

## MOTHER GOOSE NEWS— by Jane Kitson

## Volume 2— Winter 2003

\*\*\*Wow...the holidays are upon us and there are so many wonderful activities to enjoy! I remember the first year we moved to Atlanta, when I was teaching four year olds. We rotated teacher's aides and they always joked about all the projects there were to do in my room! The glitter and ribbon was abundant... what a mess but what FUN! I hope this finds you doing well, even though you are probably riding the FAST candy cane carousel of having way too many things to do!

For those who are lucky enough to have some snow...know that my children are very envious of you! Please send us some.

I hope each of you enjoy a wonderful holiday celebrating with those you love and sharing God's love and the spirit of Christmas with others around you! Happy Birthday Jesus!

In this issue, we will cover some activities that are fun for the winter months: December, January and February.

Here is a neat and easy idea for visual discrimination:

Ask each parent to send in 4 swatches of different extra wrapping paper at least 10x12. Purchase a pack of 50 index cards and wrap 2 cards with the identical paper ( making a pair).

Hopefully, you will have at least a dozen different pairs of mini gifts. Put this out at random either in your circle or on the table. Allow the children to match the gifts that look alike. A variation on this game is to set up chairs in the circle like musical chairs. Place a mini gift (index card in wrapping paper) on each chair and the matching partners on an adjacent table. Play some festive music and when the music stops, each child picks up the present on the chair near them and walks over to find the partner. Then all the children sit on the chairs and show their partner presents.

\*\*\*Try this activity to introduce letters and also all the different symbols we use to celebrate Christmas:

C is for the candy cane..

It's stripes are red and white  
H is for the holly, we use to decorate

R is for the ribbon, it makes a pretty bow

I is for the icicles, hanging in a row

S is for the snowman, he's very cold and white

T is for the tree, we hope it stands up straight

M is for the music, with glad hearts we can sing

A is for the angel with her halo and her wings

S is for the smiles on everyone we meet, as we wish them

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** as we Pass them on the street!  
Use a piece of construction paper for each letter, printing the letter on one side and have a picture on the back, The children will line up and hold the letters in a row, saying the letters and then turn them over for the picture to show. This is also a good way to reinforce initial sounds.

### IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS DAY

(tune: The Farmer in the Dell)

It's almost Christmas Day...

It's almost Christmas Day...

(insert at every \*\*\*)

Have you hung your wreath on your front door? (show a wreath)

It's almost Christmas Day  
(insert at every ###)

\*\*\*Have you decorated your Christmas tree? (show a tree) ###

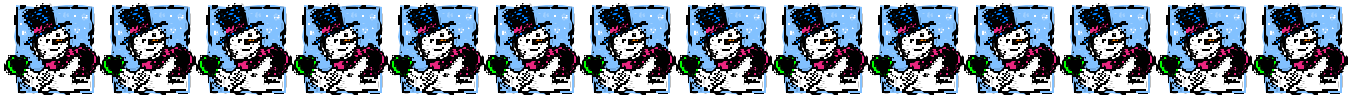
\*\*\*Have you hung your stockings by the fireplace? (show stockings)###

\*\*\*Have you licked a red and white candy cane? (show candy cane) ###

\*\*\*Have you thanked God for his special gift? ( picture of Baby Jesus)###

\*\*\* Have you made your list for Santa yet? (show list)###

\*\*\*It's time for you to go to sleep  
(snore) ###



### Mitten Menagerie...

SOS ask all parents to send in extra mittens...pairs and spares! Perhaps some can purchase the stretchy gloves that are sold at discount stores for 99 cents.

These can be taken out and sorted into groups by color, size and or patterns.

"Does anyone see a mitten that has the same color as this one?"

"Who can find a mitten that is the same size as this one?"

"Does this mitten belong to a boy, girl or either...why?"

If you have pairs, ask the children to put one behind their back

(in the circle) and place the rest in the circle. Then, they will describe the mitten behind their back and see if someone can find it's mate!

I AM A SNOWMAN  
COLD AND WHITE...  
I STAND VERY STILL ALL THROUGH  
THE NIGHT!  
WITH A CARROT NOSE AND A HEAD  
HELD HIGH...  
A LUMP OF COAL TO MAKE EACH EYE!  
I WEAR A SCARF  
THAT IS MADE OF RED...  
A STOVE PIPE HAT UPON MY HEAD!  
THE SUN IS COMING OUT OH MY!  
I THINK THAT I AM GOING TO CRY!  
YESTERDAY I WAS PLUMP AND  
ROUND...BUT NOW I'M A RIVER ON  
THE GROUND!

This is a great transitional finger play, as the children start it when they are standing up and doing the motions, then melt into the ground to sit in the circle.

### OH DO YOU SEE MY VALENTINE?

Tune: Oh Do you Know  
The Muffin Man?

You can easily play this with all the children in your class, if they are all standing or seated where everyone else can see them.

OH DO YOU SEE MY  
VALENTINE?  
MY VALENTINE?  
MY VALENTINE?  
OH DO YOU SEE MY  
VALENTINE?  
SHE'S HAS A STRIPE ON HER  
SHIRT!  
OH PLEASE POINT TO  
MY VALENTINE...  
MY VALENTINE...  
MY VALENTINE...  
SHE HAS A STRIPE ON HER  
SHIRT!  
OH DO YOU SEE MY  
VALENTINE?  
MY VALENTINE?  
MY VALENTINE?  
OH PLEASE POINT TO MY  
VALENTINE...  
HIS SHOES ARE BROWN  
WITH LACES!

You can add as many things as you like appropriate to each child in your group. This re-enforces auditory processing and visual discrimination.

**IS YOUR FACILITY HAVING A SUMMER CAMP? LET ME KNOW AND MAYBE I CAN SCHEDULE YOU INTO MY TRAVELS FOR AN ONSITE VISIT..about \$1 per child!**

Don't forget that February is Dental Hygiene Month!!!

**BRUSH BRUSH, BRUSH YOUR TEETH...**

Tune: Row, row, row your boat!

**BRUSH, BRUSH, BRUSH YOUR TEETH...  
BRUSH THEM EVERY DAY!  
RINSE YOUR MOUTH  
AND SPIT IT OUT...  
SO YOU WON'T HAVE DECAY!**

You may want to tie in a unit about Community Helpers and I love sharing this easy activity:

**PAT YOUR SHOULDERS  
AND PAT YOUR KNEES...  
WHEN YOU GROW UP...  
WHAT WILL YOU BE?**  
A painter...mimic dipping in a brush and painting a house.  
**PAT YOUR SHOULDER  
AND PAT YOUR KNEES...  
WHEN YOU GROW UP...  
WHAT WILL YOU BE?**  
A dental hygienist...  
Mimic flossing, brushing, and rinsing.  
Add other vocations and enjoy!  
In closing...it has been a TREAT meeting each of you this past year. I hope you enjoy the 2nd newsletter. I sent out thousands in the fall and heard back from less than 10 recipients. I am delighted to share the information but it does take time and I plan to continue it only if it is useful! Please let me know if it is helpful, so I can make that decision:

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**FYI...my web page is being remodeled...please stand by!!!**

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