

Tiny Scholars Academy

January Curriculum Guide

Theme: New Year, New Goals & Winter Wonders

Month:	January
Theme:	New Year, New Goals & Winter Wonders
Age Groups:	Infants (6 wks–12 mo) • Toddlers (12–36 mo) • Preschool (3–5 yrs)
Standards:	Rhode Island Early Learning & Development Standards (RIELDS)

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MONTHLY OVERVIEW & LEARNING GOALS — JANUARY

Big Idea: January brings fresh beginnings, icy wonder, and a spirit of intention. Children explore goal-setting, investigate winter science, celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and embrace the quiet beauty of the coldest month.

Monthly Theme Weeks

Week 1 **New Year, New Me!**

Week 2 **Winter Science & Ice**

Week 3 **Dr. King & Equality**

Week 4 **Polar Animals & Habitats**

Guiding Questions

- What is a goal? What do I want to learn or do this year?
- What happens to water when it gets very cold?
- Who was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and why does he matter today?
- How do polar animals survive in freezing cold places?
- What is a habitat? What do all living things need to survive?

■ Infant Room — Monthly Goals

- Begin new year with renewed attachment focus and relationship building
- Explore cool and cold sensory play safely
- Develop motor skills through winter movement activities
- Build language through winter animal books and narration
- Strengthen social engagement after holiday break transition

■ Toddler Room — Monthly Goals

- Practice goal language: 'I want to learn...!', 'I will try...!'
- Explore ice and snow through guided sensory science
- Learn about Dr. King through age-appropriate books and discussion
- Build polar animal vocabulary: penguin, polar bear, arctic, ice
- Develop number sense 1–10 with winter counting games

■ Preschool Room — Monthly Goals

• RIELDS integration through goals, justice, and winter science
• Write personal goal statements and create vision pages (D2,D3)
• Conduct water state experiments: liquid, solid (D5)
• Learn about civil rights through age-appropriate literature (D6,D1)
• Research polar animal adaptations and create fact books (D5,D3)
• Develop calendar skills and January number sense 1–20 (D4)

INFANT CLASSROOM (6 wks–12 mo) — JANUARY 4-WEEK CURRICULUM

Curriculum Approach: All infant learning is embedded in responsive caregiving routines. Ratios, safe sleep, and RIDOH licensing standards are maintained at all times. Outdoor time occurs daily in the buggy or on a supervised blanket.

Week	Theme	Objectives	Activities	Materials	Assessment
Wk 1 New Year	Fresh Beginnings	Attachment renewal; sensory exploration; social smiling	Welcome-back slow routine reintroduction; 'Twinkle Twinkle' reacquainting songs; gold star sensory mobile	Gold star mobile, familiar music, cozy sensory materials	Document transition back from break; note attachment ease
Wk 2 Winter Science	Cold Discovery	Temperature sensory; visual tracking; motor	Safe ice-cube tactile exploration; frozen sensory block discovery; Arctic blue sensory bin	Ice cubes, frozen sensory blocks, blue bin with Arctic toys	Note temperature response; document exploration duration
Wk 3 Dr. King	Warmth & Care	Prosocial modeling; language; emotional warmth	Read 'Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King'; warm/caring touch games; kindness song	MLK board book, warmth song, kindness sensory materials	Document social responses; note caregiver-modeled kindness
Wk 4 Polar Animals	Arctic Wonder	Animal vocabulary; visual tracking; cause-effect	Penguin puppet show; polar animal board books; black-and-white high-contrast cards	Penguin puppet, polar books, contrast cards, Arctic sensory bin	Note animal recognition; document attention span

TODDLER CLASSROOM (12–36 mo) — JANUARY 4-WEEK CURRICULUM

Curriculum Approach: Movement, language, and sensory learning drive the toddler experience. Centers rotate weekly with the theme. Predictable routines support autonomy and emotional regulation.

Week	Theme	Objectives	Activities	Materials	Assessment
Wk 1 New Year Goals	Hopes & Dreams	Goal language; self-expression; fine motor	'I hope this year I will...' drawing + dictation; star wishing craft; class goals chart; New Year's dance	Drawing supplies, gold stars, goals chart paper, music	Document goal language; note self-expression confidence
Wk 2 Ice Science	Freeze & Melt	Science vocabulary; prediction; fine motor	Ice melting race (salt vs. plain); color ice painting; frozen toy rescue; 'Who melts faster?' prediction	Ice, salt, food coloring, frozen toys, prediction recording	Note science vocabulary; document prediction-making
Wk 3 Dr. King	Kindness & Justice	Equality vocabulary; social skills; language	Read 'Martin's Big Words'; dream cloud art; 'We Can' song; kindness rules brainstorm	MLK books, cloud paper, crayons, kindness poster	Document equality vocabulary; note prosocial responses
Wk 4 Polar Animals	Arctic Habitat	Habitat vocabulary; counting; dramatic play	Penguin waddle race; polar bear blubber experiment; Arctic small world play; 1-10 penguin counting	Penguin mats, blubber gloves, Arctic toys, counting mats	Note habitat vocabulary; document counting accuracy

PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM (3–5 yrs) — JANUARY RIELDS-ALIGNED CURRICULUM

Standards Note: All activities are mapped to the 9 Rhode Island ELDS domains. Domain codes (D1–D9) appear in each activity. See the RIELDS Domain Reference in the June Curriculum Guide.

