

CMCC K-4 Preschool Syllabus 2016-17

Dear CMCC Families-

CMCC Staff and Preschool Teachers are blessed to have your child as a part of our Preschool Program.

As a part of our commitment to offer you and your child the best possible Preschool experience, we have spent the last months reviewing and updating our curriculum to assure that your child will be prepared for kindergarten in the fall of 2017.

Because proven research tells us that children need to have their full body involved in learning and that children this age learn best through play, our curriculum will continue to be centered around proven developmentally appropriate learning practices. We will follow the whole child approach to learning - using music, movement, pretend play, and other child-led activities in order to help build and develop the needed skills for life.

We continue to be blessed to have local kindergarten teachers tell us they can tell the difference in a child from CMCC and one from another program. Children are ready to learn, ready to listen, able to focus, and stay on task.

We have developed a syllabus for your child's class that will provide a framework of all that will be going on with your child over the next school year. It also offers suggestions for things that you can do at home to reinforce learning and includes links for additional information and ideas.

All children are different, and our teachers will seek ways to help each child achieve success while here in our program. Please keep your child's teachers of anything you consider important in your child's life to help us in our mission.

This year will be active, fun, messy, and memorable for your child. Most importantly, this year will open a new world of wonder that is ages four and five.

And it will be over before we realize it.

Sincerely,

Colleen Smith, CMCC Director

Frances Savage, CMCC Board Chair



CMCC K-4 Preschool Syllabus 2016-17

AUGUST 2016 (Weeks 1-4)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 1 & 2-Getting Acquainted, Week 2-Favorite Things, Week 3-Nursery Rhymes, Week 4-Pets

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include making new friends, learning about our friends, learning about Jesus, reading by association, sharing about our favorite object, and talking about staying safe.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will stimulate interest in early math concepts by sorting, playing counting games, learning about sharing, recognizing differences in objects. We will play matching games, color games, and work our fine motor skills through small finger work with beads, nuts & bolts, and puzzles.

ART CENTER will have crayons, paper, markers, and paint. We will do crayons rubbings, paper collages, and painting with various mediums.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve playing listening games, moving and grooving to music, learning about and taking care of our instruments, and having fun with scarves and bells.

HOMELIVING will be exploring safety, dressing up, and learning about our families.

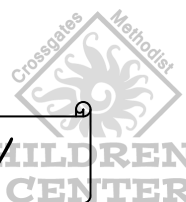
BLOCKS CENTER will be learning about safety, working together, learning about streets, and building towers.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include observing objects from Nature, feeling different textures, experimenting with water and plants, stimulating our interest in Nature.

LITERACY & WRITING CENTER will begin stimulating interest in seeing and writing our language, talking about writing, finding our interests in books through association and read-aloud with teachers. ****READ READ READ** as much as you can with your child... and then read some more. This family tradition/habit is one of the best ways to raise a lifelong learner!

Handwriting Without Tears (HWT): Our language is written in lines and curves. Mat Man will stay with us this year as a group experience as well as in the Writing Center. We will begin working on Vertical and Horizontal Lines in week 2. We begin our letters with vertical and horizontal lines because these are the easiest ones for the children to learn. The first letter of the year will be the letter "L". We will learn all of our capitals first, and learn to recognize the matching lowercase as we move through the year.

Home is the first school; Parents are the first teachers!



Getting Acquainted & My Favorite Things (August 8-12, August 15-19):

- All children will get to show off what they can do and learn more about the other children in the group. We will be exploring all that we can do together, talk about personal safety, and discuss our families. We will learn our differences and similarities and we will learn all about each other's preferences and interests.
- Uppercase letter "L" will begin our HWT fine motor skills study in Week 2.
- Bible Verse Aug 8-12 is Proverbs 17:17a - "A friend loves at all times."
- Bible Verse Aug 15-19 is Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, forgiving each other just as God forgave you."
- We will begin Show And Tell on Friday, August 19; bring a small item to talk about that is a favorite thing or related to the letter "L".

