

Pre-K Press

December 2024

Holiday Brain Breaks

Sometimes we all need a brain break - am I right? Well, instead of overwhelming you with more information, data, details, etc., here are few giggles to just give your brain a break from all of the holiday to-dos fighting for attention in your head right now!



Elf on the Shelf? (Say WHAAAT?)

That's right... I'm talking about that little guy or gal that drives you nuts if you have your own children and have to move the squirly little thing every night! Oh... the one time Sparkles (my sons' personal elf) decided his **head should pop off into my hand at 11:30 at night...** Anyway, while the Elf may drive you bonkers, give it a try in your classroom! Check out this [adapted blog post](#) from [triedandtrueteacher.com](#). It's a great post to remind you that this time is about the joy of our students, and we may be the only way they experience such magic and joy! Also, you're able to get some meaningful social studies, math, and writing activities into the day while supporting positive behavior at the same time! *Do **not** use the Elf to call attention to negative behaviors!* That's not what this is about. Download this [PDF doc](#), and you'll see what I'm talking about. One more thing... I would **LOVE** if you would share your elf magic with ME! Send pics and a quick synopsis to me at Carey.Peacock@esc15.net.

Math/Fine Motor

Work on several math objectives and the ever important fine motor skill while implementing **Christmas Tree Counting!** Click the link to print and prep the tree mats. Then grab some pom-poms and/or playdoh, mini tongs, and/or large plastic tweezers so your students can practice recognizing numerals, counting sets, practicing one-to-one correspondence and cardinality, representing quantities, and demonstrating cardinality in a fun, hands-on, playful activity! Once you've taught this in small groups, this will be a great activity to add to your Math Center for continued play and practice throughout the holiday season!



Letter Knowledge

Provide students with a sensory writing opportunity as they practice their letter knowledge. Print and cut these **Alphabet Lightbulbs** and provide a few letters at a time for students to work with. Create sensory trays with colored salt or sand, red and green sprinkles, large "confetti," etc. Encourage students to use their fingers, small paint brushes, or Q-tips to "write" the letter in their sensory bin. Be sure to discuss correct formation, the letter name, and the letter sound as they work on their alphabet knowledge. It's best to start this as a small group activity and then move it to your ABC Center,



Writing Center, or
Sensory Center.



STEAM

Just one simple addition to your magnatiles can take learning to a whole new level! Add jingle bells of different sizes and colors to open up another world of creation. Ask if children can create a Christmas tree with their tiles and bells. Talk about the shapes used and how they had to put them together. Ask if the bells stick anywhere on the tiles are in certain places... **Why?** Encourage children to create additional items like gift boxes, gingerbread houses, etc. Once they've created their masterpiece(s), encourage them to draw what they made and share their work with others.



Adaptation of activity from nextcomesl.com

Science & Writing

Have students utilize their 5 senses to explore gingerbread cookie dough and gingerbread cookies during small group. Take notes of their observations. Once everyone has had the opportunity to explore, create a Gingerbread T-Chart during whole group with Gingerbread Dough on one side and Gingerbread Cookie on the other. Ask students to help you describe what each one looked like, smelled like, felt like, tasted like.



Gingerbread Cookie Dough	Gingerbread Cookie
Smells like cinnamon	Smells like cinnamon
Brown	Brown
Looks like playdoh	Looks like the shape of a person
Feels soft and squishy	Feels hard, rough, and bumpy
Can't taste it because it is not cooked	Tastes like a cookie and spices



PRE-K BOOK NOOK



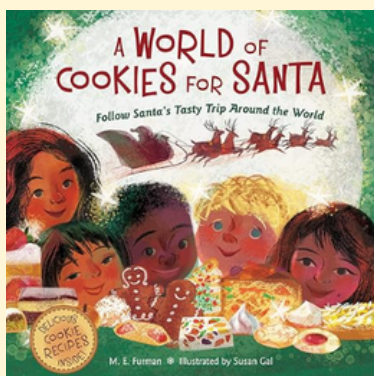
Green is for Christmas

When Green Crayon claims that green is the only color for Christmas, other crayons let him know that there would be no Christmas without them either. No candy canes or Santa without Red, no snow without White, no bells or stars without Silver, and no cookies or reindeer without Tan! The crayons agree that they all need to come together to make Christmas special.



The Little Reindeer

When a jingling sound wakes her from her sleep, a little girl's dreams come true when she meets a lost reindeer in the forest. They set off on a magical adventure and it becomes a Christmas never to forget. Nicola Killen's evocative illustrations are sure to enchant in this beautiful book with die cut pages, foil, and flashes of festive red.



A World of Cookies for Santa

A World of Cookies for Santa is a multicultural celebration that takes readers across the globe to see all the treats that await Santa on Christmas Eve. Head to the Philippines, where children leave out puto seko cookies and ginger tea for Santa; jet to Russia for a honey-spice cookie; then set out for Malawi for a sweet potato cookie! When you've returned home, the journey's still not over... Check out the recipes and bake some of Santa's cookies together!

Let's
Read



NEVER
STOP
READING



ESC 15 ECE TEAM



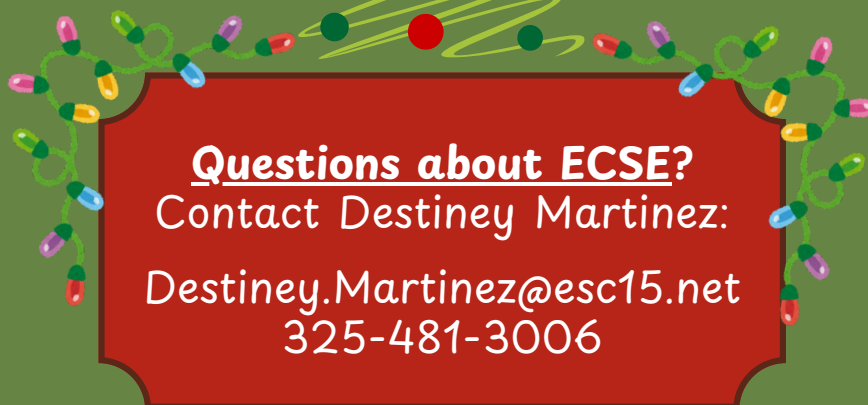
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CIRCLE Progress Monitoring Reports - Quick PD

Keep your peepers open for a **"Quick PD"** via Zoom to help you run and create all of the reports you need after completing CIRCLE Progress Monitoring assessments! This quick session will help you create small groups, parent reports, and check growth in benchmarks and overall scores for your class! **Details coming soon!**

