

*Press Release*

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## **Pre-Schoolers' Practice Motor and Language Skills Integrated with A Holiday Theme**



The holiday spirit is captured by the preschoolers at Hudson Maxim School in Hopatcong while they practice their skills in their December language-movement group. The group was developed by Pamela Hutchinson, Occupational Therapist and Luanne Balinski, Speech Therapist at the Hudson Maxim School in Hopatcong, NJ.

Motor and language skills are integrated and practiced within the classroom during this very creative group. The children began the holiday fun by greeting their group mascot Buzzy Bee! Pre-writing skills that include finger isolation are practiced while singing the song The Five Little Snowmen. The children act out the 'exercise' wearing gloves with snowman decorated fingers. Next, each child then climbed a ladder to help decorate a tree or a menorah designed to practice language, motor coordination and balance.

Lastly, the lights were dimmed and the children were asked to help Santa deliver packages. Each child got a turn to sit in the 'sleigh' and pulled the sleigh a short distance to the target, a 'chimney', in which they 'delivered' or threw their present down the chimney.

The children completed the group by sitting in a circle on the floor. Music was played while each member of the group passed a 'present'. When the music stopped, the child holding the package unwrapped an outer layer of the wrapping. They played until all layers were gone and the center of the package was reached. In the center, of course, was a treat for all!

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