Nursery Rhymes (August 22-26):

- We begin the year learning rhyming words and Nursery Rhymes are a fun introduction to this very important literacy concept. There will be much fun, some major silliness, lots of counting, and brain connections made using Nursery Rhymes. Rhyming words will be a part of everything we do this week. Show And Tell will be on Friday morning.
- Bible verse Proverbs 3:5 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "F".

Pets 1 (August 31 to Sept 2):

- We will learn about all the different types of pets and have opportunities to have pets visit us at school. We will learn about the responsibilities of taking care of a pet and their importance in our lives. Parents are invited to bring a pet to visit during this week or the next week; talk with your teacher about a time that is convenient. Show And Tell will be Friday morning.
- Bible verse Genesis 2:19 - "The Lord God has formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "E".

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Encourage self-help in dressing and undressing; this practice works the fine motor skills in little fingers.
- Another fun way to improve fine motor skills is with stickers. The practice of peeling the sticker off the page (small stickers) and placing it carefully on a piece of paper will also allow your preschooler time to focus quietly on a task for several minutes.
- Use building blocks at home to teach controlled release. Avoid screen time completely, if possible. If a program is watched, watch it together and talk about it during and after.
- Think about Nursery Rhymes and chants you learned as a child and teach them to your child in a fun way. Ask your child which one is their favorite. Pull out a Mother Goose book and read it together; there are more than you remember!
- Here are two wonderful articles to read:

<http://www.kbyutv.org/kidsandfamily/readytolearn/file.axd?file=2011%2F3%2F2+Rhymers+are+Readers-Why+Important.pdf>

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-tips/the-surprising-meaning-and-benefits-of-nursery-rhymes/>

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SEPTEMBER 2016 (Weeks 5-8)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 5-Pets II, Week 6-My Family, Week 7-My Five Senses, Week 8-Dinosaurs

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include learning about animal and human families, accepting all kinds of families, talking about God and how he made animals and people. We will grow in our awareness of all the senses God gave us to experience our world. We will talk and sing and share about dinosaurs and learn about all the different types that used to be on the earth.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will stimulate interest in early math concepts by measuring units to compare sizes of different animals and even dinosaurs. We will sort, organize, compare, and classify different dinosaurs.

ART CENTER will have lots of paper, crayons, markers, and paint. We will cut things, paint things, and make many many lines and marks on paper. We will try to incorporate fossils with our art activities during dinosaur week.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve gross motor dinosaur walking, dancing and singing (RAWR!). There will be songs about pets, songs about our senses, and direct instruction music to assess who can hear and follow directions.

HOMELIVING will be exploring family living and pet care, with a pet bed, bowl and dog/cat toys. We will have opportunities for pretend play involving the kitchen and dinner table, exploring tastes and smells. We will begin to better understand cooperating and collaborating this month, observing child-led activities and pretend play.

BLOCKS CENTER will include animals, people, and dinosaurs in our activities. Children will classify the different animals, match and manipulate the different blocks set, and build on their spatial reasoning through building activities.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include water this month. Water is essential to all living things and we will explore its aspects, discovering what floats and talking about buoyancy and density. We will explore outdoors for fossils and look at fossils of different types.

LITERACY & WRITING CENTER will include a good supply of short crayons, chalk and chalkboards for children to build skills while enjoying Mat Man play individually. We will read, listen, begin to work on recognizing names of our classmates, and learn beginning letters of our names.

Handwriting Without Tears (HWT): We will continue working on Vertical and Horizontal Lines this month, and also beginning curves at the end of the month. We will learn about our "helper hand" and continue with Mat Man and drawing our lines with chalk and with playdough.

