

# THE SPOTTED ZEBRA Learning Center

## January 2026

### Reminders:

- The Center will be closed on 1/19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



## Admin News

Welcome back to a new year! We hope everyone got some good rest and family time and is ready to dive back into the classrooms!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our PaperPie Book Fair! We were excited to bring some new books to our classrooms and we hope you were able to find some new additions to your bookshelf as well.

After thoughtful consideration and careful planning, we have made the decision **not to offer a Kindergarten program for the 2026–2027 school year.**

This was not an easy decision. At Spotted Zebra, we are deeply committed to providing high-quality, developmentally appropriate programming, and we believe it is important to make decisions that allow us to do that well—rather than stretching resources in a way that could compromise quality.

At this time, we believe that focusing our energy and resources on our core early childhood and preschool programs is the best way to continue serving children and families well.

For families who were considering Kindergarten at Spotted Zebra, we are happy to support you in exploring alternative options and discussing transition planning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you would like to talk through next steps or available resources.

We truly appreciate your trust in Spotted Zebra and your continued partnership. As always, our decisions are guided by what we believe is in the best interest of the children, families, and staff who make up our community.

We are now implementing a more in-depth daily health check at drop-off. This will include closer observation, temperature checks as needed, and brief questions related to symptoms that may have emerged overnight or that morning. This enhanced check is intended to support early identification of illness and reduce the spread of flu and other respiratory illnesses within our classrooms.

**As a reminder, our Health Policy requires that children be symptom-free for 48 hours without the use of medication before returning to preschool. This includes symptoms such as fever, vomiting, and diarrhea.**

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please reach out via phone, email, or comment box in our back vestibule!

## What is Happening in the Classrooms...



## Teal Room News

Hello Teal Room Families,

Happy New Year! We're excited to welcome the children back as we head into January and continue our learning with a cozy, winter-filled month. This month, our classroom themes will focus on winter weather and clothing, snow and ice, animals in winter and hibernation, and Arctic animals.

Children will explore how winter weather affects our world by learning about cold temperatures and the clothing we wear to stay warm. Through hands-on activities like sensory play with "snow" and ice, winter-themed art projects, and sorting and matching winter gear, children will build vocabulary, problem-solving skills, and fine motor development. We'll also investigate how animals adapt during winter by reading stories about hibernation, learning about animals that migrate, and discovering Arctic animals such as polar bears, penguins, and seals.

Throughout the month, we'll continue to emphasize cooperation, curiosity, and caring for one another. Whether children are working together to build snowy scenes, exploring winter science, or working together in whole groups, they'll have many opportunities to practice teamwork, kindness, and communication. We're looking forward to a month filled with exploration, creativity, and winter wonder as we begin the new year together.

Best,

**Ms. Heather, Ms. Sara, Ms. Lauren,  
Ms. Kaitlin, Ms. Kelly, & Ms. Alli**



## Violet Room News

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and had a restful break. We are so excited to see what January brings after all of the joy and festivities that December held. Our friends enjoyed creating family gifts, sharing their holiday traditions, and celebrating the holiday before break.

As we move into the New Year and the seasons shift, we will begin to delve into winter themes like hibernation, winter birds, snowmen, and winter clothing. We will continue rotating seasonal centers with varying activities and are excited to explore theme-related authors like Jan Brett and classic stories like *The Snowy Day*. We will continue to focus on fostering independence as we incorporate social stories focusing on self-help skills and peer relations. We will also work on self-advocacy and responsibility through daily living tasks and jobs.

Though winter has officially begun, we will still attempt to go outside if the weather permits. Please ensure your child is wearing and has extras of weather appropriate clothing each day. Please label all items, especially those which are easily lost or mixed up such as mittens and hats.

Lastly, we would like to wish a happy birthday to Sterling (15th) and Miss Brittany (22nd).

**Ms. Brittany, Ms. Terry, Ms. Laura, and  
Ms. Allison**



## Blue Room News

We can't believe it's already January! It has been so much fun getting to know more about our Blue Room friends each day. Everyone has made amazing progress already, and we can't wait to see where the new year takes this wonderful group of kids. Our holiday season was a blast; everyone had a great time learning about the different holidays that are celebrated throughout December.

Starting this month, students will sign in to the classroom by tracing their name with a dry-erase marker every morning. We will also continue to work on new letters and counting each day. Throughout January, we will be focusing on topics such as snow, ice, snowflakes, and snowmen. We will be reading *The Mitten* and *The Snowy Day*. We have so many fun crafts and activities to go along with each story. We will also be taking time to learn about Martin Luther King Jr. Later in the month, we will learn about different animals that hibernate/ why animals hibernate. Our dramatic play area will be transformed into a beautiful winter wonderland!

We hope 2026 is a happy and healthy year for everyone. Thank you all for your continued support in our classroom; it is greatly appreciated! If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out via email.

**Sincerely,**

**Ms. Jackie, Ms. Katina, and Ms. Khrista**



## Green Room News

### Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed the break. We're excited to welcome everyone back and start a brand-new year together!

