



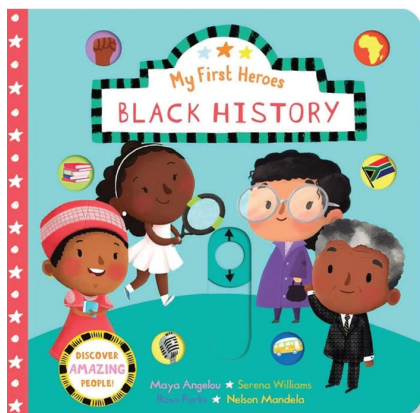
## Learning Adventures in February!

February was full of fun learning adventures! We used books, arts & crafts, music, games, and interactive media to explore and celebrate many holidays and special events, including Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, Lunar New Year, President's Day, and National Children's Dental Health Month. [Dental Health Activity Photos](#).

### ■ FIRE SAFETY PUPPET SHOW

Before we get into the details of our February adventures, we want to thank Ms. Wyleng and Ms. Marina from Fairfax County's Fire & Rescue Department for hosting a Fire Safety Puppet Show at JCC in late January. With the help of two adorable puppets, the children learned important fire safety rules and about

the protective clothing firefighters wear. Plus, each child got a bright red firefighter helmet! Many thanks to the FS426 – Edsall Road Group for the "Touch a Fire Truck" onsite visit. [Fire Truck Video](#) & [Puppet Show Video](#).



### ■ BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout February, we used various media to honor and celebrate the incredible contributions of Black individuals who have enriched our world with their creativity and talent. The children learned about civil rights leader Martin Luther King, architect Paul Revere Williams, and agricultural scientist George Washington Carver. We read *My First Heroes: Black History* by Silver Dolphin Books and *The ABCs of Black History* by Rio Cortez. [View Video](#).

### ■ VALENTINE'S DAY

The kiddos had fun getting ready for and celebrating Valentine's Day. Special activities included making Valentine's Day cards and decorations, sequencing chocolate-covered straw-  
*(continued on page 2)*

## February Learning Adventures

(continued from page 1)

berries, and playing Valentine's bingo. We also explored the letters "V" for Valentine's Day and "L" for Love. We ended the day with a party with heart-shaped donuts and goody bags. [View Photos.](#)

### ■ LUNAR NEW YEAR

This year's Lunar New Year began on February 10, marking the start of the Year of the Dragon. We started our learning adventure with a virtual field trip to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art to learn about this cultural celebration. The children made paper fans and colorful dragon masks. We also read *Ruby's Chinese New Year* by Vickie Lee. Many thanks to Quinn and his family for the goody bags, flowers, and red envelope gifts. [View Video.](#)

### ■ EARLY SCIENTIFIC LEARNING

The children enjoyed virtual lessons taught by the WonderLab Museum of Science, Health, and Technology staff. One lesson focused on the Wonders of Weather. Ms. Jessica read *What's the Weather* by Shelley Rotner. We learned about static electricity and the power of wind. The kids showcased their creativity by decorating and painting wind chimes. They actively integrated scientific concepts with artistic expression, adorning their wind chimes with colors and patterns to represent different weather elements, such as the sun, clouds, and raindrops.

### ■ READ! READ! READ!

The children in our care read books daily during Storytime and interactive read-aloud. In February, we read 29 books. Our favorite books included *Grumpy Groundhog* by Maureen Wright, *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman, and *Ten Pigs — An Epic Bath Adventure* by Derek Anderson. [View Our February Reading List.](#)

### ■ LETTER RECOGNITION

We use games, books, songs, and puzzles to help with letter recognition. Each child takes home an empty let-



## Music with Ms. Marquita

Music is an integral part of the JCC program. The kiddos dance to music, sing, and explore instruments. On Thursdays, Ms. Marquita teaches the children music concepts and piano. This month, she introduced them to "Hot Cross Buns" on the piano and helped each child play the notes. She also introduced the "DO RE MI" music scale. To reinforce this scale we watched the "DO RE MI" song from *The Sound of Music* film and crafted "DO RE MI" signs. [View Photos & Videos.](#)

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work together. Exposing children to music during early development helps them learn the sounds and meanings of words. Dancing to music helps children build motor skills while allowing them to practice self-expression. In addition to the developmental benefits, music brings us joy!

terbox to involve families more in their children's learning. They put items that start with a specific letter in the box and share their contents at JCC. In February, we focused on the letters "B" and "D."

