



Since 1983

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DIRECTOR NOTES

Dear Parents,
Happy May everyone! Let's hope this warm weather is here to stay and no more snow like in April. With this weather hopefully will come lots of sunshine. Remember to bring in sunscreen for your child if you don't want us to use the Grandma's House brand. We will all be spending lots of time outdoors.

May is a special month because it's the month we get to celebrate our teachers! May 7th to the 11th is *Teacher Appreciation Week*. As always we would love for everyone to show how much we love our teachers by helping us throw our Annual Teacher Luncheon on Wednesday, May 9th. Sign-ups are located on my office door. I will also have the "Appreciation Station" set-up in the front hallway. Last year the teachers loved reading your notes on Friday to wrap-up the week. If you're interested in showing your thanks another way, please e-mail me for a list of your teacher's favorite things.

Summer is just around the corner!!

Jess Donohue, Director

jdonohue@grandmashouse.org

Puddle Ducks

We first worked on categorizing by 1 or 2 attributes (shape, size, color) using plastic shapes. Then we worked on hopping on one foot while holding onto something by playing Follow the Leader. Our next goal was 1-1 Correspondence 1-10. We count everything! You can support this skill at home by counting people at the table, pictures in a book, or by having your child jump while you count. Finally, we are working on sitting and listening to a story. I read a short story and encourage the children to sit in a comfortable position as they listen. We are hoping it warms up soon so we can plant our garden. *Ms. Cat, 2 1/2's*

A little *spark*
of *Kindness*
can put a
COLOSSAL burst
of **SUNSHINE**
into someone's day.



Little Hay Bales

May flowers are beginning to blossom. We love this time of year because we are able to get out more and explore the outdoors. We will all be working on sitting with support while going on buggy rides. One of our themes for the month is Music. During this time, we will be offering rattles, bells and maracas. With these instruments, we will be working on transferring an object from one hand to another on the play mat. We encourage our families to play different genres of music around your child like Blues, Jazz, or Opera and see how your child reacts to them. The babies also enjoy being sung to.

Ms. Holly S. & Ms. Diane, Infants

Little Piggies

Thank you, parents for sharing your "All About Me" sheets so we can learn a little bit more about each other. The children really enjoyed looking at the book of all of the sheets. During our All About Me unit, we talked about our name, hair color and body parts. We painted with our feet and sang *If You're Happy and You Know It*. We also focused on looking at our family pictures and seeing if they can recognize family members. That's an activity you can do at home during those cuddle times. We also learned a little about frogs during our Frog unit. We observed toy bugs and finger painted with green paint. We focused on using our sign language at meals and snacks. We also practiced throwing a ball for our gross motor development.

Ms. Ashley & Ms. Lori, Toddlers

Honey Bees

We have been very busy having lots of fun in our classroom. We learned about our Community Helpers and Pets. One of our child portfolio focuses was engaging in pretend play which was achieved by allowing the children to dress up as a police officer, firefighter, and chef. We also worked on our matching with the items that each community helper uses. For example, children learned that a chef uses a stove, bowls and wears a tall white hat. Another portfolio focus was colors which was done by matching the dog to its dog house with a dump and fill activity, the colors used were red, yellow, green and blue. We also worked on big/small which was done by using our own pets where they matched the large picture to the small picture of their pet.

Ms. Jennie & Ms. Janell, 2's

RSVP

by **Monday,**
May, 21st!

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

Poky Little Puppies

Last month we worked on sitting without support and push and pull toys. This month we will be working on crawling and imitating gestures. Lots of tummy time is a great way for infants to gain upper arm strength and get them rocking which will lead to crawling. Putting an infant's favorite toy on the floor just out of reach is another great way to get them moving and reaching. Don't be surprised if your infant moves backwards first, it's all part of the process. Imitating gestures is a fun way to play with your infant, not only can you encourage them to imitate you, you can imitate them. When your child claps their hands, clap your hands or start dancing to music and see if your child moves to the music, too. Stack blocks, knock them down and encourage your infant to knock them down, this is also imitating.

Ms. Julie & Ms. Denise, Older Infants

Llama Llamas

We hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather as much as we are! We've been working hard this past month on our portfolio focuses. During our Spring unit, we practiced hopping on one foot while playing a spring movement game. We had so much fun doing the different actions while playing the game. We also worked on resolving conflict using our words. During our Laura Numeroff author study, we were busy working on recognizing emotions including happy, sad, scared, and mad. The children played Charades using emotion cards. We also worked on inventive spelling and scribbling by drawing our favorite part of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* story. For more practice at home, encourage your child to draw a picture of an activity that you and your child do together. This is a great way to refine their small motor muscles by encouraging scribbling and drawing.