Pets II (Sept 6-9; closed Labor Day):

- We will continue learning about what types of animals are good pets and which ones are not. We will make a graph of the different pets from our classroom families. We will classify different animals in our blocks centers to as farm animals, zoo animals, and pets. We hope to grow in our understanding that we need to be gentle at all times with pets and that they rely on us to take care of them. Parents are invited to bring a pet to visit during the week; talk with your teacher if you are able.
- **HWT:** We will work on Uppercase letter "H"
- **Bible Verse Psalm 147:9** - "He provides food for the cattle and for the ravens."
- **Show And Tell Friday.** We will introduce Chapel this week on Friday morning at 9 a.m. Ms Colleen will lead Chapel with the story of "The Light"



My Family (September 12-16):

- The My Family Unit will help us better realize that God planned for families, that family members share different responsibilities, and that there are different types of families living in various types of homes. All children need to feel comfortable with their type of family; working together as a family can contribute to happy relationships. Language incorporation includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking, beginning with what is of interest to the children in the class.
- Bible Verse Ephesians 6:1 - "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "T".
- Friday morning Show And Tell and Chapel led by Ms Melanie at 9 a.m.
- **FAMILY PICNIC will be Friday, September 16 beginning at 11:00 a.m.** Bring a lunch for you and your child, blanket, and anything else that will make the picnic more special. Check with your teachers for any questions.

My Five Senses (September 19-23):

- We will learn about how our senses help us learn about and discover the world around us. We will taste and smell, listen and speak, and look for interesting designs, textures and shapes to incorporate into our activities. We will have a tasting party and we will listen to music on the radio. Our senses help us know more about ways things are different and alike; becoming aware of our senses help us use them ever more.
- Bible Verse John 15:17 - "This is my command: love one another."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "I".
- Friday morning Show And Tell and Chapel led by Ms Marquice at 9 a.m.

Dinosaurs (September 26-30):

- The Dinosaurs Unit is a favorite for all the children; we will be pretending to be dinosaurs and we will be measuring ourselves to compare our sizes to dinosaur sizes. We have a full library of dinosaur books and this would be a great week for special visitors to come read in a big voice to the children. Talk with your teacher if you or a family member would like to read a book during Circle Time.
- Bible Verse Ecclesiastes 3:1 - "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "U".
- Friday morning Show And Tell and Chapel led by Ms Janet at 9 a.m.

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Snap crayons and pieces of chalk in half to encourage the pincer grasp for future handwriting. Stick with these and bring out markers and pencils later in the year.
- If you have a pet at home, give your child a responsibility that they can succeed in, such as cleaning the water bowl and filling it up.
- Have your child help sort laundry at home: by color, by type (shirts, underwear, socks, solids/prints, etc.). This pre-math activity will help your child in developing future skills (and you might have to re-sort the laundry later, but this is a really good place to start).
- Setting the table helps your child in classifying and grouping items; filling glasses with ice (put six ice cubes in each glass) helps your child better understand the concept of one to one correspondence in numeracy.
- Make up hand motions for your child's favorite songs, looking for ways to promote coordination and cross the midline. Crossing the midline is crucial for future reading comprehension. Here is an article on that: <http://spectrumpediatrics.com/blog/2013/12/crossingmidline/>

Here are some websites and articles with ideas for home activities you can do as a family:

<http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/crossing-the-midline.html>

<http://stayathomeeducator.com/dinosaurs-dinosaurs/>

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/10/21-five-senses-activities-for-kids.html>

<http://notjustcute.com/>

<http://www.todaysparent.com/toddler/20-fun-indoor-games/>



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OCTOBER 2016 (Weeks 9-13)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 9-Transportation, Week 10-Nutrition, Week 11-Apples & Worms, Week 12/13-Farm & Harvest

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include learning about healthy habits, keeping our teeth strong and making a big healthy fruit salad as a group. We will talk about what foods are not healthy and how Daniel chose good food to eat. We will invite special visitors to tell us ways to stay healthy.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will stimulate interest in early math concepts by creating a balanced healthy plate; we will play folder games that include shapes and matching healthy food; we will work on one to one correspondence with counters, beans and rice.

