



BEAR TRACKS PM

Washington University Nursery School, December, 2019

Dear Bear Tracks Families,

We have slowly been growing in class size this Fall and welcomed several new friends to Bear Trackers.

Bear Tracks continues to focus on the relationship between your child and the teachers, as well as facilitating relationships between peers.

Listed below are a few of the ways we go about growing these skills in children and adults.

Children learn best when they feel respected and valued. Teachers work to create a positive emotional climate in the classroom through warm, affectionate verbal and physical interactions and consistent, predictable care. Smiles, eye contact, and calm tones of voice all contribute to positive relationships. Teachers show respect for children by listening to them, answering their questions, and engaging them in meaningful conversations. Children feel more secure when teachers encourage children's self-reliance in the classroom and acknowledge their accomplishments.

As children learn to express and manage their emotions, teachers (and parents) are important as guides and models. They provide comfort and support when children experience hurt, fear, and anger, and they encourage children to express both positive and negative emotions in appropriate ways.

(naeyc.org).

Learning Areas have included:

Art Area: drawing, stenciling, watercolors

Block/Construction Area: magna-tile towers, rocket ship and boat building, zoo construction

Math/Manipulative Area: counting and sorting animal figures by color, arranging blocks in color patterns

Housekeeping/Dramatic Play: Dragon Hunts and Bear Hunts take place in "dramatic fashion" around the classroom. As well as shopping, cooking, travel on airplanes and picnics abound.

Writing Area: practice writing the letters of our names, as well as, writing our alphabet, numbers 1-10 and shape creations

Book Area: independent reading time and a few of the books we've read together are...

-**Thank you and Goodnight** by JPB McDonnell

-**Ava and the Rainbow Who Stayed** by Ged Adamson

-**Last Stop on Market Street** by Matt Pena

Enjoy your holiday break and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

~Ms. Suzy

