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# EARLY LEARNING IN VANCOUVER

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## Mark Your Calendars

**1/11 – One hour early release**

**1/18 – No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**1/25 – One hour early release**

**1/29 – No School: Semester Break**

## Check your Baby's Development

*Between the ages of 6 and 12 months, your baby should be doing most of these things:*

### MOVING

- Move things from hand to hand
- Reach, hold and put things in her mouth
- Sit with support
- Pull himself to sit or stand (9 -12 months)
- Creep or crawl

### UNDERSTANDING

- Imitate motions (like waving bye)
- Ask for things using motions or sounds
- Copy sounds (like baba, gaga)
- Begin to play simple games
- Respond to simple questions or requests
- Know parents from strangers

## **Early Learning Families:**

Happy New Year!

With all of the snow, ice and freezing rain,

I'm hoping that your 2016 got off to a

great and safe start.

Between Winter Break and the weather

forcing us indoors, my household has gotten a bit stir crazy. I've included some activities we discovered

(because, honestly, one can only play Candy Land so many times in one day!)

### Indoor Activity Fun:

- Feelings Charades (see below)
- Beaded bracelets (simply have your child slide large beads onto pipe cleaners, bend into a circle and - bam! A fancy, new bracelet and strengthened fine motor skills).
  - Scented play-dough making (see below)
  - Thank you card writing/drawing (By putting out markers, stickers and white paper, all three of my kids aged 2 - 9 get right to work!)
    - Partner Counting - see how high you and your child can alternate counting until an error occurs and then start over. Remember, the kindergarten goal is to count to 100.
    - The 365 Day Money Challenge (google it!)



By the way, if you are looking for the latest school closure updates due to inclement weather, check out VSD's homepage at [www.vansd.org](http://www.vansd.org). As always, thank you!

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## 1-2-3 Grow and Learn Groups

*Get ready to observe, wonder and learn with your child! Join us, it's free!*

### Monday Sessions:

- 9am - 10:30am @ Minnehaha Elementary
- 9:15am - 10:45am @ Washington Elementary

### Tuesday Sessions:

- 9am - 10:30am @ Roosevelt Elementary
- 9am - 10:30am @ Hazel Dell Elementary
- 12:45pm - 2:15pm @ King Elementary

### Wednesday Sessions:

- 9am - 10:30am @ Fruit Valley Elementary

### Thursday Sessions:

- 9am - 10:30am @ Anderson Elementary
- 9am - 10:30am @ Hazel Dell Elementary
- 2pm - 3:30pm @ Lincoln Elementary

### Friday Sessions:

- 8:30am - 10:00am @ Ogden Elementary
- 9am - 10:30am @ Marshall Elementary
- 1pm - 2:30pm @ Walnut Grove Elementary
- 1pm - 2:30pm @ Harney Elementary

## Feelings Charades

**Age:** 2 years+

### **Objective:**

Act out an emotion using only your hands and facial expressions and see if the other player(s) can guess it correctly.

### **How It Works:**

This game can be played one-on-one or with two teams. Once an emotion is chosen, act it out without making a sound. See if the other player(s) can guess what feeling you're demonstrating on the first try. Little ones might need pictures of emotions to choose from to get started.

- Parents.com

## Scented Play Dough (non-toxic)

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup salt
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 package of Kool-Aid
- 1 Tablespoon cooking oil
- 1 cup water

### Directions:

Mix dry ingredients. Add oil and water. Cook over medium heat until mixture forms a ball. Pour onto wax paper or cutting board and knead. Store in an airtight container for weeks of play!

Early language skills, the foundation for reading ability and school readiness, are based primarily on language exposure - resulting from parents and other adults talking to young children.

- Reach Out and Read

