



GROWING HIGHLIGHTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

JUNE 2017



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Happy Birthday

- 2 Ms. Claire
- 5 Olivia Bergner
- 5 Levi Krohn
- 6 Kali Ambos
- 7 Luke Bower
- 7 Ms. Zuleika
- 10 Ms. Katie
- 11 Amir Wood
- 12 Audrey Swaim
- 12 Clara Ramos
- 15 Mary Kate Simonis
- 17 Georgia Hinton
- 18 James Joyce
- 19 Tristan Powell
- 19 Camila Pizarro
- 20 Iris Goelzer-Holochwost
- 22 Peter Knutson
- 23 Karoline Neuberger
- 25 Louis Newman
- 26 Ethan Frost
- 30 Jacob Kieser

Director Notes

Dear Parents,

Although summer doesn't officially begin until June 21st, our Summer Program at Grandma's House starts Monday, June 12th! We have a fun-filled summer planned with lots of exciting activities, new lesson plan themes, and, of course, field trips! With the warmer weather arriving, the children spend more time outside enjoying the fresh air! In fact, as part of our planning process, all of our teachers attended an in-service last month called "Let's Go Outside... Outside Time is Not Wasted Time".

A couple of reminders for our summer program...

*With your permission, we can apply our all

natural sunscreen and insect repellent on your child.

*Please send your child in closed-toe shoes and keep your child's cubby stocked with a sun hat and weather appropriate changes of clothes.

*Since the children engage in lots of water play outside to keep cool, we ask that parents supply a package of Little Swimmers for those children not yet potty trained, a swimsuit, and a towel (which will be sent home every week for you to launder).

As always, please make sure to label these items with your child's name.

Kristie Potter, Director

kpotter@grandmashouse.org

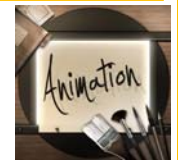
STAR WARS



Language development in children is amazing, and it's a development that many parents really look forward to. In their first 12 months, babies develop many of the foundations that support speech and language development. One of the main portfolio focuses this month is language development. By 18 months, your toddler should have a small vocabulary of 3 to 10 words but it is important to remember that children vary in their development of speech and language skills. Children's use of language occurs several months after they are able to understand language. One of the greatest feats of human development is the acquisition of language. In our classroom we work on language through the use of songs, stories and directly talking to the children. Keep in mind that you won't understand all of your toddlers' words, a but their vocabulary is expanding. It may be simple sounds or noises at first but it's the beginning of their language. On the back counter in our classroom, is a parent area where families can take home books and activities that the children enjoy. Use them with your child and bring them back. We try to place the children's favorite books in that area. Feel free to use the area at any time. With the weather becoming warmer, please check that your child has season appropriate clothing as well as a labeled sunhat for outside.

~Ms. Diana & Ms. Zuleika, 2nd Toddlers

Animators



The school year flew by as the Animators explored many fun concepts through many of Disney's most famous Animations like *Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Lady and the Tramp*, *Meet the Robinsons*, *101 Dalmations*, *Lion King*, *Cars*, *A Bugs Life*, *Hercules*, *Frozen*, *Emperor's New Groove* and *Inside Out*. We expanded our understanding of engineering concepts of balance, mathematical concepts of quantity and science concepts of gravity to create towers and bridges. We enjoyed building multicultural things like Parthenon inspired structures, Matchu Pitcu inspired structures and our own Inca inspired Quipus through our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematical) teamwork challenges. Most recently we explored nature by creating natural mandalas which were circular art that contained repeating patterns and used natural loose parts to create our own bugs. Our Animators Sketchbook was by far our favorite as it enabled us to learn how to draw our favorite characters and illustrate like real animators. We look forward to what the summer has in store for all of us!

~Ms. Brie, School Age

Literacy Bags

Please take a moment to look at home or in your car for literacy bags you may have borrowed so that you can return them. I would like to exchange them with new titles and activities.

Thank you, Katie Pleuss

kpleuss@grandmashouse.org

Sand and Sun, Summer Has Begun!

Monsters Inc

Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered for our farm field trip. Despite a few bumps in the road, the children had a great time. Our 3 year old friends have been learning about bugs. We have discussed and observed the difference between bugs and insects. Sorting bugs and insects by different attributes is a great math skill. Beginning in June the children will be doing "Summer Fun". During this unit, the children will have a lot of practice cutting with scissors.

~Ms. Kristin & Ms. Nikki, 3's



Finding Nemo

One of our portfolio focuses was "relates experiences with detail." For this, the children drew pictures of their field trip to the farm. When finished, they dictated a sentence to explain these drawings. Another focus was "use scissors to cut curved lines." The children accomplished this skill by cutting out their picture for our Mother's Day book marks. A third focus was completing 12 piece puzzles. Many children have moved onto 24 piece puzzles. Our last portfolio focus was "differentiates seasons of the year." To achieve this, we read stories and played several sorting games. As a reminder, please check your child's cubby for season appropriate clothing. Finally, I would like to say thank you for the yummy food, gifts and thoughtful notes during Teacher Appreciation Week.

