



February 2025

Cabin fever is real!

The sunshine today. aHHHH.

We do love your kids!

It continues to be a pleasure feeding their joys and helping them work out their individual and social struggles.

Despite the cabin fever, January had some great fun. We sang about Martin and talked about freedom and justice. They told me today that they are all going to save the world.

Thank goodness, I told them—we're counting on you. Sigh.

When we did get out, play evolved from sledding to Jude pulling kids in sleds, to kids pulling kids in sleds, some kids pulling two kids in sleds! Great weight bearing (baric) workouts!

Speaking of workouts, we have been dancing the cabin fever away and playing instruments, we have even been doing calisthenics!

Inside skills are building too—we're beginning to see representational drawing and doing lots of scissor cutting practice. All children are showing some interest in sound play and counting and they are all becoming puzzle monster! This month we will add some more basic cooking to our fun!



Monthly Notes

Enrollment Plans for Fall 2025

Hard to believe—it's that time of year when families in this area begin planning for the next school year, but we are not sure we will have any spots. *Although we agree to a 30 day's notice for contract changes, and we'd like to hold onto your child as long as possible, please let us know if you if you are looking ahead to make a change in your child's care.*

February Holidays

♥ We will be closed Feb. 17-21 for Winter Break

February				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
26	27	28	29	

Exclusionary Play

Through play, children learn and develop important skills they will use throughout their lives. Play is children's work, and it's serious. Through play children build physical skills and self-confidence, gather information about the world and learn to negotiate with and be with others.

We often think of play as a social activity, but play is fundamentally personal, driven by one's own curiosity. At WHE we support play by providing toys and other safe objects that support active engagement and extend children's interests. They are given opportunity for uninterrupted play and freedom to explore, but when play becomes exclusionary, we intervene.

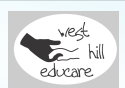
"Popular culture is filled with images of adolescent "mean girls" who control everyone around them through hurtful words, exclusion, and social pressure. Although more widely recognized in late elementary and middle school, attempts to dominate through relational aggression—sometimes called *social bullying*—begin much earlier. These experiences are now observed in kindergarten, with some young children excluding one another based on clothes, academic ability, and physical skills (Paul 2010). Many teachers of 4-year-olds have heard children say something like "You can't come to my birthday party" or "I won't be your friend if you don't give me that." Increasingly, researchers are recognizing that such statements represent the roots of *relational aggression*—"behaviors that are intended to significantly damage another child's friendships or feelings of inclusion by the peer group" (Crick & Grotpeter 1995, 711)—and that these behaviors begin in pre-school. A large body of research points out the harm caused by social bullying in childhood and adolescence, suggesting a pressing need to prevent relational aggression or stop it as soon as it starts.

Helping children understand their social world and develop ways to meet their emotional and social needs is a critical part of early education. Children who successfully pursue these goals are rewarded with friends and socially enriching experiences; children who don't may resort to aggression. Relational aggression includes ignoring peers, telling peers they can't play or be part of the group, and setting limits on friendship (e.g., "I won't be your friend unless you let me be the train conductor"). This behavior not only damages the targets of the aggression but also jeopardizes the social and emotional development of the children who use relational aggression."

Tina M. Smith-Bonahue, Sondra Smith-Adcock, Jennifer Harman Ehrentraut

Learn more in their article ["I Won't Be Your Friend If You Don't"](#)

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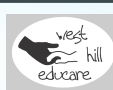
5 Ways to Support Social-Emotional Development

[\(link with more info and videos\)](#)

1. Help children to use power words (like stop and "I don't like that").
2. Help children understand the consequences of behavior.
3. Show while telling, staying focused on the "do" rather than the "don't."
4. Establish "little rules." (Like be kind, be gentle, be safe!)
5. Listen actively and empathetically and help children find words for their feelings.

February Curriculum

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Primary Themes and Activities

- ♥ **Continue Celebration of Lunar New Year**
([Ribbon Dancing](#) and Lantern Making)
- ♥ **Playing with Light** (Magnatiles and x-ray pictures)
- ♥ **Sequence Stories** (Getting dressed for snow)
- ♥ **Snowflakes** (matching pictures, cutting snowflakes)
- ♥ **Arctic and Ocean Animals**
- ♥ **Simple Cooking** (For ideas at home, check out [this article](#))

Songs

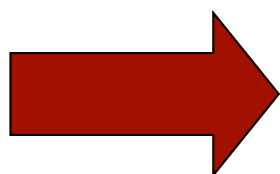
- ♥ **Bushel and a Peck**
- ♥ **Slippery Fish**
- ♥ **Down by the Bay**
- ♥ **The Earth is Our Mother**
- ♥ **Little Blue Ball**
- ♥ **This Pretty Planet**
- ♥ **This Little Light of Mine**

Books

- ♥ **Baby Beluga**
- ♥ **Slippery Fish**
- ♥ **Peter's Big Snow**
- ♥ **Moon**
- ♥ **Owl Moon**

There are always more songs and books!
Changeover and more planning this weekend!
We love when you bring books to share as well!



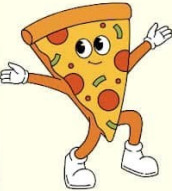


Can You Help?

Please check in with Herianna, she is one of the coordinators of this drive!

BOYNTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PERSONAL CARE DRIVE

STUDENTS WILL BRING TO THEIR HOMEBASE TEACHER



The homebase that collects the most, will get a pizza party!

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WHAT ARE PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS?

• Soap (bars and liquid)	• Toothbrushes	• Face Soap
• Shampoo & Conditioner	• Toothpaste	• Hair brushes
• Hair Care Products	• Floss	• Hair combs
• Hair bonnets	• Toilet paper	• Hair picks
• Razors	• Laundry Detergent Pods	• Undergarments
• Tampons	• Lotion	
• Pads	• Moisturizer	

CHECK OUR OUR AMAZON WISHLIST!



THANK YOU!

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