ART CENTER will have a variety of non-traditional mediums for creativity; while we will not make food art, we will talk about and create art projects with food in mind this month. We see what types of wheels and transportation items make interesting tracks, and we will make art stampings from apples.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve lots of movement! We will be transported away with creating ways to travel other than by walking and running; we will learn all about the Farmer in the Dell (and what a dell is!) and we will become wiggly worms.

HOMELIVING will be exploring food, farms, restaurants, kitchens and gardens. Child-led pretend play will help teachers observe each child's social awareness and understanding of the concepts learned in other centers.

BLOCKS CENTER will include things that roll and move while we build. Farms with animals will be created and we will continue to work with blocks, planks, and tubes to develop a better understanding of spatial awareness.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include opportunities to learn about corn and shuck corn to eat. Children will explore nature in our own backyard and see different plants that we can grow and eat.

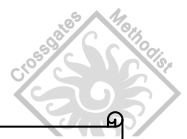
LITERACY & WRITING CENTER will include books that involve nutrition and healthy habits as well as picture books of different modes of transportation. We will learn about all the wrong things that might make us sick and ways we can be healthy. Reading as a group and reading by association in the reading area will build on the children's curiosity about written language. We will have non-fiction books about children just like us as well as story books.

HWT: We will continue to invite Mat Man to play with us daily and the children will work in this center on their own and in teams to assist each other in building letters with the wooden template pieces... these wooden lines and curves make every letter of our language and the children will be exploring the uppercase letters that we have studied so far this year.

Transportation/Moving Around (October 3-7):

- We will ride the BIG BIRD yellow school bus to a field trip to Nichols-Boyd Pumpkin Patch Thursday, October 6. Parents are invited to help chaperone for the trip. We will ride on a tractor/trailer as we see all the interesting farm animals. It is a perfect week to study all the ways we move around our world.
- HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter "C"
- Bible Verse Luke 2:27 - "Mary and Joseph took Jesus to church."
- Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Varonica

That which we must learn before we can do, we must learn by doing.



Nutrition (October 10-14):

- We will learn all about health and nutrition this week and will enjoy tasting some things that we make during class. Since our taste palates are set early in life, we look for ways to introduce different and interesting foods that might not be an every day food. Let your child's teachers know if you would like to provide something healthy or come and share with the class. We will learn what is inside our pumpkin by cutting into it. We will have the opportunity to eat pumpkin seeds and taste some pumpkin pie.
- Bible Verse Ephesians 6:10 - "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "O".
- Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Colleen

Apples & Worms (October 17-21):

- Apples and Worms are a favorite unit for the children and it is a great way for the children to learn how important different animals are in growing plants... we will learn about vermiculture (yes, about worms) and all that worms do for our earth. The children will have opportunities to touch worms and watch worms as they transform trash into clean dirt.
- Bible Verse 1 Corinthians 3:7 - "God makes things grow."
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "Q".
- Show and Tell on Friday; no Chapel this week (Lead Preschool teachers at State Early Childhood Conference Oct 20, 21)

Farm & Harvest (October 24-28 & Oct 31-Nov 4):

- Farm and Harvest perfectly complement the prior week's units. We will learn more about what happens on a farm and how important the farmers are to our community. We will learn about how food is grown and the path it takes from the farm all the way to our tables. We will talk about all the animals we might find on a farm and will learn about what different animals do on a farm. We will learn what it means to harvest crops and will learn how to shuck an ear of corn and to shell peas and will get to eat what we have worked on.
- Bible Verse Week 12 1 Corinthians 3:9 - "We are God's fellow workers."
- Bible Verse Week 13 Ephesians 5:13 - "Serve one another in love."
- We will have "Harvest" Parties on Friday, October 28. Children are invited to dress as farmers or animals. More information will be provided to you from your teachers closer to the date.
- HWT: We will work on uppercase letter "G" week 12 and uppercase letter "S" week 13.
- Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday 10/28 led by Ms Melanie; Chapel Friday 11/4 led by Ms Marquice

