December 21st is the day that WINTER officially begins. Teachers will be taking the children outside to play in the fresh air and sunshine whenever the weather permits. So it is very important to protect your child with a supply of warm clothing: HAT, SCARF, MITTENS (or gloves), SNOWPANTS (or snowsuit), JACKET, and BOOTS. Also, it is a good idea to always have another set of spare clothing (underwear, socks, pants and shirt) in case your child’s clothes become wet or soiled during daily activities.

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Report Shows Rise in Infant Deaths from Crib Bumpers A new study in the Journal of Pediatrics found that the padded bumpers are a cause of a rising number of infant deaths. According to the study crib bumpers were responsible for the deaths of 23 toddlers in the period 2006-2012, which is twice as many deaths from 1986-2006. Various groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Institutes of Health, have recommended against the use of bumpers in cribs since 2007, stores such as IKEA and Target have stopped selling bumpers in recent years. The authors of the study hope that the research will lead to the Consumer Product Safety Commission banning bumpers. (SafeKidsWorldwide)