



Scouts Jeff Bates, Nick Keniston, and Nicholas Terwilliger watch parent Shane Smart start their Pinewood Derby racers. Photo: Bob Bussey

Proctor Childcare / Preschool

By Karen Sanborn

Proctor Childcare/Preschool

I work with the Younger Toddler group comprising a total of five magnificent children ranging in age from 20 months to two years old.

With our consistent and structured routine, these toddlers gain a sense of control and independence in their day. They are provided with the rich experiences they need to develop trusting and caring relationships and to feel safe and secure within their environment. The Younger Toddlers participate in a large variety of activities which expand their socio-emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

This past fall we had so much fun! A few of our favorite daily activities included: building sand castles; rustling and tumbling in the leaves; watching birds take a bath in the pond; watching

and listening to two squirrels chatter as they chased each other up, down, and around a huge oak tree; throwing, catching, kicking balls in the gym; hearing our voices echo inside the railroad tunnel on Lawrence Street; and playing in our gross motor skills room.

Art, art, and more art! I'm so proud of all five of the Younger Toddlers. This past fall they worked very diligently on their masterpieces which were later used to create a 2007 calendar for their parents.

Now we are looking to the future. A new year has begun! We have taken on the task of learning our colors, shapes, numbers, and ABCs, while still being very much involved in art. Our days also consist of story time (books, pictures, and puppets), music and dancing, blocks, puzzles, dramatic play, and conversation. We are very busy!

East Andover Village Preschool

By Doreen Perreault

East Andover Village Preschool

The children in Preschool I – the Bouncy Bears – spent January exploring nursery rhymes. We welcomed Chef Combo and the chance to fine-tune our cooking skills. With the help of Little Boy Blue, we made Haystack cookies.

The children enjoyed wearing their pajamas to school during Wee Willie Winkie Day and had fun jumping over a candlestick, with Jack of course!

Our favorite experiment was creating Humpty Dumpty. The children added faces to eggs and after singing the verse, "Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall..." the children knocked their eggs off the wall and onto the floor. We now understand why Humpty Dumpty couldn't be put back together again!

We ended the month with a Teddy Bear Day and a visit from Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

The Preschool II children – the Busy Bees – enjoyed some winter experiments. We learned how to mix colors in the water table and in shaving cream. They tried to build their own snowman...despite the lack of snow, they did pretty well.

We tested lots of items in our Sink and Float experiment and learned that a



Brianna Tilton.

Photo: Doreen Perreault

cork can float, but a magnet can't. The children experimented with ice cubes and painted with icicles. We matched mittens, and played the Snowy Pokey. We heard the stories of *Tacky the Penguin* and *The Snowy Day*.

During February, we will be busy collecting mail for our classroom Post Office and look forward to sending out our own Valentines.

Fall Registration

Fall registration is presently underway! Preschool I – Tuesday and Thursday. Children must be 3 by September 30. Preschool II – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Children must be 4 by September 30. Contact the director, Doreen Perreault, at dperreault@tds.net or 735-5105.



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Parent to Parent...

How can I tell if my child has an ear infection?

Three out of 4 children have an ear infection by the time they are age 3. Some symptoms are tugging at the ears, having trouble hearing, crying more than usual, or having difficulty sleeping. If you suspect an ear infection, you should call your child's doctor.

Acetaminophen or ibuprofen can relieve ear pain. Make sure your child gets plenty of rest.

Be careful if you're thinking about using alternate treatments. None has been proven to help ease ear infections. Antihistamines and decongestants do not help treat or prevent ear infections.

To avoid spreading the infection, keep your sick child away from other children, especially those prone to ear infections.



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