker

November 2016

Greater Detroit Cooperative Preschool Teacher's Association

Calling all Teachers....Spring Share Fair!

-Tracey Smith TA President

I want to put a little bug in your ear and ask you to think about sharing a classroom activity or two with our teacher members. Our March workshop will include our popular Teacher Share Fair. Please consider sharing your tried and true activities with colleagues. We often become caught in our own routines when we aren't regularly exposed to other ways of doing something. One of the best and most easily accessible ways we can witness other approaches to teaching, techniques, materials, perspectives and early childhood experiences comes from our colleagues. You do not need to be an experienced speaker to participate in our Share Fair. Bring a copy or example of your activity and discuss your thoughts and past experience with this and share your ideas. We would love to have your participation at our Spring Workshop. Please let us know if you are interested.

Speaking of Sharing -Our colleague Julie Fuller is also an actress and filmed a commercial!!

I filmed an international commercial over the summer for Pedigree. It's called "Doggy Daycare". The premise was, what would it look like if we replaced all the kids in a daycare with dogs?

It was super fun as I got to play with dogs AND kids...my two favorite things! I played one of the two teachers. It should be shown online and possibly on TV beginning in September.

Little Penguin

Sung to: I'm a Little
Tea Pot

I'm a little
Penguin
Big and fat,
Here is my beak,
Here is my hat.
Winter days are
coming,
Hear me shout,
"Please don't
Toss my mittens
out!"



Must-Know Winter Health & Safety Tips



Your biggest cold-weather questions answered, with advice on winter sports, the best cold-weather wardrobe, and more.

Winter fun is beckoning, but keeping kids healthy, warm, and entertained can be trickier than putting snow boots on a squirrel. Little guys will head straight into a blizzard in their underwear if they can. Here's how to make sure everyone gets out there and has a great time, safely.

Can They... Go Outside?

Windy days can feel much colder than the actual temperature. When deciding how long kids (and adults!) can play outdoors safely, the wind chill factor is most important. Keep this chart handy:

Green Zone: 30°F and higher

Kids can usually play outside comfortably when it's 30°F and higher -- just layer their clothing and make sure they wear hats and mittens. Offer water often (it helps regulate body temperature), and watch for signs that they're getting chilled. If they're shivering, bring them inside even if they insist they're fine. Feel babies' hands and (if possible) feet regularly to see if they're turning icy; also watch for unexplained fussiness. It's a good idea to come inside for a quick break every 40 minutes or so, just to warm up a bit.

Yellow Zone: About 20°F - 30°F

Be cautious. It's okay for your kids to go out, but follow the guidelines above, and expect to see signs of chill sooner -- take short indoor breaks every 20 to 30 minutes. It's especially crucial to layer older kids' clothes, since they may ditch their coats if they get sweaty and so need to be wearing more than a thin shirt underneath.

Red Zone: Below 20°F

Stay indoors.

Wind chill Decoder

30° = chilly and generally uncomfortable

15° to 30° = cold

0° to 15° = very cold

-20° to 0° = bitter cold, with a significant risk of frostbite

-60° to -20° = extreme cold; frostbite is likely to occur

-60° = frigid; exposed skin will freeze in one minute

Good Sports!

There's no cuter sight than a kid zipping down a ski slope or gliding across the ice. But when are they ready to try these slippery activities? Check out these rules for a smart start.

3-year-olds are ready for...

Sledding with you. Make sure she's sitting facing forward and not lying on her stomach -- Choose a slope with a gradual incline, and troubleshoot the path thoroughly before pushing off to avoid collisions with a fellow sledder, tree, or vehicle.

4- to 6-year-olds are ready for...

Skiing solo. They're getting more balanced and coordinated, and they're more capable of really learning basic technique. A lesson on the bunny slope at a ski center is a good idea. Most experts recommend that children not use ski poles while learning. Instead, tell your child to keep his hands on his knees; it'll help him learn to distribute his weight the right way.

Ice-skating. For your first outing, choose a public skating session at a local rink -- ideally at an off-peak hour -- and rent a pair of skates for your child. Ice skates should be a half-size smaller than her shoe size, since you need a snug, supportive fit. Begin by simply walking around on the floor in the skates, then walk on the ice holding on to the rail, to get a feel for how to balance. As your child gets more confident, take her hand and help her glide until she's ready to try it on her own. If she really enjoys ice-skating, group lessons will help her increase her ability.

