



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,

Thank you to all of our families for helping to make Week of the Young Child a success this past month! We truly hope that you enjoyed all of our events and were able to spend some extra time during the week connecting with your child's classroom and meeting other families. Looking at our upcoming events, May 7th-11th we will honor our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Again this year we will set up our Appreciation Station at the front entryway. Sometime during that week, be sure to stop by with your child to fill out and decorate thank you cards for their teachers. Cards, markers, pens, and stickers will all be located on the table. When you finish with your cards, write the teacher's name on the front and drop them off in the box so that we can deliver them to the classrooms at the end of the week. Our teachers truly appreciate these warm notes, handwritten messages, and child-drawn pictures! While not necessary, if you'd like to get your child's teacher a little something extra, just email me as I have a list of each teacher's favorites (candy, stores, restaurants, etc). Finally, signups are posted at the entrances for our *Annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon*, which will be held on Tuesday, May 8th.

P.S. It's not too late to RSVP to our *4th Annual Mom's Night Out* which will be held on Tuesday, May 15th from 6:30-8 pm at Firefly Urban Bar and Grill. We'd love to see all the moms there, so just send me an email or catch me at drop off/pick up time and let me know you are joining us!

Kristie Potter, Director, kpotter@grandmashouse.org



Upcoming Events

May 7-11 ~ Teacher Appreciation Week

May 8 ~ Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

May 15 ~ Annual Mom's Night Out ~ 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Baby Farm Animals

April was a busy month with lots of activities at Grandma's House. Thank you for celebrating your children with us. In May, we will focus on learning about and using our senses. Our units will be *What/See, Noisy/Hear*, and finally *Touch and Feel*. We will focus specifically on manipulating and following objects, exploring cause and effect and turning towards sounds we hear. It is exciting to watch the growing awareness the infants are developing and watching them as they act on and interact with their environment. I am looking forward to taking walks in the neighborhood and watching for signs of spring this month.

Ms. Ericka, 1st Infants

Gingerbread Friends

This month we had a busy month studying the ocean and animals that live in the ocean. Our favorite activities were dressing up as pirates and listening to stories about them. Another favorite was acting out "Slippery Fish" using puppets. Our next unit will be an author study of Eric Carle and a unit on the farm. On May 17th, we will be taking a field trip to Green Meadows Farm. We would like to say thank you for attending our pasta dinner/Art Gallery Night and parent teacher conferences. One topic that came up at conferences was using scissors. At home, families can help with this by providing a pair of scissors and a small box to cut paper into. Like physical development, using scissors also progresses through different stages. The first stage would be snipping stiff paper such as card stock. The next stage is cutting on a straight line. The last stage is cutting on a curved line. As your child is learning to use scissors it may be helpful to remind them to "open and close" their fingers which will help them open and close the scissors.

Ms. Lynn & Ms. Nicole, 3's

Inside Out

We have finally had some great days outside. We have taken bubbles and chalk outside and enjoyed our walks. We finally went to the Big Back Yard and rode on the bumpy yellow bus. We always see it and now we had a chance to ride it! Our last two units have been focusing on identifying colors and shape recognition. We are doing awesome! To help us learn, when you are out and about, point out circles, squares and triangles. Ask your children to identify primary colors when you see them. Our class loves getting messy so keep a look out for weekly pictures of our "artistic mess" on the art board. Also, our room has been focusing on safe play. Help us remind our friends to give hugs and nice touches. As always, parents can come in or drop off their child's favorite book. Looking forward to more warm weather.

Ms. Zuleika & Ms. Shaparis, 2's

RSVP by
Monday, May, 21st!

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

Poky Little Puppies

Well the calendar tells us it's spring, but the weather is sure telling us differently. We are hoping for nicer weather, so we can go for a lot more walks. Just a reminder to always check cubbies to make sure your child has enough extra clothing just in case. Last month we enjoyed exploring things that make noise such as bells, clappers and musical instruments. We also learned about spring and how rain makes flowers grow. We read books and looked for flowers outside on our walks. An activity you can do to build number awareness with your infant is to count fingers and toes when changing diapers or feeding bottles. For non-verbal communication we introduced the signs for "butterfly", "loud" and "quiet".

