



Fun Learning Adventures in December!

In December, we embraced the holiday spirit with a month filled with gratitude, creativity, and festive traditions. Here are the highlights from this joyful season:

■ CELEBRATING GRATITUDE

We began the month by reflecting on gratitude, discussing what the children are thankful for, and exploring stories that emphasize the importance of appreciation during the holidays. Ms. Kelly, our literacy specialist, conducted festive storytelling sessions that inspired young readers.

■ EXPLORING ART HISTORY & THE NUTCRACKER

Our Nutcracker Celebration was a magical experience! The children learned about the elements of art while crafting and engaging with the iconic holiday tale. Gingerbread House Day on Monday sparked creativity as the kids designed their sweet masterpieces. Adding Art History Kids lesson plans provided rich learning moments throughout the week.

■ HOLIDAY CRAFTS & SWEET TREATS

The final week was filled with hands-on fun! The children created festive decorations, decorated cookies, and showcased teamwork during our cherished annual gingerbread

house crafting tradition. Pajama Day added extra coziness to our celebrations. [View photos.](#)

■ SPECIAL MOMENTS & ADVENTURES

- Emma and her family enjoyed a vacation in the Smoky Mountains.
- Eden's family traveled to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for her brother Jamie's evaluation.

■ TRY NEW FOOD THURSDAY

The kids explored the joys of cooking with homemade pumpkin pancakes. [View photos.](#) They measured, stirred, and taste-tested their creations, fostering teamwork and a love for learning in the kitchen. Check out our photo album links for many memorable moments:

- Week of December 18 — [View photos.](#)
- Week of December 19 — [View photos.](#)
- Week of December 20 — [View photos.](#)

Thank you for sharing this incredible journey in 2024, love, laughter, and cherished memories. We look forward to a new year of learning, playing, and growing together.

2024 Year-End Gratitude and Early Learning Highlights



We reflect on the meaningful moments, joyful experiences, and milestones that shaped 2024 year at Jackson Child Care. Our community of young learners, dedicated families, and supportive neighbors has made an incredible impact. With hearts full of gratitude, we celebrate the highlights of our journey together.

Our Gratitude

To our families: Your trust in us to nurture, teach, and care for your children is the foundation of our work. Thank you for sharing your stories, feedback, and encouragement.

To our community: Your kindness, from smiling to supporting our little learners to engaging with our activities, reminds us of the strength of community.

To our team: Your unwavering commitment to early learning excellence and creating joyful, meaningful experiences for every child has been extraordinary.

Seasonal Learning Adventures

Winter: Our preschoolers explored the beauty of winter through art, stories, and play. Snowflake crafts and a focus on kindness warmed our hearts during the chilly season.

Spring: Gardening took center stage as children nurtured plants and learned about growth and nature's cycles.

Summer: Art history-inspired projects encouraged creativity, while water days and scavenger hunts brought extra fun to our summer camp.

Fall: Cultural heritage celebrations, like Hispanic Heritage Month, offer vibrant learning experiences, and pumpkin-themed activities spark curiosity about science, art, and math.

Literacy Milestone

This year, we continue our journey toward reading 1,000 books before kindergarten. From *Pete the Cat* to *Mouse Paint*, story time has been a magical way to enhance vocabulary and foster a love of reading. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/k6RJqC8Rq73Urne99>

Mindful Education Teacher Training

We are committed to teaching mindfulness to our preschoolers because it helps equip them with tools to build self-esteem, manage stress, and skillfully approach challenges. <https://mindfuleducation.com>

Social & Emotional Learning

We use AI's Pals program to foster emotional literacy, social-emotional development, and Mindfulness & Kindness curriculum. Emphasizing emotional awareness, empathy, and building positive relationships. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/wHwuY3AAiM2gVMcj9>

Nutrition & Wellness

We celebrated National Nutrition Month with the 'Eat and Run' Training event, empowering children with healthy habits and a love for nutritious foods. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Zy7SWt2S7zgrk3mo6>

Acts of Kindness

Our children made Thanksgiving cards for community helpers, shared treats with friends, and embraced the spirit of giving during every season. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/QUquMbg6bAs3JHVS9>

Creative Exploration

Whether mixing colors, creating hats inspired by Native American culture, or crafting art inspired by ice cream, our children immersed themselves in imaginative projects.

Celebrating Growth

We proudly congratulated five rising kindergartners this year! Their farewell celebration was a mix of joy, nostalgia, and excitement for the road ahead. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NGR5yHVWtfq23nWM8>

Family Engagement

We commemorated milestones with families, such as celebrations for rising kindergartners and festive gatherings during the holiday season.

Looking Ahead

As we enter 2025, we are excited to continue providing developmentally appropriate, joyful learning experiences. Let's nurture curiosity, creativity, and kindness in our children and community together. Thank you for sharing our story this year. From our Jackson Child Care family to yours, we wish you a new year filled with love, learning, and laughter.

Monica



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. Visit us on the web (www.mjchildcare.com) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/mjchildcare).

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES

CORE PREVENTION MEASURES

Stay up to date with vaccinations including COVID-19, flu, and RSV (if eligible).



Improve indoor air quality by opening windows and using the fan or your AC.



Practice good hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.



Stay home and away from others when sick to prevent others from getting sick.



Get treatment if you have flu or COVID-19 and are at increased risk for severe illness.



ADDITIONAL PREVENTION MEASURES

These can be helpful when there is a lot of illness in your community, when you or those around you have risk factors for severe illness, or if you were recently exposed, are sick, or are recovering from respiratory illness.

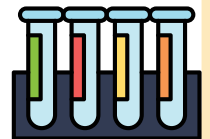
Masking



Keeping Distance from Others



Testing



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE SICK

If You're Sick, Stay Home

- When you have symptoms of a respiratory virus, **stay home** and away from others.
- You can go back to your normal activities when, for at least 24 hours:
 - Your symptoms are getting better overall **AND**
 - You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication)



Take Additional Prevention Measures

Once you go back to normal activities, take **additional measures for five more days** in case you're still able to spread the virus. These measures include:

- Keeping distance from others
- Getting tested when you want to be around others indoors
- Wearing a well-fitting mask when around others

DON'T FORGET ABOUT TREATMENT

If you have COVID-19 or flu and are at higher risk for severe illness, talk with a healthcare provider as soon as symptoms start to see if prescription treatment is right for you. Treatment is most effective when taken within a few days of when symptoms start.

