



GRANDMA'S HOUSE DAY CARE CENTERS, INC

# GROWING HIGHLIGHTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN



Since 1983

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## DIRECTOR NOTES

Dear Parents,

First off I would like to say congratulations to Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Emma, Ms. Holly G.(4K), and Ms. Brittnee for all earning their Bachelor's Degree in Education this Spring!!

Can you believe the summer program is just about 1 week away?! Please note new this year we are closing at 3pm on June 8th to have staff development time and classroom changeover. We are all very excited to start weekly field trips, lots of outside time and exciting activities in the classrooms. Field trip calendars and payment should have been turned in May 25th, if you have not yet turned them in, please do so as soon as possible. As always, parents are welcome to join on field trips for the same cost as the children, just let teachers know if you're interested.

Grandma's House Annual Family Picnic is Sunday, June 3rd at Wiberg Aquatic Center. Hopefully we have a hot, sunny day for swimming between 10am - 12pm and a delicious cook-out from 12 - 2pm.

Lastly, CONGRATULATIONS to our 4K group as they graduate. I know they will all do well as they move on to their new school next year. It was so fun watching them grow the past five years.

Lookin' forward to field trips, water play and warm summer days!

*Jess Donohue, Director*

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## Poky Little Puppies

Welcome Summer, it's here with more outdoor exploration, yeah! The child portfolio focuses we will be working on this month:

-*throwing balls over hand* by sitting across from the child and throwing back and forth with one bounce and a clap  
-*pincer grasp* by allowing my young friends to pick up food such as Cheerios, puffs and small pieces of crackers to feed themselves.

*Ms. Julie & Ms. Denise, Older Infants*

## Upcoming Events

**June 3 ~ Family Picnic ~ 10am -2pm**  
Wiberg Aquatic Park

**June 8 ~ CLOSING Early @ 3 pm**

**June 11 ~ Summer Program Starts**

**June 13 ~ Picture Day**



## Little Hay Bales

We are continuing to practice rolling over on the playmat and looking forward to spending time outside on the playmat. We are listening closely to the babies cries as they become differentiated to their needs. During play and feeding times we are encouraging the babies to reach out in front of them and play with fingers. As always, we will be going outside more frequently in the nicer weather, please bring in sun hats and sunscreen.  
*Ms. Holly S. & Ms. Diane, Infants*

## Honey Bees

This month has been full of sun and lots of rain, but that didn't stop us from learning about Pets. Thank you to everyone who helped by bringing in or emailing their pet pictures. During our Pet unit we focused on color matching which was done by having the children put the red dogs into the red house, the yellow dogs into the yellow house, etc. The children loved this because it was also a dump and fill activity with empty cans. We also worked on following directions during our Shapes unit, this was done by simply asking the children to point to a certain shape or when we created Ooblick. *Ms. Jennie & Ms. Janell, 2's*

## Chirpy Chicks

Welcome Summer! We're so happy to finally have nicer weather to play in. This past month, we explored the themes of Birds and Bugs. During our Birds lesson, we concentrated on manipulating art materials and refining our pincer grasp. We used yarn, feathers and pipe cleaners to make a collage and to paint with. We also practiced our fine motor coordination by threading Cheerios onto pipe cleaners and sticking feathers into the holes of colanders. During our Bugs lesson we worked on our scribbling skills and matching colors. We scribbled with a variety of tools, like markers and chalk. We matched colors by placing pom poms on colored mats and putting colored bugs into corresponding jars. We encourage you to practice some of these skills at home. Give your child a variety of simple items to create with - crayons, play-doh, glue w/cotton balls, etc. See what masterpieces your little one can make!  
*Ms. Amanda & Ms. Cassidy, Toddlers*

**Join  
Us!**

**Grandma's House  
Annual Family Picnic  
Wiberg Aquatic Center  
Sunday, June 3, 2018**

**Little Piggies**

Nicer weather is finally here! We have enjoyed new activities outside like drawing with chalk and playing in the sandbox. We have been talking a lot about manners. Everyone has done a great job with Thank You and Please. We will concentrate on Sharing the next couple of weeks. You can practice this at home by having your child pass food to someone at dinner to share. We had fun learning the rainbow colors and making art. We made a chart on "How tall are we" with string. It's fun to try new foods - we made green jello. Everyone helped mix and pour the ingredients in together. Most everyone enjoyed the end product. Our new theme is the Zoo. We will have lots of fun learning about animals and the sounds they make.

*Ms. Ashley & Ms. Lori, Toddlers*

**Llama Llamas**

Give 3 cheers, summer is finally here! We are very excited for the warm weather and all the fun summer brings! This past month we had a lot of fun talking about Transportation and the Farm. During our transportation unit, we worked on mastering simple puzzles by piecing together transportation puzzles. The children enhanced their problem solving and social skills by working together to complete the puzzle. We also practiced following 2-3 step directions by creating a yummy treat. During the Farm unit, we explored with simple tools using a magnifying glass to investigate seeds and hay found on a farm. For more practice at home, you can encourage your child to use simple tools around the house such as tweezers, eye droppers or clothespins to pick different objects to help refine small motor muscles. We also practiced scribbling and inventive spelling by looking at farm words and writing out the letters or drawing a picture of the word.