Mrs. Jefferson & Ms. Judeen, 2nd Infants

Jungle Book Friends

Thank you to all the parents who came out for conferences. The biggest question we received was how we can encourage language development in our child. By the time your child turns 18 months they should have a vocabulary of between 3 to 10 words. Reading books, telling stories, and describing daily events to your child provide a language-rich environment, but language development is a two-way process. The amount of verbal interaction with your child is as important as the amount of language you use. As a parent you can encourage the development of language skills with your child by interacting regularly, singing songs and reading simple stories. As your child grows, they can talk about their day or explain their likes and dislikes. You can also play games with a child, such as naming objects or practicing concepts of direction; for example: in, out, over and through. In April, we learned about the farm. The children enjoyed singing about the farm animals as well as making animal sounds. Next we explored Springtime. The children played with flowers, searched for bugs in grass in our sensory area and worked on dump and fill activities.

Ms. Diana & Ms. Sam, 2nd Toddlers

The Tootles

This month the Tootles highlighted famous children's author Eric Carle. Everyone is probably familiar with Carle's "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "Brown Bear, Brown Bear What do You See?", but he also wrote books like "The Tiny Seed", "The Grouchy Ladybug" and "My Very First Book of Shapes". In the classroom, the children got to eat some of the same foods that the very hungry caterpillar ate like oranges, apples (applesauce) and pears. They worked on fine motor skills by pulling Velcro spots off of the Grouchy Ladybug and they did face recognition with the flowers in our garden that were velcroed to the wall in our classroom that had each child's face in the flower. We also matched silhouetted shapes with their full colored counterparts. We also are learning about flowers and different body parts. We have velcro cut outs of different body parts in the room. With this lesson plan we go through each body part that is on the velcro wall and point as we name the parts. We are also focusing on sign language. Soon we will be sending home a booklet listing the sign language that we use here in the classroom. We sure hope the warm weather is coming soon! We are looking forward to exploring the outdoors.

Ms. Jennifer & Ms. Christie, 3rd Infants

Lion Friends

This May we will be doing fun activities on Nursery Rhymes and Sesame Street. We will be working on our small motor skills by dumping and filling cups and containers. Our friends love to do flannel stories. This is great for them because they can sign to themselves and their friends. We will be doing a lot of art while listening to music. It is starting to get warm out too, so we are looking forward to taking walks through the neighborhood to enjoy the fresh air and things around us.

Ms. Salessa & Ms. Brittannie, 3rd Toddlers

Happy Birthday

2	Adler Hannon
2	Maya Duvall
3	Mr. Terry
10	Kenzley Arnold
11	Clara Brodhead
13	Jackson Falk
14	Vincent Duvall
15	Caleb Reichl
17	Christian Lynk-Peralta
19	Samuel Schimek
22	Mason Peete
23	Arthur Eichman
25	Ms. Lynn
27	Eleanor Nechodom-Harer
28	Aya Tawakul
30	Marlys Smith
30	Ms. Kim
31	Ramsey Kelleher

Congratulations

On celebrating anniversaries with
Grandma's House!

Ms. Jennifer 5 Years



Tawny Scrawny Lions

This month we will be taking another field trip with Wehr Nature Center. We are enjoying many science experiments to learn about weather. We have put water, shaving cream and food coloring in a clear bowl to show how clouds get heavy and that is why it rains. We also learned how wind blows things around by making our own wind with straws and paint. We have also been working on resolving conflict with words. The children first tell the other how they are feeling and what could make them feel better. If the other child does not listen, then the children are encouraged to play away from one another for a while.

Ms. Nikki & Ms. Keke, 4's

Saggy Baggy Elephants

Thank you to all the families that signed up for conferences. It was a pleasure talking with you about your child's developmental milestones. This month we went on a camping trip where we told stories around a campfire, slept under the stars and made S'mores. We also learned about community helpers. We pretended to be police officers, fire fighters and dentists. We learned that penguins don't have teeth. During April our portfolio focus was drawing a person and pointing to objects described by their use. We had a blast!

Ms. Mia & Ms. Ami, 2 ½'s

Animal Friends

Hello Friends and happy spring! This month our kiddos will be diving into the world of dinosaurs. We will be focusing on our walking skills as well as attempting to run with our push toys. We are also going to observe the different emotions felt by "baby dinosaurs" so the children can become familiar with their own emotions. Later this month, we will dive into the world of the children's singer Raffi and all he has to offer. We will sing his rhyming songs and learn finger plays and flannels of all his songs. Now, all we need is for the weather to stay nice, so we can visit the playground!

Ms. Claire & Ms. Jessi, 1st Toddlers



Fuzzy Ducklings

Where is Spring? Even though spring is playing peek-a-boo with us, we are still getting into the spring mood by planting seeds, playing with dirt and reading books about spring. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Week of the Young Child activities. Our children enjoyed working on the wonderful projects for their parents. Our next lesson plan will be focusing on identifying shapes and matching primary colors. We are also helping our friends clean up after themselves, so please help reinforce this at home.

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