The Extended Morning Program has a weekly Focus Book that expands on the Pre-School theme of the month. The teachers support the stories through related activities that include experiences in each of the Developmental Domains. The story is further enhanced by experiences in our make shop, with wood working, and cooking activities in the kitchen. We also enjoy daily music with Mrs. Bird. A brief description of the focus book is included in each Monday’s email, and a list of available activities each day. The newsletter for each theme recaps the related activities through text and photographs, with captions highlighting the developmental emphasis.

January Pre-School Theme: Animals in Winter

A picture is worth a thousand words. These photos tell the story of our Animals in Winter theme at the Children’s School and express just how much we learn from our explorations!

Focus Books

Extended Morning Teachers: Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Myers, and Mrs. Opferman
Children encourage each other as they take turns playing “Don’t Break the Ice”.

We enjoy a good laugh together as we pretend to go for a toboggan ride!

Confidence and independence go hand-in-hand while working in the kitchen.

We get to test our hypothesis, “Will our bodies fit into this space”?

How tall can I build this stack of blocks?

We work on fine motor skills as we practice with scissors.

We look at a recipe when we want to create something delicious in the kitchen.

Using writing utensils, like markers, is a way we get accustomed to writing words.

We review stories through dramatic presentation.
Science

A combination of Insta-Sno, pinecones, and twigs brings the outdoors inside to us for discovery!

Animals in winter have lots of characteristics to explore.

Through physical representations, we learn about the winter caves that are homes to bears when they hibernate.

Math

Humans and bears have the same number of ears.

What shapes can be found on your winter hat?

Snowmen cannot be found in warm, sunny places!

Social Studies

Where might you find a polar bear?

Snowflakes are all so different - let’s use scissors to create a symmetrical masterpiece.

Animals in winter have a variety of colored fur coats. Many also are insulated with fat to keep them warm.
Sometimes, a picture explains more easily than words.

A three—step process: choose markers to color, cut out animals, adhere a stick to produce a shadow puppet!

Each snowman has its own unique look.

We offer an assortment of building materials throughout the unit. This allows exposure to various textures, sizes, and balancing properties.

Similar to a microscope, the Zoomi allows a much closer look.

Sometimes, we must forsake wires and screens for our imaginations to freely create with our hands as tools.

Safety googles are required when using woodworking tools.

Children are permitted to use safe kitchen tools.

We learn about proper winter attire through a memory tray game.