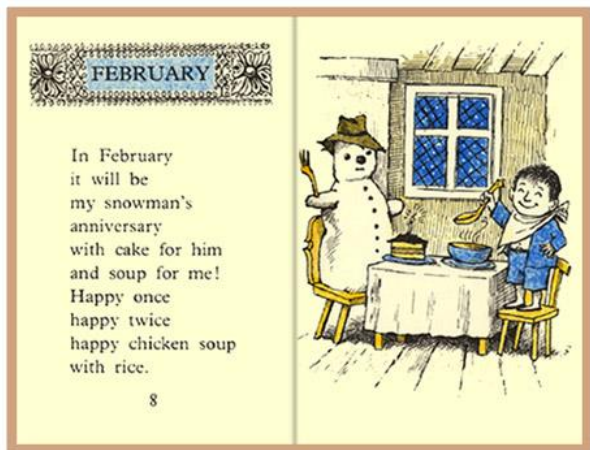


Early Learning Express: February 2016 Update

February by Maurice Sendak



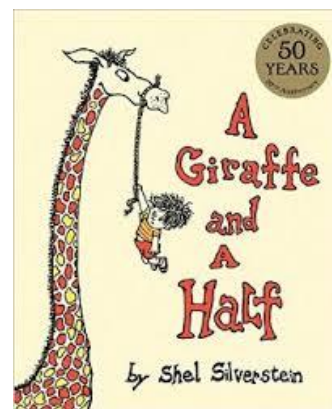
*In February
it will be
my snowman's
anniversary
with cake for him
and soup for me!
Happy once,
happy twice,
happy chicken soup with rice.*

The month of February began with a focus on love and kindness. Sueño brought her ukulele and sang Malvina Reynolds' song "Magic Penny" in which the chorus informs us "love is something if you give it away, you end up having more!"

The idea of giving love away was further demonstrated with the reading of Shel Silverstein's classic book "The Giving Tree". Children were fully engaged in this heart-wrenching story of friendship and at its conclusion their questions and comments suggest they were grappling with the story's concepts of give and take, happiness and loneliness, and friendship.

We followed up this solemn story with a less well known and super silly book by Shel Silverstein called "A Giraffe and a Half". This story adds a "what if" scenario on each page building up to some serious ridiculousness in which one might have "a giraffe and half with a rat in his hat with a rose on his nose, and a bee on his knee, and some glue on his shoe, and a chair in his hair..." and more!

Our second visit settled on a hat theme, beginning with "Caps for Sale" by Esphyr Slobodkina. Children love this classic tale, especially when the monkeys come on the scene. We encouraged the children to act in the role of the monkeys, shaking fingers and fist with a "tsk, tsk, tsk"!



Finally, a favorite literary chicken, Minerva Louise, rounded out the theme in "A Hat for Minerva Louise" by Janet Stoeke. This chicken wants to enjoy a winter day, but needs to find a warm hat to wear. She tries on several objects she finds around the barn – pots, work boots, and gardening gloves – but none of them fit as well as she would like. Will she find what she needs to stay warm?



Windham Child Care Association
promoting a good start for all our children