

# Happy New Year!

Kirsten's Day Care  
Annandale, VA

Winter, 2014-15

## Mrs. K's Newsletter

### Flashback!

While reviewing last year's newsletter, I came across this adorable picture. Aren't Qieran and Adelyn cute...and small!? Time flies!



### Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

We had a great time over break with a lot of family and friends in town. We celebrated Paul's mom by remembering wonderful memories with close cousins, as well as many distant relatives that I had never even met before.

I was also able to spend some time organizing and planning some things for the next couple months.

**Technology:** I bought a tablet for the older kids to play on. I have used the [www.more.starfall.com](http://www.more.starfall.com) program on my laptop with the kids, but not as much as I would have liked. With the convenience of a tablet (and maybe a second one later on), they will be able to use it more regularly.

**Weather:** The temperature inside is generally kept at 70F, so the children should be fine with one bottom and one or two layers up top. When

it is 40F and higher, depending on wind and rain, we usually go out in the afternoon, when it is warmer. Please be sure to bring a hat, mittens, and warm coat. I can't promise they'll keep their mittens on, but we'll try.

**Outdoor equipment:** I plan on making some major changes outdoors this spring. We will be demolishing the shed and putting in a beautiful new wooden train.



In the fall, we will put in a smaller shed in the back. We will also plant grass where the current play area is.

### 2014 Fall Activities



*Happy Halloween!*



*So happy to pose for the camera!*

**Al's Pals:** We're continuing with Al's Pals once or twice a week for the preschoolers.

**Letters:** We are doing structured activities for the preschoolers for our letter of the week. We teach our little ones too and many of them are singing the alphabet. Many recognize a number of letters already. Starting with the letters of your child's name is usually the easiest.

**Portage Program:** Don't forget to review the Portage assessment that I gave you before break. Immediately underneath my assessment, please put down your observations and any notes that you might be helpful. If you would like to work on any particular area, I have a book that you can borrow to get some ideas.

**Thanksgiving activities:** All the children know that the turkey says, "Gobble, gobble,

gobble!" They love the felt board and we all enjoyed this interactive activity, building felt turkeys and using the turkeys as props for the various Thanksgiving stories. We also sang a number of Thanksgiving songs, many of which used a turkey puppet, which they loved.

**Christmas Activities:** The kids did so many sensory activities this year. From painting the snowflake wrapping paper and bags to creating shaving cream snow men to having their mistle "toes" painted to the rice table! We filled the rice table with holiday items that they had to find and count. They also did some counting/sorting of bows and there were a number of individual activities for the big kids, like sorting, puzzles, games etc. Most of the kids at a minimum loved to dance to Rudolph and Jingle Bells, but many of the kids also learned all the words!

**Babies:** The toddlers do a lot of reading with Ms. L, Ms. Yesi, or me. They don't sit as long in group settings during reading time, so they get lots of one-on-one time. When not actively engaged in an activity with one of us, they are free to explore anything they can reach. I regularly rotate the toys to keep their interest. We talk a lot about body parts with all the babies and toddlers and they're retaining so much!







*Aaron and James counting spider legs.*

## Several Reminders

**Parking:** You're welcome to park in the driveway after 8:00am. However, please pull all the way in if there is space-try not to block other cars.



*Everyone loves scarves.*

**Gate:** Please be sure to close the gate behind you after 8am.

**Contact information:** I have put my cell phone, which is also my alarm clock, on silent from 10pm-6am. If you have an emergency and have to contact me during those hours, please be sure to call my home phone number at 703-323-6788.

Please be sure that both parents have my contact information

**Closings:** [FCPS Employee Calendar](#)

Upcoming Holidays are listed below:

- January 19: MLK Day
- February 16: President's Day



*Peek-a-boo Eva!*



*Sweet little girls!*



*Play-doh time.*



**Late pick-ups:** Please be sure to be here by 4:00pm. If you will be late, please call me as soon as possible as I or my assistants may have plans immediately following day care. There is a minimum \$15 late fee if you are over 15 minutes late or late twice in one month. I haven't had to be strict about this in the past, but unfortunately, I must this year.

**Laundry room:** Please do not let children play in the laundry room.

## Other Activities

I/we continue to bake regularly, whether it's fresh bread from the bread machine or decorating a snack for me, they enjoy making and eating these things.

We go outside almost every day, unless the weather is awful. The kids love it, as you know. Many don't want to leave at the end of the day.



We  
LOVE  
the  
great  
outdoors!