Week 1 — New Year, New Me! ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'The Most Magnificent Thing' / 'What Do You Do With a Problem?' Write: 'My 2025 Learning Goals' — illustrated goal poster (D2,D3)
Math	Calendar skills: January number line; count forward/backward from 10 (D4)
Science	New year science challenge: build the tallest tower from recyclables (D5,D9)
Art	Vision board: cut and paste what you hope to learn this year (D7,D9)
SEL	Growth mindset introduction: 'I can't do it YET'; share a challenge story (D1,D9)

Week 2 — Winter Science & Ice ❄️■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'Snowflake Bentley' / 'Ice' Science journal: observe and draw three different ice formations (D2,D3,D5)
Math	Measure: how many ice cubes in a cup? How long to melt? Record data (D4,D5)
Science	States of water: solid, liquid — freeze and melt; predict outcomes (D5,D9)
Art	Salt watercolor painting: sprinkle salt on wet watercolor (D7)
STEM	Build a structure that slows ice melting; test and compare (D5,D4,D9)

Week 3 — Dr. King & Equality ■■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'Martin's Big Words' / 'The Day You Begin' Write: 'My dream for our classroom is...' (D2,D3,D1)
Math	Fair share math: if we had 12 books for 4 children, how many each? (D4,D1)
Science	Mixing colors: what happens when 'different' colors mix? (Metaphor for community) (D5,D1)
Art	Dream quilt square: illustrate your dream for a fair world (D7,D1)
Social Studies	Civil rights timeline for children: simple historical sequence (D6,D3)

Week 4 — Polar Animals & Habitats ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'Tacky the Penguin' / 'Over in the Arctic' Write a polar animal fact book (D2,D3,D5)

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Math	Compare: arctic vs. tropical temperatures on a simple graph (D4)
Science	Blubber glove experiment: how do polar animals stay warm? (D5,D9)
Art	Polar animal watercolors: use wet-on-wet technique for arctic atmosphere (D7)
Geography	Arctic and Antarctic: where are they? Globe and map exploration (D6,D5)

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM — JANUARY

Week: New Year, New Me!

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | New Year, New Me!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Winter Science & Ice

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Winter Science & Ice

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Dr. King & Equality

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Dr. King & Equality

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Polar Animals & Habitats

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM Polar Animals & Habitats				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM — JANUARY

Week: New Year, New Me!

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM New Year, New Me!				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Winter Science & Ice

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Winter Science & Ice

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Dr. King & Equality

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Dr. King & Equality

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Polar Animals & Habitats

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Polar Animals & Habitats

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:

Reflections / Notes:	
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TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM — JANUARY

Week: New Year, New Me!

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM New Year, New Me!				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Winter Science & Ice

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Winter Science & Ice				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Dr. King & Equality

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Dr. King & Equality				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Polar Animals & Habitats

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Polar Animals & Habitats				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Tiny Scholars Academy January Family Newsletter

Welcome to January at Tiny Scholars Academy!

This month our theme is **New Year, New Goals & Winter Wonders**. January brings fresh beginnings, icy wonder, and a spirit of intention. Children explore goal-setting, investigate winter science, celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and embrace the quiet beauty of the coldest month. Read on to see what's happening in each classroom and how to keep the learning going at home!

Infant Room: Our youngest learners explore the month's theme through all their senses! Ask your teacher about your baby's weekly sensory experiences.

Toddler Room: Toddlers dive into hands-on science, dramatic play, and language-rich activities. Send your child in clothes ready for messy, magical learning!

Preschool Room: Preschoolers engage with all 9 RIELDS domains through projects, investigation, writing, and creative expression. Portfolio updates go home at month's end.

Important Dates

- Jan 2 — Welcome Back from Winter Break!
- Jan 6 — New Year Goals Celebration
- Jan 13 — MLK Week Begins
- Jan 20 — MLK Day — Academy Closed
- Jan 22 — Polar Animal Science Day
- Jan 31 — January Portfolio Sharing

Learning at Home

- Make a simple family vision board for the new year.
- Watch a child-appropriate video about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Make ice sculptures in your freezer and observe them melt.
- Look up what the temperature is at the North Pole today.
- Ask: 'What is one thing you want to get better at this year?'

NOTE: MLK Day: Academy closed January 20th. Dr. King curriculum continues the following week

This Month's Theme Weeks:

Week 1:	New Year, New Me!
Week 2:	Winter Science & Ice
Week 3:	Dr. King & Equality
Week 4:	Polar Animals & Habitats

With warmth and gratitude,

The Tiny Scholars Academy Team ■