

The Children's Center at Groton

Remember to like us on



CCG Families,

Did you hear that our last round of food donations with the Groton Neighborhood Food Project contributed to their record total of 5,219 lbs of food! Our next food pickup is next Friday (the food is picked up every 2 months).

Upcoming Dates:

Feb 18: Closed for President's Day

March 15: Closed for Staff Professional Development

Thank you so much for your contributions thus far. The last donation pick-up was during the holidays when more people tend to donate as the spirit of giving is on everyone's mind. We want to ensure that we are still donating as much as we can to help those in need now that the holidays are over. This is when food pantries need even more donations. For this current collection we have about 75 items and last collection we had almost double that! Anything at all that you can bring in is greatly appreciated.

Most needed items:

Reusable Grocery Bags
Canned White Tuna
Canned Fruit Cocktail
Applesauce
Canned Pineapple
Pasta Sauce
Canned Corn
Tomato Paste
Boxed Flavored Rice
Grape or Strawberry Jelly
Cake Mixes
Canned Pasta
Hearty Beef Soup
Hamburger or Tuna Helpers
Grape or Strawberry Jelly
Baked Beans/Canned Chili
Ketchup or Mayonnaise
Salad Dressings
Coffee
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Ramen
Juice
Toothpaste
Shampoo/Conditioner
Dish Detergent
Diapers (size 5 & 6 & Pull Ups)
Feminine Care Products
Poise Pads



Have you heard that we're on Instagram?

Find us at @childrenscenteratgroton



Classroom Updates

Seedlings

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow....

The snow is finally here and during the month of January the Seedlings took many exciting adventures to the land of ice, cold and snow! Bundled in their snowsuits, hats and mittens our travels took us to the playground where we experienced the sun and the cold wind! Once back inside the classroom, we discovered and read many books relating to the winter season. The children's favorite book was a story about penguins! We encountered many new discoveries.

Lincoln took pleasure in using his sense of touch to experience the cold chunks of colored ice in the sensory table. He was thrilled to pick up the ice chunks with his hands feeling the sensation of the cold, wet ice! Liam enjoyed stamping snowflakes on the paper using his fine motor skills and paying close attention to where he placed the stamp. Tate and Linley had a fantastic time mixing white and blue paint on foil. Tate used her hands and fingers to spread the paint over the smooth and shiny surface, and Linley chose a brush! Once the paint was dry, we crumpled the foil around a dowel and created icicles to hang up in the classroom. Rosie jumped right in and explored the Arctic Ice provocation moving the polar bears and penguins through the ice and shaving cream and glitter snow! Lachlan was thrilled with the soft snowballs and had fun gathering and collecting as many as he could, placing them in buckets and pails. Ginny and Ava enjoyed being outside all bundled up feeling the cold wind blow on their faces and smiled with delight!

The Seedlings enjoyed their adventures exploring and discovering these new experiences this winter! Throughout their adventures, we observed the children making their own connections as they played. We all had fun together and enjoyed the journey in our land of ice, cold and snow!



Sprouts

During the month of January, our Sprouts have noticed the different forms of weather that have been occurring. From the moment they start their day until they depart, they will look outside the window and inform everyone how it looks outside while pointing at the sky. This all started one morning when Nessa and Reade noticed how much rain was falling from the sky, while Lucy and Emerson noticed the snowflakes mixed in. This sparked a huge curiosity that led to many conversations between one another. Our Sprouts enjoyed exploring and learning about rain and snow through different activities. Quincy, Callum and James enjoyed the rain filled provocations. They used watering cans, and sifters to simulate rain. As they lifted the water up high they would exclaim to one another, "It's raining guys!" Evan, Alina, and Rose enjoyed exploring clouds and learning what they do. They had many questions on the color of clouds. To help our Sprouts make connections, we made our own fluffy clouds out of shaving cream and Elmer's glue, to re-create the fluffiness of the clouds.

Weather change has been a fun interest to explore with our Sprouts and having books to read has helped make the journey more fun! The Sprouts class has been seen talking amongst each other while making connections with each book they picked up. One book explains what clothing is needed for rain and snow. Each Sprout would find an article of clothing or an accessory from the dramatic play area whether it was an umbrella or snow gear.

With all the weather changes, our Sprouts have also been noticing new friends crawling into the classroom to help them escape from the harsh elements. The children were intrigued by two stink bugs, that have taken up residence in our classroom. Due to the toddler's enthusiasm about this single event the teachers have taken the children's lead and are now focusing on a long term investigation on bugs!



Lily Buds

During the month of January, the Lily Buds have been working with absorption and sponges. One day at morning meeting, we placed a sponge in a bag and asked the Lily Buds to use their hands to describe how the item felt. Some of the words to describe how a sponge feels included; scrubby, soft, lumpy, squishy, and wet. When asked what you can do with a sponge, Lucy said, "Wash with them." Cosi said, "I have a blue and green one. You scrub things". To further explore sponges, we painted with sponges. Lily liked to use long strokes to cover her paper. Biz liked to cover the entire paper. Meg was singing, "dab, dab, dab", and Anderson said, "Look at mine; it has all the colors". We also cut up sponges and tried to build with them. Lyndi used only pink sponges and liked to line them all up, Sebastian stacked 4 sponges and then counted them "1-2-3-4." Carter said, "I'm making stairs," and Alyssa said, "The sponges are quiet." Asher made a road with the sponges for his car to drive on, and Audrey said, "I'm making a fort". For a science experiment, we used eye droppers and other items besides sponges to see if they would absorb the drops of water on the tray. We noticed that cotton balls, q-tips, and tissues all absorb water. Who knew sponges could be so much fun!



Peace Lilies

The month of January brought us colder weather and the children were excited to find a blanket of snow and ice covering the playground. We found many ways to explore the snow and further investigate different temperatures. Outside, the children enjoyed rolling and making snowballs, comparing the different sizes. Next, they practiced developing their hand eye co-ordination skills as they threw their snowballs at the trees. The children had fun painting in the snow. They were given spray bottles, each filled with a variety of water colors. As the children sprayed the snow, they were amazed to see all the designs and patterns they could create. After reading the book Snowflake Bentley the children were given foil, paint and pipe cleaners to design their own snowflake. We also explored the outdoors inside the classroom. We brought snow in from the playground into the sensory table and used a variety of tools to measure scoop and fill different size containers. The children thought it was a great idea to wear their gloves to keep their hands warm as they played. Another group of friends took turns to participate in a Frozen Ice experiment. They were faced with a challenge! They used many tools, such as goggles to protect their eyes, plastic knives, wooden hammers etc. to chip and break through the blocks of ice to rescue the arctic animals inside. These activities have prompted many interests and questions from the children, “What is the Antarctic like?” “What animals live there?” “What do they eat?” And many more questions. The teachers took a survey and these are the animals your children wanted to explore: Polar Bear- Bella, Esther and Ella. Arctic Fox- Adam and Lachlan. Snow Owl- Maeve, Arden and Emma S. Penguins- Emma F., Elise, Harry, Teddy, and Gavin. Wolverine- Bear, Cooper, Gunnar, Ben, Lilly, Paul, Nathan, this was the most popular animal! We will continue this long-term investigation and we look forward to displaying your child’s work and observations.

