

THE SPOTTED ZEBRA

Learning Center

January 2025

Reminder:

- Center Re-opens 1/2/25!
- Center Closed 1/20 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Admin News

Welcome back, Everyone!

We hope that everyone found some time to spend with family and friends and is feeling reinvigorated to hit the ground running this year! This month is very special to us: we are opening up the Teal Room! The Teal Room is our new self-contained classroom where we will be working with a new handful of friends. We want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families!

Thank you to everyone involved for your support, excitement, and patience while we make sure we are as ready as we can be to grow in this new space.

Check out the back page for a feature on some of our therapists and teachers!

As always, please reach out with any questions, comments, concerns, or hellos! Our comment box in the back breezeway is always open :)

Ms. Sheri, Mr. Matt, Ms. Shannon, Ms. Rachael, and Mr. Derek

What is Happening in the Classrooms...



Teal Room News

Welcome back, Everyone!

We are excited to welcome you to Spotted Zebra's newest classroom, which opens on Monday, January 6th! During our first few weeks, we will prioritize relationship-building and learning the classroom routine. As the school year progresses, we will engage your children in play-based learning with a strong emphasis on communication skills. We also look forward to introducing your children to foundational literacy, numeracy, and daily living skills to support their cognitive development.

We recognize that acclimating to a new school and classroom can sometimes produce feelings of anxiety. Therefore, we want to establish clear lines of communication so that you are up-to-date on your child's progress. Each day, your child will receive a Daily Sheet with important information about the day. We will also be using the ClassDojo app to further support communication (more information to follow).

If you have not done so already, please provide two complete sets of spare clothing in case of toileting accidents, spills, etc. If your child currently wears pull-ups, we ask that you supply these as well. Please note that we will provide a daily snack, though all students must bring their own lunch (keeping in mind that we are an entirely nut free facility). You may also wish to supply your child with a folder for important communications and notices such as the Daily Sheet.

We are elated to embark on this new adventure with your children!

Mr. David, Ms. Sara, Ms. Olivia, Ms. Rachael, Ms. Marlis, and Ms. Alli



Violet Room News

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and had a restful break. We are so excited to see what January brings after all of the joy and festivities that December held. Friends enjoyed creating family gifts, sharing their holiday traditions, and we had a blast celebrating at our holiday party with Blue Room! We thank you for your contributions that made it possible. As we move into the New Year, we will delve into themes surrounding winter such as snowmen, winter clothing, and arctic animals. We will be focusing on author Jan Brett as we explore the theme of hibernation. We will continue to focus on fostering independence as we continue to incorporate social stories focusing on self-help skills and peer relations. Our friends will also have added responsibility through the addition of classroom jobs and roles.

Though winter has officially begun, we will still attempt to go outside if the weather permits. Please ensure your child is wearing and has extras of weather appropriate clothing each day. Please label all items, especially those which are easily lost or mixed up such as mittens and hats. Lastly, we would like to wish a happy birthday to Miss Brittany (22nd).

Ms. Brittany, Ms. Laura, Ms. Terry, and Ms. Allison



Blue Room News

Happy New Year!! We welcome you back to school and are excited for the New Year. January 2, 2025 we will have a “Noon Years” Celebration. We had fun learning about all December holidays and all the celebrated traditions. The children enjoyed our Polar Express Pajama party, finding Chippy the Elf throughout Spotted Zebra, but most of all enjoyed making their family gifts.

This month we will be learning about the season of Winter and Artic Animals. We will focus on the Winter weather, clothing and all the activities (inside and out) that we can do during the winter months. We will continue practicing sequencing the events of the story, recalling details, and making predictions about what might happen next. The children will continue to work on writing their names, numbers, letters, self-help skills, and start working on journal entries.

As the winter continues, we will try to go outside as much as possible. Please send in the appropriate clothing for the weather and label all items. We do our best to be sure that items do not get sent home with the wrong child and having it labeled will help.

We would like to wish a Very Happy Birthday to:

Lucas Fiore **January 08**
Everly Zerr **January 21**

Ms. Sunita, Ms. Jackie, Ms. Katina



Green Room News

Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed the time off! We're thrilled to welcome everyone back and kick off an exciting new year.

December was filled with fun and learning as we explored different holiday traditions celebrated around the world. The kids especially loved our pajama party and all the holiday activities. A big thank-you for sending in the decorations for our Christmas trees—they were a huge hit with the kids!

For January, we'll dive into a winter theme, exploring topics like snow, snowmen, winter animals, and hibernation. We're also excited to begin a Jan Brett author study and learn about Arctic animals. Additionally, we'll be starting our handwriting unit, so you can expect lots of letters coming home soon!

As winter is in full swing, please remember to send in labeled warm clothing for your child every day. We'll head outside for some fresh air if the temperature is above 32°F.