[Show-and-Tell B Box Share.](#)

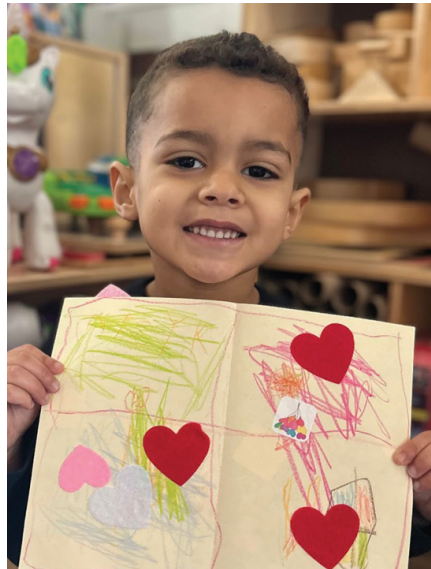
[Share and Play with D Box Items.](#)

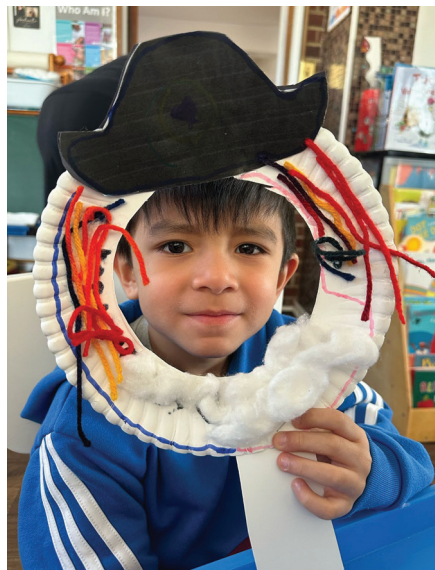
### ■ LITERACY ENHANCEMENT

Our focus on letter recognition has been a cornerstone of our February activities in the spirit of enriching literacy skills. Through a dynamic blend

of games, books, songs, and puzzles, we've engaged the children in the exciting journey of discovering letters and their sounds. Providing each child with an empty letterbox has increased their enthusiasm for learning and family involvement. As we nurture a love for language and literacy, we celebrate the strides our children are making in their letter recognition journey. Together, we're laying the foundation for a future filled with endless possibilities through the power of words.

Fun with Friends!





