



GRANDMA'S HOUSE DAY CARE CENTERS, INC

GROWING HIGHLIGHTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN



Since 1983

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DIRECTOR NOTES

Dear families,

This March we are promoting and celebrating literacy! Literacy is a vital part of our curriculum at Grandma's House from infants through school agers. Our teachers make a conscious effort to fill our classrooms with durable picture books, wordless books, environmental print, rhyming books, and factual books. As is our annual tradition, we hope you will help us celebrate the National Education Association's 21st Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday on Friday, March 2nd by sharing some special reading time in your child's classroom (see your child's teacher for a sign-up sheet). "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child".

Finally, we are already hard at work planning events for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Week of the Young Child...be sure to save the date for our **Annual Art Gallery and Pasta Dinner** on Tuesday, April 17th from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Kristie Potter, Director

kpotter@grandmashouse.org

The Tootles

Last month we created a classroom family book compiled of family photos brought in by all of you. If you would like to look through it, it is in our book basket in the classroom. We have shown the book to the children and it always seems to bring a smile to their faces when they see their family. Don't worry if you haven't brought in any photos, there is still time to do so. For those of you who are new to the classroom, every month we have been highlighting famous children's authors. This month we highlighted Todd Parr. Mr. Parr's books are known for their vibrant colors, basic shape drawings and his lessons on tolerance. After reading his book *The Earth Book*, we played with mud filled sensory bags. For art this month, we read Parr's book, *This is My Hair*, and then painted with a hair roller and a hair donut. We also looked at shapes with contrasting colors like blue and orange, yellow and purple and red and green.

Ms. Jennifer & Ms. Christie, 3rd Infants

Upcoming Events

March 2 ~ Parents Reading in the Classroom



Baby Farm Animals

I am excited by all the progress each one of your little ones has made over the past weeks. I am seeing the beginning efforts of rolling over and am enjoying engaging and encouraging these important building blocks. In February we talked about colors and Nursery Rhymes. We worked on becoming more familiar with people and things in our environment. In March we will be focusing on songs and dance and being babies. Two units we enjoy and have a lot of personal experience with!

Ms. Ericka, 1st Infants

Saggy Baggy Elephants

February was a roller coaster month where we observed melting snow and lots of ice. Inside the classroom, we explored mixing colors and the world of camping. We can't wait to get outside in some warm weather and keep our socks dry. We are always practicing our listening skills and working on following directions. Some skills that we will be perfecting are using our pincer grasp, matching colors, and snipping with scissors. We can't wait for all the new adventures that spring will bring. We look forward to exploring our senses and feelings.

Ms. Mia & Ms. Ami, 2 1/2's

Gingerbread Friends

February we focused on reading and learning nursery rhymes. Reading to your children is critical to their future academic success and overall cognitive development. One study showed that children who had memorized five nursery rhymes by Kindergarten had significantly less difficulty reading in third grade. We recommend reading at least a story a day with your child (in addition to the ones we read here at daycare). In March, we'll focus on colors and numbers. Three year olds generally should be able to name the three primary colors—red, yellow, and blue—and begin to incorporate secondary colors like green, orange, and purple. After mastering these they can begin to learn pink, brown, black, and white. Colors are learned not just through rote memorization, but through active engagement such as color-mixing. If you'd like to participate at home, the best way to learn green, for example, is to make it!

Numbers are more abstract but can still be fun! We'll work on rote counting, number recognition, and one-to-one correspondence (matching one object to another). You can participate at home by having them help set the table (one spoon for every one plate, for example), and by counting everyday things like toys.

Thanks to all those who participated in our Learning Through Play Workshop on the 27th!

Ms. Lynn & Mr. Scott



MARCH 2018

Poky Little Puppies

The smile that your child gives you when you talk to them is a very gratifying and special moment that you share with your child each and every day. Did you know that there are so many developmental milestones that they are also achieving at this time? Some of the portfolio focuses that this type of interaction addresses are as follows:

- *Turning to source of sound of your voice.*
- *Responding to being talked to (one on one time).*
- *Holding head erect and steady (as you hold them or sit upright)*
- *Following moving object with eyes (as you read them a book or point to objects in their surroundings.)*

So grab some of those little moments of time in your day to share with your little ones that we love.
Mrs. Jefferson & Ms. Judeen, 2nd Infants

Jungle Book Friends

This month we learned about colors and snow. The children enjoyed dumping, filling and throwing snowballs, dancing to music and singing songs. The children also enjoyed using their creativity as they painted with edible paint made from yogurt and food coloring. We focused on the portfolio areas of language and cause and effect. Children are naturally curious and continually engage in exploration and play. They are intrigued by cause-and-effect phenomena and delight in being surprised. Cause and effect simply refers to the relationship between an action and its outcome. The children learn through play when they can cause things to happen or change. We used busy boxes, peek a boo cards and simple games to help encourage this idea. Play enhances learning and development for children of all ages and cultures. Children who are encouraged to learn and grow in this way learn to use their brains in different ways to understand and solve problems.

