

## In the Garden

*We'll be finishing up winterizing the garden beds this month, raking up leaves, looking for bugs to feed the chickens and checking up on our remaining brassicas, as well as plants in the cold-frame greenhouses. Most of the lettuces have survived in one cold frame and are almost ready to start eating, and we have young chard plants & baby lettuces to plant near them as well. In the other cold frame our kale plants were heavily attacked by cabbage butterfly caterpillars, but we still have several that look like they will survive, though it will be some time before they have leaves ready to harvest.*

*Paperwhite narcissus, late November—>*



## In the classroom

### Dec 2-6 — Eat a **Rainbow** (continued)

Due to illness & an unexpected short trip out-of-town we missed one week of this two-week theme. We will conclude the theme this week, sampling foods from a rainbow of colors, and (as time permits) coloring I Can Eat a Rainbow books, matching food pictures to color names, enjoying farm puzzles and placing animal magnets on a farm scene.

## Dec 9-13 – Animals in Winter

### Activities

- Discuss migration, hibernation & adaptation in animals such as birds, bear, penguins & reptiles
- Assemble felt puzzles: deer, penguin & hare
- Negotiate winter mazes
- Discuss gray whale migration
- Find animals hiding in a winter scene
- Count penguins & matching colors (twos)
- Animal specimen jars
- Observe animal/habitat photos
- Sing “Baby Beluga” with banjo (additional songs with twos & toddlers)

### Vocabulary

- Winter
- Snow
- Migration
- Adaptation
- Hibernation
- Burrow
- Hollow
- Insulation

### Objectives

- Compare migration, hibernation & adaptation
- Match animal pairs
- Negotiate mazes
- Assemble felt animals

## Dec 16-20 – Animals in Winter

### Activities

- Read about/discuss reindeer & other members of the deer family
- Review migration, hibernation & adaptation
- Play winter animal memory/matching
- Assemble animal felt puzzles
- Observe animal specimen jars & deer parts
- Complete winter mazes

### Vocabulary

- Winter
- Migration, map
- Snow, tundra
- Lichen

### Objectives

- Explain migration, hibernation & adaptation
- Match animal pairs
- Negotiate mazes
- Assemble felt animals



## Dec 23-24 / Dec 30-Jan 3 — Winter Solstice & Conifers

### Activities

- Discuss the solstice and the changing positions of the earth & sun across the seasons
- Sing “Dark/Light” & “This Little Light of Mine” with guitar
- Dark/light painting
- Investigate & discuss conifers
- Taste fir needle tea
- Tracing winter pictures/words (preschool & pre-K)
- Conifer dot-to-dot (pre-K)

### Vocabulary

- Solstice, winter
- Conifer, needle, leaf, cone
- Dark, light
- Sun, orbit
- Globe
- North, south

### Objectives

- Indicate what is special about the sun on the Winter Solstice
- Name parts of a conifer trees (needle, cone, bark, stem, branch, root)
- Observe differences in various conifer leaves & cones
- Use fine motor skills while painting
- Sing solstice-related songs