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Circle and Curves. Discover circles and curves in your house; explore together. Save bottle caps and allow your child to sort them by color and size. Keep them in your kitchen area for your child to do play activities with while you are preparing dinner.
- Include your child in grocery shopping and talk about where the different foods come from. Children believe that apples come from Kroger and chicken soup comes from a can. Part of being a preschooler is learning what a potato looks like and where it comes from. Spend some time with your child in the produce section and ask questions as well as answer them... then plan a meal with something new!
- In the car traveling to and from school each day, point out the different types of vehicles you see on the road; if it is not already a family tradition, teach your child the universal symbol for "blow your horn" to big rig drivers and hear what happens!
- In the car, note which signs of businesses your child already recognizes (Wal-Mart and Chick-Fil-A are usually some of the first!). This is a stage of literacy — iconological reading, literally the reading of art.
- Articles and interesting websites to visit to support this month's learning:

<https://greenacorns.wordpress.com/2015/09/23/four-fun-explorations-for-fall/>

<http://happilyevermom.com/kids-nature-bucket-list/>

<http://lemonlimeadventures.com/worms-garden-science-activity/>

<http://growingbookbybook.com/literacy-ideas-for-car-and-truck-play/>



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NOVEMBER 2016 (Weeks 14-17)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 14-Fall, Week 15-Indians & Pilgrims, Week 16-Thanksgiving, Week 17-Animal Habitats

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include learning about how God made us all different and all the same in our own way; we will learn how to do a two-step pow-wow dance, we will bring in and share food together to make a friendship stew; we will talk together about all that we are thankful for and help each other appreciate friendships.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will have a variety of counters, shapes, nuts, bolts, magnets, etc. for child led discovery. Of interest in this area will be counting out the days in our month and marking off the days on our class calendar.

ART CENTER will have colors to mix and discover as we talk about the changes in the seasons. We will do crayon leaf rubbings, painting with pine straw, and plan for the unexpected, depending on the children's interest.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve dancing an Indian dance, singing with Ms Colleen all the fun Thanksgiving songs we learn each year, banging tom-toms that we make in class, and learning how to two-step.

HOMELIVING will be ready to dress up in Indian tunics and headdresses; the children will have opportunities to act out the stories we learn about Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims that came to America

BLOCKS CENTER will include opportunities to build a ship like the Mayflower and even a teepee or wigwam to live in. We will continue building on our already acquired skills to develop a better understanding of cause and effect when building and spatial representation within the center.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include favorite leaves that we find at home and at school. We will look at what happens to trees and plants during Fall.

LITERACY & WRITING CENTER will include many books on Fall, Seasons and animals. We will read and learn about which animals sleep where and what animals eat. We will discuss the differences of wild animals and pets and will discover how animals communicate with each other and with people.

HWT: We will go over the different songs that include Mat Man and read more about his adventures in our MM books. We will continue working on our curves, learning proper spacing, and work on the "wet, dry, try" method of handwriting practice with chalk.

Fall (Autumn) (November 7-11):

- **Fall is all about COLOR and CHANGE.** We will be looking for firsthand experiences with the children to discover how the seasons change and to find evidence in nature of the changes. We will talk about the cycle of seasons and look for the color changes in leaves. We will talk about the changes that happen with animals as the seasons change as well.

- **HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter “J”**
- **Bible Verse Jeremiah 5:24 - “The Lord our God gives us autumn.”**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Janet**

Indians/Native Americans & Pilgrims (November 14-18):

- **We will talk about the original people who lived here by all the various names we have learned: Indians, Native Americans, Indigenous Peoples and Sovereign Nations; we will talk about how the settlers came to America to create this great country we call the USA. We will dress up, paint our faces, give ourselves native names, sing, and dance to the tom-toms.**
- **HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter “D”**
- **Bible Verse Psalm 9:2 - “I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.”**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Colleen**

Thanksgiving (November 21-23; CMCC Closed Nov 24, 25):

