Our December Topic is:

GETTING READY FOR WINTER

- People prepare by wearing warmer clothes and shoes. They also participate in different activities than the summer...sledding instead of swimming, hot cocoa instead of popsicles.

- Trees prepare by losing their leaves and going dormant. Spring will bring new leaves.

- Our animal friends have 3 choices...migrate, hibernate, or stay and adapt.

- Animals who cannot find food and protection in the winter might migrate to warmer places.

- Monarch butterflies and hummingbirds migrate.

- Other animals that cannot find food and cannot migrate will hibernate. Hibernation means more than sleeping all winter. True hibernation means slowed breathing, slow heart rate, and low body temperature. Groundhogs, bats, reptiles and amphibians are a few of Missouri’s true hibernators.

- Animals that are able to find food will stay active during the winter. Squirrels, deer, coyotes, foxes and many birds can be seen all winter long in Missouri.

*Homemade or store-bought birdfeeders give your child a great opportunity to care for and observe many different types of birds. It’s a great family project. Don’t forget fresh water!