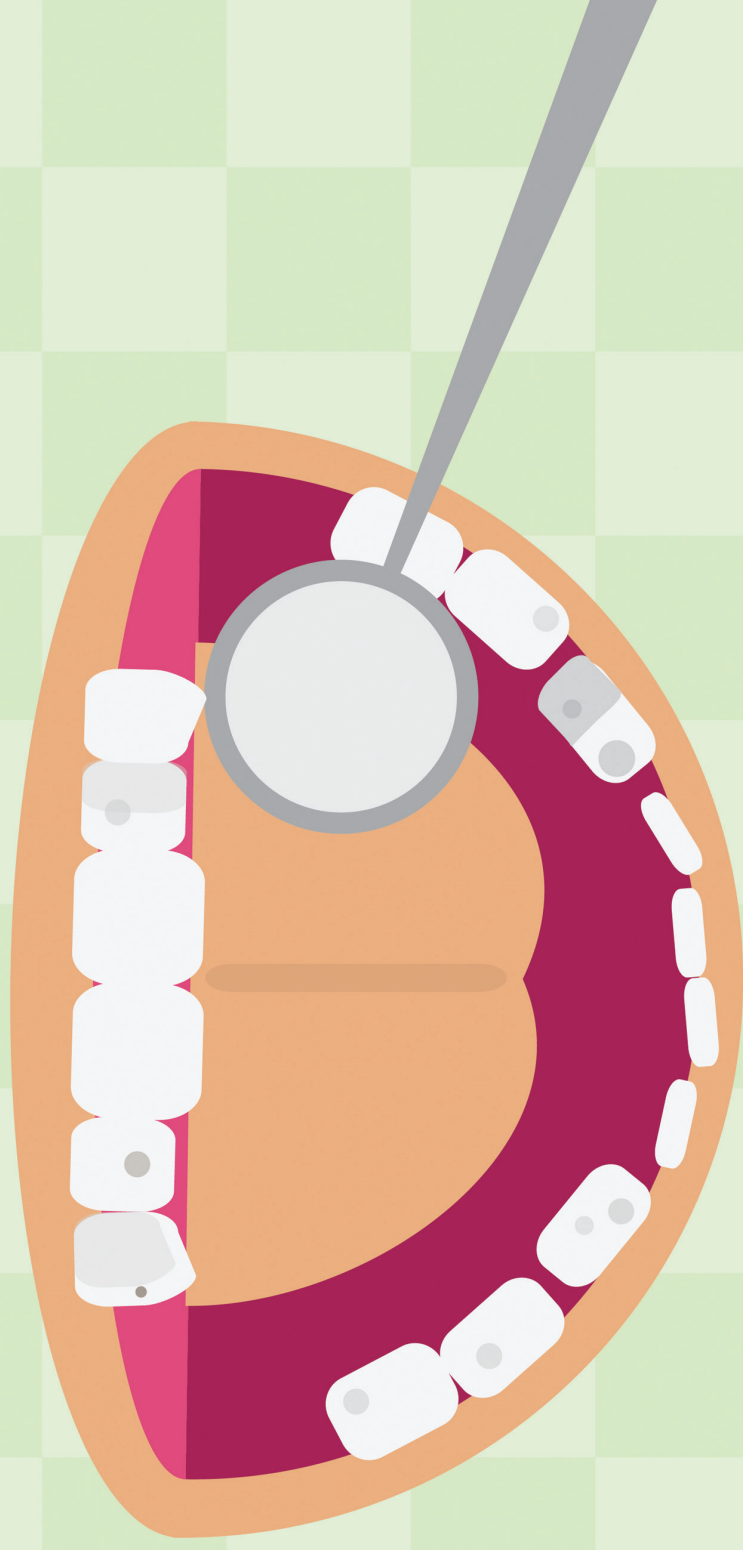


Monica Jackson is owner and Director of Jackson Child Care (JCC). Our mission at JCC is to learn, play and grow together! We provide a safe, nurturing, child-centered setting that fosters each child's success and a love of learning in collaboration with parents and the community. We are committed to building a successful early learning foundation to equip children with school readiness skills. We operate according to safety protocols that adhere to the Center for Disease Control and Department of Health Guidelines.

We are currently enrolling children for our preschool program. For information, please contact Monica at 703-354-5913 or [jacksonchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonchildcare@gmail.com). Visit us on the web ([www.mjchildcare.com](http://www.mjchildcare.com)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/mjchildcare](http://www.facebook.com/mjchildcare)).

# FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Tooth decay is the **NUMBER ONE** condition affecting children.



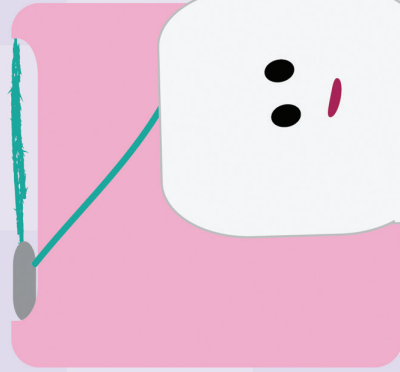
The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that **PARENTS SCHEDULE** their child's first dental appointment by their **FIRST BIRTHDAY**.



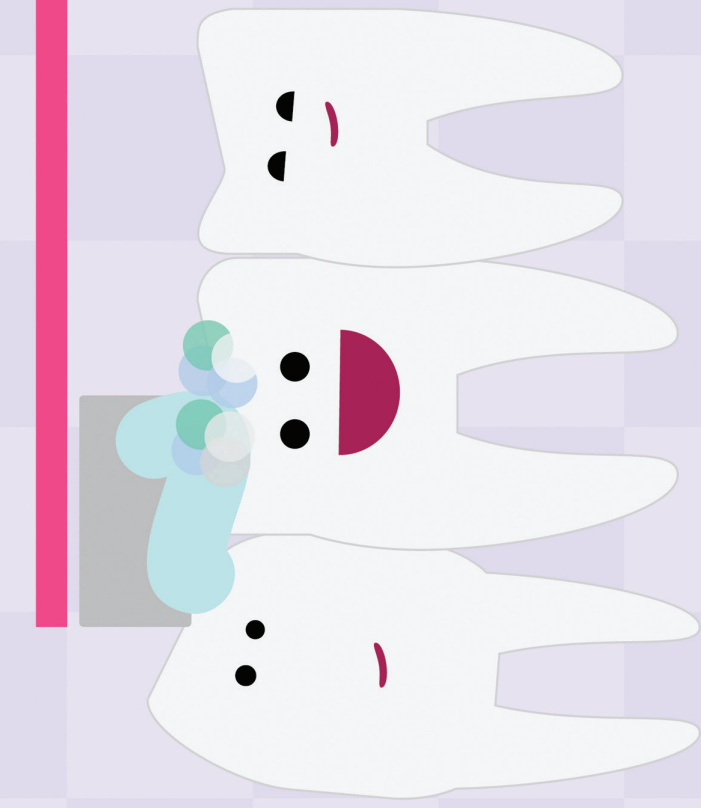
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[childhoodpreparedness.org](http://childhoodpreparedness.org)

# FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Tooth decay is ENTIRELY PREVENTABLE so remember to teach your children about:



## FLOSSING



## BRUSHING

# AND