Ms. Diana & Ms. Sam, 2nd Toddlers

Little Golden Book Land

After spending long days in school, all the school Agers want to do is come and have fun. What they don't realize however is how much they are actually learning when they are playing and having fun like; problem solving skills, how to communicate with others, new vocabulary, empathy, compassion, how to express oneself through art and Science Technology Engineering Math, construction skills and basic life skills.

All of our play centers around what interests us! We have "traveled to the Winter Games of South Korea" to learn about another culture and some cool new sports. We even made Subak soju- watermelon soju which was like a watermelon slushy drink from Korea. We also traveled to the magical world of Harry Potter in England. We created our own wands, Pygmy Puffs and Butterbeer. We continue our travels by exploring Stonehenge, and heading to grand Ole' Ireland!

Ms. Brie, SA

Inside Out

The children have done a great job transitioning into the classroom. It is really great to see! They have done an even better job applying their acquired self-help skills that we have been working on. We are truly proud of their hard work and efforts. We also want to thank you for reinforcing these skills at home and outside of the center. The children's growth is truly a team effort. In our class we have just closed out our community helpers lesson plans. We are learning about our various community helpers and the great services they provide. We will then follow with our Dr. Seuss lesson plan.

Ms. Zuleika & Ms. Shaparis, 2's

Lion Friends

This month we will be wrapping up our unit on winter fun by learning about winter animals. We will have lots of fun matching games and activities that will help the children learn their colors and what animals are the same. We will also be learning about Dr. Seuss, Thing 1 and Thing 2, and all of those Whos. We will be counting different color fish and trying new foods that are sweet.

Ms. Salessa & Ms. Brittannie, 3rd Toddlers

Happy Birthday

2	Molly Simonis
2	Quaid Lindberg
3	Nalayshia Martin
3	Dominic Peete
4	Annika Eichman
5	Michael McGee, Jr.
8	Ramiyaha Carter
11	Kylie MacIntosh
12	Jase MacIntosh
12	Kireina Palmer-Gray
13	Karsen Piphus
15	Noah Davis
16	Harper Carroll
17	Isabella Garcia
19	Jacob Livingston
22	Blake Hoffman
24	Jevante Jackson
26	Alexander Parikh
26	Irene Hietpas
26	William Vandenberg
27	Daniel Harris
29	Rafael Brodhead

Congratulations

On celebrating anniversaries with
Grandma's House!
Ms. Christie 12 Years



Animal Friends

We hope you all had a fantastic February and keep yourselves safe outside with all of the snow. Last month we learned about identifying parts of our bodies with songs such as *Eyes, Nose, Fingers, Toes*. We also practiced standing without support with a little help from our teachers. We will be learning about Eric Carle and his famous children's books. We will then transition into All About Flowers. The children will learn about big and small as well as work on imitating gestures. We also have an exciting sensory experience planned courtesy of *The Ooey-Goey Lady*.

Ms. Claire & Ms. Jessi, 1st Toddlers

Tawny Scrawny Lions

Before long it will be spring...Yay! We really enjoyed the Cat in the Hat play and learned a lot about weasels from the Wehr Nature Center. We have really been enjoying process art (this is where the children design and enjoy the process and there is no "cookie cutter" result.) We turned the table so we could drip paint and make prints with colored shaving cream. We have also been working hard on learning triangles, squares, rectangles, circles and hexagons by using small shapes to build bigger shapes and playing who has my shape? As the snow melts (fingers crossed!) the playground will continue to be wet. Therefore, check your child's snow gear regularly to see if it needs to be taken home to be dried.

Ms. Nikki & Ms. Keke, 3-4's

♥ 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 classes are **Saturday, March 3, 2018 & Saturday, April 28, 2018** at our Tosa Center from 8:30 -10:30 am. The cost is \$42 per person. If you are interested, please see Kristie to sign up.



Fuzzy Ducklings

BRRR... who brought in all of this snow and cold weather? Even though it has been freezing outside, that hasn't stopped us from having fun in our classroom. This month we focused on looking at various types of books and using two-word combinations. Our theme for the month was friendship and love. We would like to thank the families who sent in valentines and goodies and the parents who took time out to decorate cookies. We look forward to more parent and child involvement in the classroom. This month we will have a "Green is Mean" theme and will be focusing on matching colors and matching big and small.

Ms. Johnnetta & Ms. Jessica, Almost Two's