December was a joyful month full of learning and celebration as we explored holiday traditions from around the world. The pajama party and festive activities were definitely highlights! Thank you so much for sending in decorations for our classroom Christmas trees—the children loved it.

This month, we'll be jumping into winter-themed learning. Our focus will include winter weather, snowmen, Arctic animals, and hibernation. We will also begin our handwriting unit, so you can expect to see plenty of letter practice coming home.

With colder weather here, please remember to send labeled warm gear each day. We will go outside when the temperature is above 32°F.

We'd also like to take a moment to wish Arlo a very happy birthday!

We're looking forward to a wonderful start to 2026!

**Warmly,  
Ms. Michelle, Ms. Elle, and Ms. Jennifer**



## Orange Room News

Happy January! We hope you had a restful and joyful holiday season. We're excited to welcome the children back to the Orange Room as we begin a brand-new year together. January is a wonderful time for fresh routines and continued growth, and we're looking forward to all the learning and fun ahead.

This month, our classroom will be transformed into a winter wonderland as we explore seasonal themes like snow, snowflakes, and arctic animals. Through sensory play, art, science, and movement, children will investigate what winter looks and feels like, how animals adapt to cold climates, and the beauty of snow in all its forms.

We'll also be diving into some beloved winter stories by Jan Brett, including *The Mitten* and *The Hat*. These rich, engaging books offer wonderful opportunities for storytelling, sequencing, problem-solving, and imaginative play. Expect to see these stories come to life through hands-on activities, dramatic play, and creative projects.

Alongside our winter themes, we'll be placing a stronger focus on kindergarten readiness skills. Through playful, developmentally appropriate activities, children will practice tracing letters, writing their names, strengthening fine motor skills, and learning to safely and confidently use scissors. These experiences help build independence, confidence, and the foundational skills they'll continue to grow throughout the year.

As winter weather continues, we'll still enjoy outdoor play whenever possible. Please be sure your child comes to school with warm layers, including coats, hats, gloves, and boots, so they can stay comfortable during outside time. Extra clothes in cubbies are always appreciated during this snowy season!

We're so excited to start the new year learning, exploring, and growing together. Thank you for your continued support and partnership—we're grateful to share this journey with your family.

Warmly,  
Ms. Katie, Ms. Tami, and Ms. Daphne  
The Orange Room Team



## Yellow Room News

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a rejuvenating holiday break, and lots of quality time with family and friends. On January 5th, we will ring in the New Year together with a countdown to noon. Overarching themes for this month will be: Martin Luther King, Jr. – kindness, peace, and community; winter and frozen water – ice and snow; arctic animals; and winter Olympics.

Within those themes, the following skills will be introduced and/or practiced: sorting, counting, and classifying objects up to ten; making 6, 7, 8, & 9; patterns; graphing and reading charts; geometry – flat shapes (2D) and solid shapes (3D), shape and position, and building shapes. This month we will focus on Ff, Ll, Gg, and Oo for letter identification, writing formation, and phonemic awareness. We will also practice phonological awareness using syllables and rhyming, as well as begin to "stretch out" words with initial (beginning), medial (middle), and ending sounds of words.

Please send in labeled snow gear in a tote/reusable bag. We will always look for opportunities to play outside when the temperature and wind-chill is 32 degrees or higher!

Happy Birthday to Teddy and Everly this month! Happy New Year to all!!

We would also like to take a moment to welcome Autumn to the Yellow Room!!

Ms. Carol, Ms. Megan, and Ms. Chris

# Meet the Spotted Zebra Herd!

## Therapists and Special Educators

Ms. Juli	Psychology
Ms. Marlis	OT
Ms. Shawna	Speech (Teal)
Ms. Kaylyn	Speech (Yellow)
Ms. Caitlin	OT (V, B, O)
Ms. Rachel C	Speech (Orange)
Ms. Rachel M	Music
Ms. Carla	OT (Y, G)
Ms. Allison T	Speech (Violet)
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Cindy	PT (B, G, O)
Ms. Allison R	PT (Y, V, Teal)
Ms. Jesse	Speech (Blue)
Ms. Olivia	Speech (Green)
Ms. Kelly	OT (Teal)
Ms. Kaitlin	Speech (Teal)

## Offsite Therapists

Ms. Shawna	Speech
Ms. Nicole Ge	Speech
Ms. Kathi	PT
Mr. Peter	OT
Ms. Nicole S	SEIT
Ms. Sarah	PT
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Laura D	Speech
Ms. Debbie	PT
Ms. Claire	Speech
Ms. Kaitlin	Speech

## Floating Teachers

Ms. Alaina
Ms. Karen
Ms. Emily
Ms. Allison K
Ms. Nicole Gr
Ms. Tristyn
Ms. Josilyn
Ms. Cadence
Ms. Jennifer S

## Admin Team

Ms. Sheri
Mr. Matt
Ms. Shannon
Ms. Amy
Ms. Victoria
Ms. Rachael
Ms. Jenna
Mr. Derek