Dress for Cold-Weather Success

For playing in the snow:

Water-repellent pants and jacket, or a snowsuit, with layers underneath (such as a turtleneck or thermal shirt covered by a sweater)

Water-repellent gloves or mittens

Cotton socks

Hat

Water-repellent boots

For sledding, add:

Bike or ski helmet

For skiing, add:

Ski helmet (instead of a hat)

Long underwear

Goggles/sunglasses with UV protection, depending on the weather

For ice-skating, add:

Knee pads, elbow pads, and wrist guards, especially for beginners



What to do this Winter



DECEMBER: String Shapes

Cut pieces of string or yarn into 3 foot lengths. Tell the children to make a circle on the floor. Let's stand inside our circles...jump out of our circles, etc...Let's turn our circles into triangles...into lines etc...



January: Dancing Paper Clip

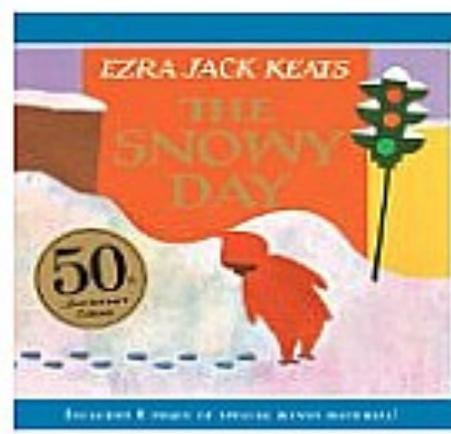
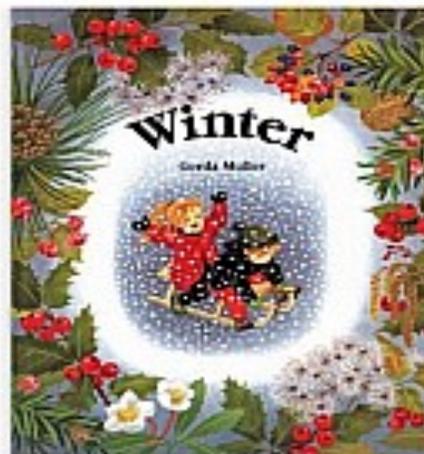
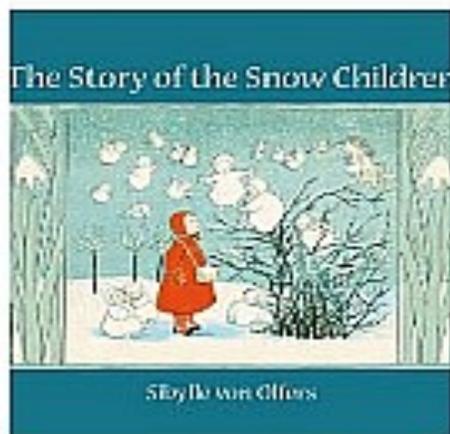
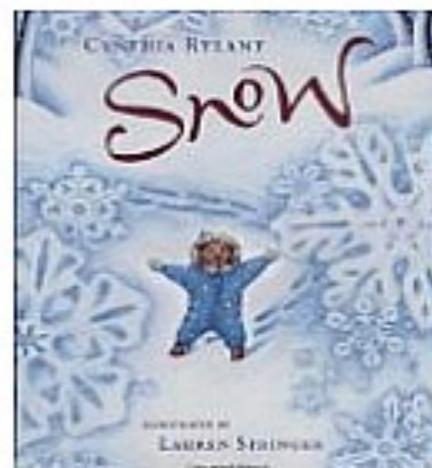
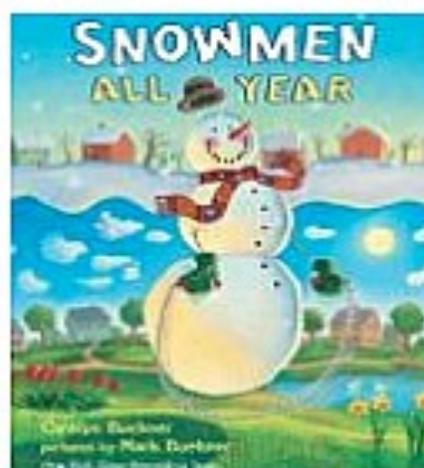
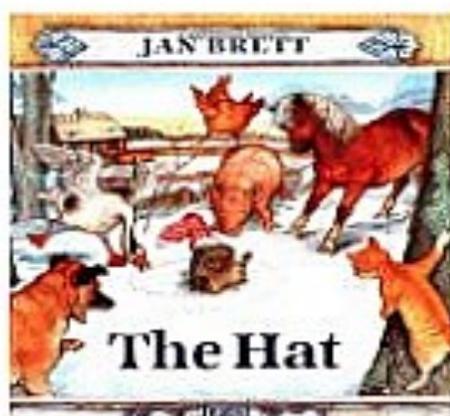
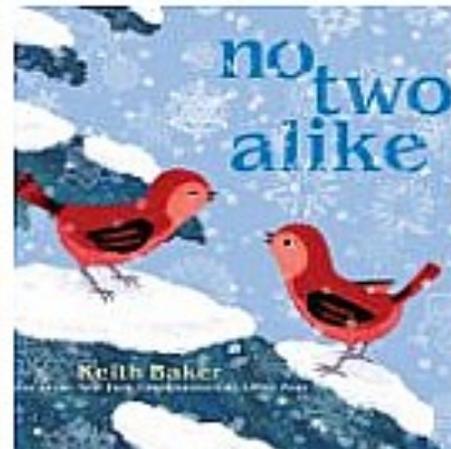
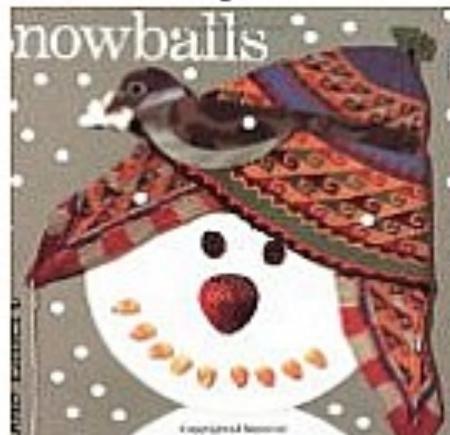
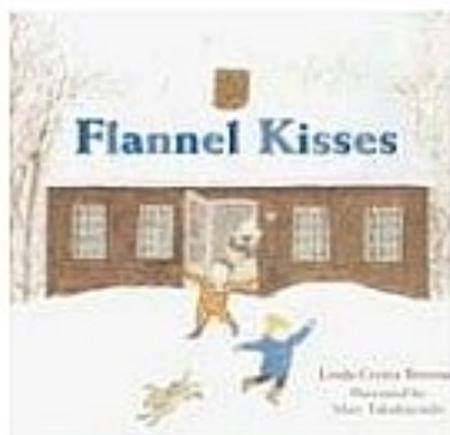
Fill a jar with water and drop a steel paper clip in it. Tell the children you want them to make the paper clip dance up and down in the water without touching it. Show them how to move a magnet up and down outside the jar to make the clip dance. Let the children explore. Explain that the magnetic force from the magnet passes through the glass and water to make the paper clip move.



