



Pre-K Press

December 2023



Lesson Plans & the Holidays...

Because I know we're all in survival mode right now!

December Lesson Plans

1. Scrape children from ceiling.
2. Repeat as necessary.

Enough said.

someecards
user card



Y'all have those December lesson plans ready? *Stop laughing...* I'm serious! One of my favorite mantras is "If you fail to plan, plan to fail." That's a harsh way to start off the holiday newsletter, huh? I just remember all-too-well the survival mode that is December in Pre-K, and I remember being a *not-so-new teacher* who thought, "Meh... It's December. I'll wing it." **Mistake. HUGE mistake.**

Sure, I had color sheets, books to read, and *The Polar Express*. I thought I was golden. Nope. I had to remember that our youngest scholars **need the stability of the routine lesson plans provide**. It's important to keep the day on schedule, keep their minds working, and keep their hands busy. Without the stability my lesson plans provided, I was frustrated, my students were frustrated, and well... you know. So ward off down time by incorporating the 2023 activities, but don't forget the **Pre-K Press archives**! You can always go back the newsletters of yore - like **December 2022** - for more activities.

And remember - we're all feeling it right now. The countdown to the break has begun!



Holiday Ha-Has...

Because laughing is good for the soul.

Teaching in December got me like...



TEACHERS BEFORE



CHRISTMAS BREAK

TREE TOPS GLISTEN & CHILDREN LISTEN



TO NOTHING.

CHILDREN LITERALLY DON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING.



IN DECEMBER



TEACHERS BE LIKE

CHRISTMAS BREAK IS ALMOST HERE!



TEACHERS: JUST HOLD ON!

TeacherResourceRoom.com



DAP CENTRAL

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICES



Letter Knowledge

Alphabet Light Matching

Click the picture below to download and print a set of lower-case light bulbs. Cut and laminate for durability. Hang a length of twine, yarn, or - why not - a strand of Christmas lights. Prepare clothespins with upper-case letters. Have children match the lower-case light to the upper-case clothes-pin. Have them name the letter and provide the sound each letter represents.



Math

Christmas Cube Building Mats

Print these [building mats](#), grab a bucket of cubes/tiles, and get to building! For students who need more support, they can simply match the cubes on the **green** mats. For your students who need more, have them snap the cubes together and build the picture (**red**).

Ask question such as:

- How many cubes make up your picture?
- How many cubes of each color make up the picture?
- Do you notice any patterns created in the picture?
- How could you change it to make a new picture?



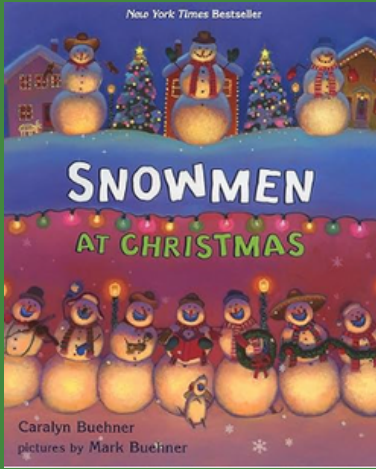
Discovery and Creativity

Give children the opportunity to discover and create while working on fine motor skills in a fun and meaningful way! Place strips of wrapping paper, craft paper, scrap book paper, and solid colored paper in a bin. Provide scissors, a glue stick, and a tree template. Invite children to choose different colors, prints, and types of paper and cut them into smaller sections to fit inside of the tree template. Explain that pieces of paper may overlap or cover one another, and that is fine. Tell them they are creating a **collage**, which is a way to make a piece of art by using different forms and shapes using paper.

Hint: Do not make an exemplar for children to try to recreate! This is about the **process NOT the product!** To help children, you can have your own template in which you add a few pieces of paper, but you don't need to have a completed tree.



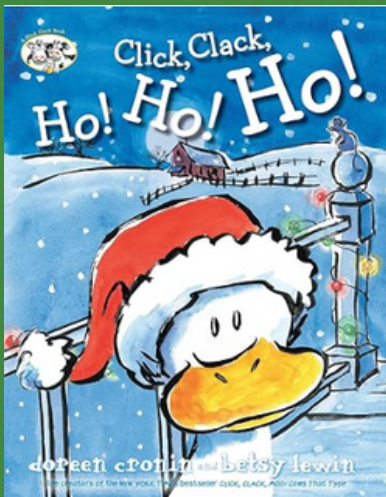
PRE-K BOOK NOOK



Snowmen at Christmas

Snowmen at Night shared with us the magical, slip-sliding adventures of snowmen after dark . . . but have you ever wondered what snowmen do for Christmas? Well, now's your chance to find out! The snowmen are back, and this time they're celebrating Christmas—the snowman way!

This snappy and entertaining story depicts all the best parts of the holiday, replete with icy treats and a snowman Kris Kringle.



Click, Clack, Ho! Ho! Ho!

Santa comes to the barnyard in this holiday! It's the night before Christmas and all through the farm, not a creature is stirring, not even a...duck?

Farmer Brown is busy decorating his home in preparation for Santa's arrival! All seems calm in the barnyard, but Farmer Brown isn't the only one who is getting ready...

Ho... Ho... OH NO!

Once again, Duck has gotten the whole barnyard STUCK in quite a predicament! Will anyone be able to un-stuck Duck and save Christmas?



The Tree That's Meant to Be

A small, crooked fir tree is left all alone after the others near it in the forest are chosen by families as Christmas to bring home. But when the forest animals gather around the lonely little tree to cheer it up and celebrate the season, it finds the warmth of the holidays in the heart of a cold, snowy forest.

This is a charming and classic-feeling holiday picture book with a timely message about celebrating our differences and sticking by our friends. Families will love making this part of their holiday traditions, as a perfect book to talk about kindness, generosity, and the true meaning of Christmas.





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