~Ms. Lynn, 4's

Aristocats

This month we have a simple, easy way for your child to meet developmental goals in the area of math/science and fine motor adaptive. It is through a concept called loose parts that we learned about at an inservice. Loose parts is a term coined by Simon Nicholson. He believed that "we are all creative and that loose parts in an environment will empower our creativity." How does this apply to your child and their learning? Here's how:

**Make a basket of loose parts/materials that can be moved, carried, redesigned, lined up, taken apart, put back together in multiple ways (ie a plastic spatula, a sock, a book, a baby food container taped shut and filled with colored rice or beans, a piece of fabric, nesting cups, etc.) The possibilities are endless and items can be changed from time to time. There is no set of specific directions for items that are considered loose parts.*

Your child is the direction. Loose parts create endless possibilities and invite creativity. In the area of math/science, they manipulate different shapes, sizes and colors. In the fine motor/adaptive area, they use thumb and fingers skillfully, reach for objects effectively, transfer objects from hand to hand and turn and manipulate objects. Have fun as your child uses their imagination and creativity on their own terms and in their own unique way. If you would like more information regarding loose parts, we have an article that provides further suggestions.

~Ms. Judeen & Ms. Jefferson, 2nd Infants



Wreck-It Ralps

We are saying farewell to our older friends and hello to new 2 1/2 year olds. The summer program is starting and we are now the Great White Sharks. With the warmer weather we will be drinking lots of water. Please bring a water bottle labeled with your child's name to leave at day care. Also, make sure your child's cubby is stocked with spare clothes that are weather appropriate. We do tons of water play too, so swim wear and swim diapers are needed too. Some developmental benchmarks we will be working towards are snipping with scissors, listening to stories, identifying primary colors, kicking a stationary ball, galloping and pouring our own milk from a pitcher-just to name a few! We are going to have so much fun this summer!

~Ms. Carmen & Ms. Darcel, 2 1/2's



Baloo's Twos

Happy June! We have been practicing taking walks in the neighborhood in preparation for upcoming summer field trips. We are proud of the way we are able to stay together as a group and talk about what we see and hear along the way. In May, we focused on containers and colors and shapes for learning units. It was exciting to see the creative ways children worked with and explored common matching and labeling. We focused on pictures, body parts, colors and shapes. ~Ms. Ericka & Ms. Shaparis, 2's



Aladdin's Genies

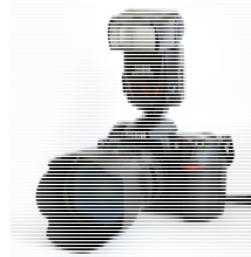
We have had a blast learning all about our bodies and singing songs together about them. Our new favorite songs are; "Head Shoulders Knees and Toes" and "Baby Bumble Bee". Next we will be learning all about places and cultures from around the world. We enjoyed seeing the pictures of different places and hearing music in different languages. We are also getting a lot of practice with tummy time! Sometimes we aren't so happy about it but then we see the floor toys and we are excited. After we hear about all these new places, we will be getting in to fruit and veggies and where they come from. We can't wait!

~Ms. Jessi, 1st Infants



Picture Day

Wednesday,
June 15th



Congratulations

On celebrating anniversaries with
Grandma's House!

Ms. Brie 12 Years

♥ CPR/First Aid Classes ♥

Grandma's House offers American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Saver w/ AED and Medic First Aid Pediatric training through **PULSES** to our staff.

Parents are also welcome to participate in this training. This is a great opportunity to learn how to handle emergency situations should they arise.

Our next class is **Saturday, August 5, 2017** at our Tosa Center from 8:30 -10:30 am. The cost is \$42 per person.

If you are interested, please see Ms. Kristie to sign up.

4's in Wonderland

It is hard to believe that May is over and we are super close to summer! Yippee! This past month we talked about weather and space. We focused on telling the difference between seasons and our counting skills from 1 – 10. We also had a blast going to the farm and the museum for a butterfly learning experience. We are sad to see our student teacher, Ms. Jasmine, leave us. We enjoyed interacting with her during her time in our classroom.

~Ms. Ami, 4's

Mickey Mouse Club

May finally brought some milder weather. Please continue to bring a light jacket and hat as we go outside every day, weather permitting. We have been working on our motor skills like throwing a ball and putting small items into small holes. We have also been talking about and labeling body parts like eyes, ears and nose. ~Ms. Claire & Ms. Johnnetta, 1st Toddlers



Peter Pan & Neverland

We are looking forward to spending our days out in the sun wearing dresses, shorts, and sun hats. We've been practicing how to stand and even take steps. We are growing and learning everyday! Parents can practice these skills at home with your little. Parents are welcome anytime to read a story or play with us

~Ms. Terricka & Ms. Jennifer, 3rd Infants