February: Letter Cups

Print a different alphabet letter in the bottom of six paper baking cups. Place the cups in a muffin tin. Print the same letters on small circles cut from construction paper. Have the children sort the circles into the appropriate muffin tin cups.

Our Favorite Children's Books About **WINTER**





I hope you enjoy these and that it helps to relieve some of your stress and bring a smile to your face!

JACK (age 3) was watching his Mom breast-feeding his new baby sister. After a while he asked: 'Mom why have you got two? Is one for hot and one for cold milk?'

MELANIE (age 5) asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, 'If you don't remember you must look in the back of your panties. Mine say five to six.'

BRITTANY (age 4) had an ear ache and wanted a pain killer.. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'It makes my teeth cough.'

DJ (age 4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked: 'How much do I cost?'

CLINTON (age 5) was in his bedroom looking worried When his Mom asked what was troubling him, he replied, 'I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in it?'

MARC (age 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: 'Why is he whispering in her mouth?'

TAMMY (age 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her Mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, 'Why doesn't your skin fit your face?'

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

Have a great day and week, and keep smiling !





GDCPTA

The Greater Detroit Cooperative Preschool Teacher's Association

TA Learning Fair

Schoolcraft College

Friday November 4, 2016

Katy Held, Educational Kinesiologist

Bal-A-Vis-X Rhythmic Brain Integration

Joyce Schonsheck Director/Teacher

Milford Cooperative Preschool

Learning is not a Spectator Sport:

Engage students with active learning using the
High Scope approach.

Conference Calendar

November 4, 2016

TA Fall Workshop

November 12, 2016

Child Connect Conference

Howell High School

November 29-December 1, 2016

Michigan Collaborative Early
Childhood Conference

Royal Dearborn Hotel and
Convention Center

January 2017

Macomb Comm. College
Early Childhood Conference

March 2, 2017

TA Spring Workshop

April 20-22 2017

MiAEC

Grand Rapids, MI

Don't Forget to

Get the Word out about

GDCPTA!

Our wonderful workshops can be
counted towards the 16 clock
hours of annual training required
by licensing.

preschoolteachersassociation.weebly.com

The *Smile Maker* is your newsletter. If you have anything you would like to submit for our next issue please email it to the editor: reneehult@yahoo.com.

The Greater Detroit Cooperative Preschool Teacher's Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, nation or ethnic origin.