Bells Are Ringing

The Ear Book by Al Perkins
Jingle-Jingle by Nicola Smee
Jingle Bells by James Pierpont
Quiet LOUD by Leslie Patricelli
This Little Light of Mine by Raffi
Best in Snow by April Pulley Sayre
The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins
Oh, What a Surprise! by Suzanne Bloom
Winter Wonderland based on the song by Felix Bernard and Richard B. Smith

Nursery Rhyme: Hickory, Dickory, Dock

Songs & Fingerplays to Share

CD: “Oh Children Ring Your Bells” from I Love To Hear the Sounds by Kathy Reid–Naiman

Jingle, Jingle Little Bell
(tune: “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”)

Jingle, jingle, little bell.
I can ring my little bell.
Ring it high,
Ring it low.
Ring it fast.
Ring it slow.
Jingle, jingle, little bell.
I can ring my little bell.

Dance Like Snowflakes
(tune: “Frere Jacques”)

Dance like snowflakes, dance like snowflakes.
In the air, in the air.
Whirling, twirling snowflakes
Whirling, twirling snowflakes.
Everywhere, everywhere.

Dance like snowflakes, dance like snowflakes.
All around, all around.
Whirling, twirling snowflakes
Whirling, twirling snowflakes.
On the ground, on the ground.

Happy New Year!

Watch the clock.
(slowly sink to the floor in a crouch)
Get ready to cheer.
A brand-new year will soon be here.
Ten, nine, eight, seven, six,
Five, four, three, two, one—
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Your next visit will be: January ______
Next month’s theme will be: “Space Race”
Activity Ideas:

**Warm Fuzzies:** Encourage young children to remember manners and be kind to others with a warm fuzzy jar! Simply place a cotton ball in a clear plastic jar each time you witness positive behavior. A full jar of warm fuzzies will earn little ones a special treat.

**Sound Suitcase:** Use this activity to introduce a letter to your group or to review a letter youngsters have already studied. Gather several items whose names begin with a chosen letter. For example, for the letter S you might choose soap, soup, snake, and sock. Place the items in a suitcase. To begin, gather youngsters around the suitcase. Explain that the items you have in the suitcase begin with /s/. Have students guess what might be in the suitcase. Then reveal the items with great fanfare.

**New Year’s Art:** At your easel, use noisemakers instead of brushes! Have the children dip the end of the noisemaker in a bit of paint, then blow into it so it splats on the paper. The children LOVE this and it is fun to see how each picture turns out!

Book of the Month:

**Exploring the Science of Sound: 100 Musical Activities for Young Children** by Abigail Flesch Connors

Most preschool teachers have musical instruments in their classrooms, but may not realize they can use them for science explorations. In *Exploring the Science of Sounds*, you will indulge young children’s curiosity and engage them in scientific inquiry as they explore, listen, observe, experiment, think, and discuss different kinds of sounds and the tools for making them. (Gryphon House)

Road to Reading Tip:

Children need to hear, say, and learn nursery rhymes. Not only do they love the lilt and the lyricism of these jingles, but they also benefit in terms of developing literary language and recognizing the sound structure of words. Children love to recite "Humpty Dumpty" and will forever remember Jack and Jill’s bad tumble. Words like fetch and crown, rarely heard in day-to-day speech, enhance the range and uniqueness of children’s growing vocabulary. Try to not let a day go by without sharing songs and rhymes with your child.