Ms. Emma & Ms. Aimee, 3's

The Kids

Hooray! It's almost summer! Let's cross our fingers for warm weather this month. We have been working hard on our portfolio focuses. Last month one of our themes was Eggs & Bunnies where we worked on holding a pencil properly and built ABA patterns with eggs. ABA patterning can be tricky, practice at home with multiples of any of the same two objects. For instance, pattern at breakfast with two different cereals, the pattern goes: ABA ABA ABA... We also had a lot of fun learning about insects. Ask your child how many body parts and legs an insect has! During this unit we practiced our rote counting to 20 using insect counters and we worked on recognizing our numbers 1-10. If your child can recognize their numbers in order, start working on them out of order. Numbers are everywhere. Point out numbers to your child while walking around the store, or give them a mission to find different numbers while you are out shopping. Thank you to all who came to our Art Gallery, we had tons of fun creating our art pieces. We are looking forward to our field trip planned to Green Meadows Farm on Thursday, May 17th.

Ms. Jenna, 4's

Upcoming Events

May 7-11 ~ Teacher Appreciation Week

May 9 ~ Annual Teacher Luncheon



Happy Birthday

- 1 Henry Cullum
- 2 Declan Fitzsimmons
- 5 Logan Patten
- 5 Lilah Backaus
- 9 Connor White
- 10 Finn Brandow
- 10 Brynlee Van Der Kooy
- 10 Ms. Cassidy
- 12 Natalie Parve
- 14 Ms. Emma
- 14 Ms. Olivia
- 24 George Gilmore
- 25 Finley Stigler
- 29 Breslin Mueller
- 30 Ms. Kim
- 31 Patton Keltner
- 31 Claire Wolff
- 31 Ms. Ashley

Congratulations

*On celebrating anniversaries with
Grandma's House!*

Ms. Jess 10 Years

Chirpy Chicks

We've been busy exploring spring-related themes: Flowers and Weather. During our Flowers unit we focused on matching colors and doing puzzles. We placed small pom poms on different colored paper flowers taped to the ground. We also tried a variety of wooden puzzles to fit all the pieces in the right shapes. For our Weather theme, our portfolio focuses were engaging in pretend play and matching sizes. To encourage pretend play, baby doll strollers and carriers were made available to tote around dolls, animals or even trucks. The children also tried matching different sized pictures of weather items. We encourage you to start discussing colors, shapes & sizes with your little one. You can do this by naming colors of your child's clothes, comparing sizes of similar toys and naming shapes you see when you're out and about.

Ms. Amanda & Ms. Cassidy, Toddlers

Old McHolly's Farm

So contrary to the weather outside, 4K talked about Spring at the beginning of April. We took a walk the week before the snow came so we at least had some idea of what Spring looked like. Then in the last weeks of April we could actually combine what is happening outside and what we were trying to talk about in class; BUGS. In class we strive to develop skills that will help us figure out problems in the real world. That is why this month we went over a few different scientific tools discussing their use and testing them out for ourselves. For example, a thermometer, most of the students told me it was for checking their temperature when they are sick. We were able to extend this idea by looking at one in the classroom and outside during those cold days. We could watch the red line go up and down and talked about what clothes we would wear depending on what it was reading. Do you have an external thermometer? Have your student read the number it is on and then determine what to wear when going outside. With Spring coming, we are definitely working on planting and watching seeds develop into plants. This is just the start of a life cycle we have been talking about in class. Something to try at home, look at a tree in your yard, observe what the branches look like up close. Then every few weeks come back to that tree and observe the changes that are happening. Two other goals 4K has worked on the past month was 3 part patterning and 1-1 correspondence to 20. Each month we come up with a different pattern that we continue to copy each day but this month we took it further and used colored paper to create our very own pattern. The student could do whatever pattern they wanted as long as it was 3 different colors. To help teach patterning concepts I start with a verbal pattern and then I add movements to it. Like head, arm, legs and as we repeat that pattern they have to touch each part in a pattern. We are always counting on a number line but this week we placed "spider" play dough pieces on the web up to number 20. We are so excited to have our next adventure starting in May. We will be watching the life cycle of a butterfly happen right here in the classroom.

Ms. Holly G., 4K



Little John Deeres

In the upcoming weeks we are going to be learning about Community Helpers and Fairy Tales. During Community Helpers we are going to work on *two-word combinations*, such as *more please*, *all done*, and *help please*. We are also going to work on imitating everyday tasks, such as washing hands, helping wipe the table, and helping pick up toys. At home, have your child help clean up for meals and snacks or help them put their dirty dishes in the sink. During Fairy Tales we are going to work on *using our spoon and fork* and *fitting handled puzzle pieces into the correct spot*. An activity for home is to sit and work on handled puzzles and have them practice with a small spoon and fork even if it's pretend play.

Ms. Brittnee & Ms. Olivia O., Toddlers