- **We will focus on all that we are thankful for in our lives while we prepare for Thanksgiving; we will learn more about the early settlers in America and watch the Charlie Brown story of the pilgrims. We will make friendship “stew” and enjoy it with each other and we will enjoy time with our families on Thursday and Friday.**
- **HWT: Review; no new letter this week**
- **Bible Verse Psalm 136:1 - “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.”**

Animal Habitats (November 28-December 3):

- **We will discover all about where animals live, which animals are nocturnal, and what different types of fur, scales, feathers, hair mean in the animal kingdom. We will build on our knowledge by seeing and touching different animal pelts and looking for nests and dens of animals in nature.**
- **HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter “P”**
- **Bible Verse Genesis 1:25 - “God made the animals.”**
- **Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Varonica**

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Make a Thankful Tree as a family, using brown paper and cut out paper hands for leaves. Have your child tell what he is thankful for, and write down with a marker on each leaf. Your child will love being allowed to use glue (and scissors).
- If you carve a pumpkin this year, get more than one and make a family affair of it. Then make something fun with the innards. Pumpkin pie, roasted pumpkin seeds, pumpkin bread, etc. Don't be scared of teaching your child proper knife usage... this is a good age to start.
- Scissor work is a great way to develop the muscles that will be holding pencils in school... find appropriate ways for your child to use scissors as much as possible around the house. Make sure all scissor use is supervised; even child's scissors can cut hair! Usually that will only happen one time :)
- Make your own friendship stew snack mix at home by combining every family member's favorite snack item together in a big bowl and sharing it with each other.
- Ask your child to sing some Thanksgiving songs that they have learned at school: we will learn Five Fat Turkeys, The Lord Is Good To Me (aka the Johnny Appleseed Song), Ten Little Indian Girls and Boys, and Let's Have a Pow Wow during this month.
- Articles and interesting websites to visit to support this month's learning:

<http://www.dumbblittleman.com/2008/11/20-fun-things-you-can-do-with-family-on.html>

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/slideshow/thanksgiving/35209.html>

<http://www.choctaw.org/culture/cldrCLMAudio.html>



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DECEMBER 2016 (Weeks 18-21)

UNITS THIS MONTH: Week 18-People In Our World, Week 19-Sharing Christmas Joy, Week 20&21: Christmas/Advent

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL (CIRCLE TIME/GROUP) EXPERIENCES will include singing and dancing together, rehearsing for the Christmas Program on December 15. We will learn about all the different people in our world a better place and what place each of us have in our community.

MATH & MANIPULATIVES CENTER will stimulate interest in early math concepts by looking for seasonal items that we can compare, sort, and manipulate. We will use our fine motor skills to help in making decorations for our Christmas tree and around our room.

ART CENTER will have crayons, paper, markers, and paint. The colors of the season are Red and Green, but children also love the white of snow, the blue of the sky, and the gold and silver of decorations. There will be various child led projects involving Christmas and giving. Drawing is the trace of movement! Children will continue to discover the relationship between how they move and marks they make with paint, markers, sand, and shaving cream.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT will involve learning Christmas songs and carols; we will learn a scarf dance and we will work on our singing skills to perform in the Christmas Program.

HOMELIVING will invite children into a world of imagination and self-directed play with dress-up clothes, babies, kitchens, and school settings. Children will be active in moving, turning, and directing each other in play.

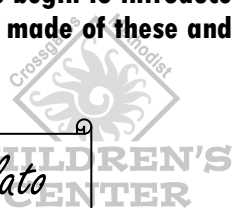
BLOCKS CENTER will include learning about positional words in what we build; children will practice to learn top, bottom, up, over, under, around, beside, through, etc. working within the world of building blocks.

NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER will include sensory items to stimulate touch, smell, and sight. We will be talking about different people, some who do not have all their senses, so we will experiment to see if we can better understand what our senses do for us.

LITERACY & WRITING CENTER We have almost a hundred books on Christmas, giving to others, Advent, and Jesus' birth. We will read together and even sing some of the books as we learn more about the Season of Advent, which simply means "waiting." We will talk about waiting and patience, hope and expectation.