*Ms. Emma & Ms. Aimee, 3's*

**Puddle Ducks**

The children showed an interest in acting out songs and stories, so I provided props for them to use. Their favorite, once again, was Peter and The Wolf, so we pulled out the costumes again. We worked on 1-1 correspondence with our counting box - we counted the items as we took them out and then as we put them back in. We also worked on kicking a stationary ball- inside and outside. This is a fun game you can play with your child at home or at the park: kick the ball back and forth to each other or pick a goal to kick it to. Going Places was another subject the children talked about, so we did a few weeks on Cars, Trains, and Buses. We worked on snipping tape with scissors and making collages with it as well as hopping on one foot while holding onto something.

*Ms. Cat, 2 1/2's*

**The Kids**

Where has the time gone? We've had so much fun this year in the 4 year old classroom! We spent the last month learning about the farm and took a wonderful field trip to Green Meadows Farm. We worked on our ABA patterning using farm animals and created farm themed counting books to work on our number recognition. After the Farm we began exploring Dinosaurs; a favorite subject for many of the children in our classroom. We continued practicing writing our first name on dry erase cards and counted to 20 by hypothesizing how many 4 year old feet would fill a giant dinosaur foot print. The children were very excited to learn about all the different types of dinosaurs. You can work on ABA patterning at home in many different ways. The children in the class really love our snack mix and they also like to separate and organize all the different pieces in the mix. Have your child separate a homemade mix and pattern with the pieces.

*Ms. Jenna, 4's*

*Happy Birthday*

**June**

- 1 Ms. Jenna
- 2 Alonzo Walker
- 8 Wyatt Brooks
- 10 Micah Hedrich
- 11 Lilian Dahnke
- 14 Stella McCormick
- 15 Tydus Yang
- 21 Alyssa Radtke
- 21 Ethan DeYoung
- 22 Colin Decoste
- 25 Mr. J
- 28 Randiell Manley

**July**

- 1 Ms. Jennie
- 2 Luke Lathara
- 2 Isaac Johnson
- 7 Ms. Judy
- 8 Sophie James
- 8 Rohan Segon
- 8 Greta Geary
- 9 Connor Pigeon
- 14 Ms. Amanda
- 15 Naya Busse
- 16 Olivia Piotrowski
- 17 Ms. Bekah
- 18 Ms. Janell
- 20 Avery Heding
- 22 Greyson Headd
- 24 Indi Green
- 25 Simone Hergott
- 25 Finley Ehlers
- 25 Ms. Olivia O.
- 30 Prisha Gupta
- 30 Nolan Hallquist

**Congratulations**

*On celebrating anniversaries  
with Grandma's House!*

**June**

- Ms. Cat 15 Years
- Ms. Olivia H. 2 Years

**July**

- Ms. Holly S. 4 Years



## Old McHolly's Farm

The best way to understand the life cycle, is to live it! We had such an exciting month receiving tiny caterpillars, observing them grow, then create a chrysalis and finally emerge as a beautiful butterfly. The 4k class documented each day. They created a book about what was changing and what they saw. For example when the butterflies emerged we saw them fly, how they eat and some may have held them before we released them outside. The objective of understanding the process (life cycle and time concepts) followed us to our farm unit when we describe many cycles from a duck life cycle to the process of milk getting to our meal times.

Goal for at home: once this summer, take the whole family to a farmers market and show your child the people who put in the hard work and ask them the steps they needed to take to produce the fruit or vegetables we love to eat.

During our bug and farm unit we played a few different literacy games. We retold two great stories, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Little Red Hen. The kids retold stories with props, flannels, puppets, and most importantly in their own guided play. When linking this with an objective for 4K, I decided to take the story The Little Red Hen and have the students create their own version of the story. They would communicate their own thoughts and experiences increasing their story. Each student picked new characters that do not help the hen and a new food they have to go through a process to make. After the stories were done the students worked on listening to each person tell their story.

Goal for at home: Did you know "reading" is not just you telling your child the words on the page? Reading is so much more. Next time try asking your child to tell you what they think is happening in the story just by looking at the pictures. You can also take a common family story and have each person retell it, with a twist. Try adding your child's name in place of the main characters or draw a story map of what happens in the book. Reading is not just reading the words on a page, each child is different, so is every book!

*Ms. Holly G., 4K*



## Little John Deeres

We are so happy the weather is so nice and we can play lots outside. In these last couple of weeks before the summer program starts, we have been working on a couple new skills. We have been working on using our words to meet what we need. For example, *please, more, all done and thank you*. We have also been working on matching colors together on a file folder matching game. An activity for home with matching colors such as socks, spoon to bowl, or matching Fruit Loops. We are also working on our fine motor skills with scribbling and fitting puzzle pieces into the correct spot.

*Ms. Brittnee & Ms. Olivia O., Toddlers*