Finally, let's wish Teddy a very happy birthday this month!

We're looking forward to a great start to 2025!

Ms. Michelle and Ms. Elle



Orange Room News

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We are thrilled to welcome your family into 2025 and are excited about the fun and learning ahead in the Orange Room. This month, we will be diving into the wonders of winter, exploring themes of snowmen, snowflakes, and all things frosty and fun.

What We're Learning:

- Science and Sensory: Experimenting with snow and ice to learn about freezing and melting.
- Art and Creativity: Crafting snowmen and designing unique paper snowflakes.
- Literacy and Stories: Reading winter-themed books and talking about seasonal changes.
- Fine Motor Skills: Using tools like tweezers and small manipulatives to enhance dexterity during our snowflake and snowman activities.

Reminders and Updates:

- This month, we are celebrating Arlo's birthday! Let's make it a special day for him.
- Please send your child with warm outdoor gear for any outdoor winter activities.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a fantastic start to the year filled with growth, creativity, and discovery!

**Warm regards,
Orange Room Teachers**



Yellow Room News

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a rejuvenating holiday break, and lots of quality time with family and friends. Overarching themes for this month will be: New Year goals; Martin Luther King, Jr. – kindness, fairness/doing right, and community; winter and frozen water – ice and snow; arctic animals; and, an author study on Jan Brett.

Within those themes, the following skills will be introduced and/or practiced: sorting, counting, and classifying objects up to ten; making 6, 7, 8, & 9; patterns; graphing and reading charts; geometry – flat shapes (2D) and solid shapes (3D), shape and position, and building shapes.

This month we will focus on Gg, Bb, Cc, and Zz for letter identification and phonological awareness. We will also practice "stretching out" words using syllables and beginning (initial), middle (medial), and ending sounds; sorting letters, words, and sentences; and, basic sentence structure, including punctuation. We will continue to have enriching specials – Gym, Amazing Athletes, Where In the World (social studies), Social Skills Club, Book Club (literacy and fine motor skills), and Music Class. As always, these topics will also continue to be integrated into our themes and daily routines.

Please send in labeled snow gear in a tote/reusable bag. We will always look for opportunities to play outside when the temperature and wind-chill is 32 degrees or higher!

Happy Birthday to Enzo this month! Happy New Year to all!!

**Ms. Carol, Ms. Megan, Ms. Chris, and
Ms. Sara**

Meet the Spotted Zebra Herd!

Therapists and Special Educators

Ms. Juli	Psych
Ms. Marlis	OT (O, V)
Ms. Shawna	Speech
Ms. Kaylyn	Speech (Yellow)
Ms. Caitlin	OT (V, B)
Ms. Rachel J	Speech (Orange)
Ms. Rachel M	Music
Ms. Carla	OT (Y, B, G)
Ms. Allison T	Speech (Violet)
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Cindy	PT (B, G, O)
Ms. Laura	Speech
Ms. Allison R	PT (Y, V)
Ms. Jesse	Speech (Blue)
Ms. Olivia	Speech (Green)

Offsite Therapists

Ms. Shawna	Speech
Ms. Nicole Ge	Speech
Ms. Kathi	PT
Mr. Peter	OT
Ms. Nicole S	SEIT
Ms. Sarah	PT
Ms. Wendy	Speech

Floating Teachers

Ms. Chantal
Ms. Alaina
Ms. Tristyn
Ms. Nakisha
Ms. Nicole Gr
Ms. Karen
Ms. Emily
Ms. Paige

Admin Team

Ms. Sheri
Mr. Matt
Ms. Shannon
Ms. Amy
Ms. Victoria
Ms. Rachael
Mr. Derek



Newsletter Features

Some of our Therapists and Teachers!



Kaylyn Chambers

Speech

What is your hometown?

I grew up in Beekman, New York.

Who is your favorite musical artist?

My favorite artist is Taylor Swift! I also love listening to Shania Twain, The Beatles, & Selena.

What is your favorite season?

I love summer and fall!

What is a fun fact about you?

A fun fact about me is that I studied at The College of Saint Rose for my undergraduate & graduate degrees to become a SLP.

Allison Tozzi

Speech

What is your hometown?

Menands, NY

Who are your favorite musical artists?

Young the Giant, Wallows, ABBA, the list goes on!

What is your favorite season?

Fall

What is a fun fact about you?

I have been to Peru and Costa Rica



Carol Speed

Yellow Room

What is your hometown?

Hudson, NY

Who is your favorite musical artist?

Dave Matthews Band, Fleetwood Mac, Cage the Elephant, Outkast...my taste is very eclectic.

What is your favorite season?

Spring, when everything renews.

What are some fun facts about you?

I can write with my feet.