HWT: We are approaching the middle of the school year and we will scaffold the knowledge and skills we have achieved the first months to approach the remainder of the uppercase letters in practice as well as begin to introduce the corresponding lowercase letters. Lines and curves; lines and curves. The English language is made of these and we will continue the practicing of our lines and curves.

The beginning is the most important part of the work. -Plato



People In Our World (December 5-9):

- We will spend this week learning about different people in our own world: people who are blind, deaf, elderly, sick, etc. This will be a time we discuss ways we can help those in need and we will begin our Christmas Giving drive that we've done in past years, "adopting" grandparents in a Jackson nursing home and providing Christmas for them. Our little world will get larger this week.
- Bible Verse 1 Peter 5:6-7 - "Cast all your worries on Him, because He cares for you."
- HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter "B"
- Show and Tell on Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Melanie

Sharing Christmas Joy (December 12-16):

- We will continue learning about how we can give and share our joy with others at Christmas and the true meaning of this holy day. Children will discuss things that make them happy and find ways to make those we love happy. We focus on the giving aspect (it gives us joy to give; it is better to give than receive) of the holiday so that they will learn at a young age about Jesus, who gave himself for all of us.
- Bible Verse Matthew 2:1 - "Jesus was born in Bethlehem."
- HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter "R"
- Show and Tell Friday; Chapel Friday morning led by Ms Marquice (last Chapel of 2016)
- Preschool Christmas Program, Thursday, Dec 15, at 7 p.m. in the CUMC Sanctuary.
- Birthday Party for Jesus on Friday, Dec 16.

Christmas/Advent (December 19-22, December 27-30 — CMCC Closed Dec 23 and Dec 26):

- Since this time is Christmas Holidays for the school district, we will talk about traveling at Christmas to spend time with our extended families. We will have some shaving cream fun and will work with small groups in learning about Advent—the Season of Waiting for Christ. We will talk about the upcoming year and how we measure time and days in our world. We will welcome a special visitor from the nursing home to come tell us all about the grandparents we "adopted" and ways we can help others.
- Bible Verse 1 John 4:10 - "This is love; not that we loved God, but that He sent His son for our sins."
- HWT: We will work on Uppercase letter "K"

Things that will help our learning that you can do at home and links for Moms and Dads:

- Begin a new Christmas tradition that includes a responsibility for your preschooler: it could be stringing popcorn for a garland and your preschooler can count the number of popcorn pieces or something simple like helping to clean an area so that a nativity or Advent wreath can be placed there. It is wise to expect a preschooler to assist in chores and cleaning while they are willing and eager to be helpful, even if it means you have to go back later and re-do their work... the window of this helpful assistance usually closes soon after school begins.
- Make your own modeling dough instead of buying play-doh. Allow your preschooler to help in the process and use cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla, or a scented oil (like peppermint) to give the dough a wonderful scent. Our olfactory sense is the strongest connection to memory. Store the dough in a plastic ice cream bucket and it will last all year — no color needed, but you could color with unsweetened powdered Kool-Aid. Here is a recipe: <http://www.diynatural.com/homemade-playdough/>. Working with modeling dough makes the muscles of the fingers really work hard; keep some plastic knives, plastic scissors, and bottle caps, jar lids, etc. in the bucket with the dough and it will be a bucket of fun for your preschooler while providing important skills for future pencil holders and writers!
- READ READ READ! Read to your child every night; make sure your child sees you reading books. The best way to raise a learner is for them to see value and interest in reading. Read articles out loud from the newspaper; share the comics section with your child. Get a subscription to Guideposts for Kids and read them as a family. Reading the short stories of Guideposts or publications like it, can begin a love of reading that never dies.
- Articles and interesting websites to visit to support this month's learning:

<http://www.messforless.net/christmas-fine-motor-skills-activities/>

<http://www.parents.com/fun/entertainment/books/the-all-time-best-books-for-preschoolers/>

