A New House for Mouse by Petr Horacek – Since the apple she found will not fit into her current house, mouse sets out to find a bigger place – only to discover that there truly is no place like home! Ages 3-5.
City Moon by Rachel Cole – A little boy and his mom go for a walk at night to look for the winter moon. A lovely and comforting story about family, nighttime routines, and neighborhoods. Ages 2-5.
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown – How can we not talk about the comfort of homes without including this lovely classic that has helped calm and comfort many a child at night. Ages 0-5.
Goyangi Means Cat by Christine McDonnell – When Soo Min moves halfway across the world from Korea to her new home in the US, everything is new and scary until she meets and connects with the family’s cat, “goyangi” in Korean. It is her beloved goyangi who also helps her speak her first word in English – Home! Ages 3-7.
Home by Shelley Rotner – A home is so much more than a house. This book shows, in real photographs, families and homes from around the world. Ages 4-7.
My House by Byron Barton – Meet Jim kitty! He takes us through a tour of his lovely home, complete with his favorite human, Jane. Ages 1-4.
Nest by Jorey Hurley – Follows a family of robins through an entire year as the baby robin grows into an adult bird who eventually builds a nest of her own. Told in simple one-word text with beautiful illustrations! Ages 2-5.
The House in the Night by Susan Marie Swanson – This is a simple story about the many familiar things found in a home. Another great book to read before bed or nap. Ages 2-4.
Windows by Julia Denos – A little boy takes his dog for an evening walk around his neighborhood and is filled with feelings of familiarity and comfort as he notices through windows his neighbors settling in for the night. Ages 3-7.
Who Lives In Your House?

What you need:
- A large chart that you have created ahead of time with a color key (different colored shapes represent each family member)
- Small paper house shapes – OR construction paper and let children create their own houses
- Colorful shapes of paper for each child

This activity helps children practice many important math skills such as sorting, learning about shapes, and counting. It also helps them to think about their families in a new and interesting way and consider who lives at their house. See picture below for the visual idea!

Here is a House

Here is a house built up high (hands over head to make a roof)
With two big chimneys reaching for the sky (raise arms up high)
Here is a window (draw a square)
Here is a door (pretend to open a door)
If we look inside (peek through fingers)
There’s a mouse on the floor! (scamper fingers away)

Learning Activities for DECEMBER

What you need:
- Craft foam or construction paper
- Popsicle sticks
- Elmer’s glue
- Scissors

Children get to create their own homes from shapes. For a truly open ended project, put the materials out and let children create their own shapes for their homes. If you have very young children, you could precut a few shapes and leave a lot of material uncut for them to practice. Although you can always use construction paper, craft foam and popsicle sticks add more of a 3-D texture to children’s creations and are a lot of fun to work with!