



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,
I hope to reschedule the family night for a nice spring evening in May... who would have thought we would have a winter storm in April! I would like to reschedule it as it is a nice time for parents and families to meet one another and socialize without the pressure of trying to get the children ready to go and thinking about what to make for dinner. Last month we based the *Week of the Young Child* on a book entitled, *Only One You*. This book is about a family of fish and the parents are giving advice to their child. My favorite line is, "now go out into the world and make it a better place." Isn't that wonderful advice? I feel so strongly that if we all took care of our little corner, the world would be a much better place. In that corner there is room for love, laughter, tears, and mistakes too. As parents and teachers, we all struggle daily with what is right and wrong to do with our children. It is our goal that we are partners with you in being a part of your child's life. We know and respect that you as the parent are your child's first and most important teacher. I hope that if you happened to miss the conference sign up sheets in April you know you can request one at anytime. Just ask your child's teacher.

I am finalizing summer class lists so if there are any changes to your schedules please let me know. Field trip calendars are coming out this month, and that calendar serves as the permission slip to take your child on field trips. Please note the due date when you get it. They are also posted on our website for you to see. Parents are always welcome to sign up and help chaperone. There would be a cost only if we need to purchase a ticket or there is an admission fee. If it is a park trip then there would be no charge to come along.

The weather is wet this time of year! Please provide extra socks and clothes in cubbies. We do our best to keep children clean, but kids are kids and they like to have fun!

Jane Sweet, Director, jsweet@grandmashouse.org



Upcoming Events

May 1 ~ Speaker on Speech & Language Development ~ 6:15 - 7:15 pm

May 2 ~ Picture Day ~ 7-11 am

May 7-11 ~ Teacher Appreciation Week ~ w/Station to write notes

JUBILANT GIANTS

Spring is finally here! This month we will be doing many outside activities. If you have any empty water bottles you would like to donate we would love to recycle them into craft materials for our projects: wind spirals, bird feeders, planters. With the weather being so nice we have been walking back from school. The children have done an awesome job and really enjoy the fresh air after a long day. I ask that you please reinforce the importance of staying on the sidewalk/crosswalk, staying together, and being mindful of their partner. We occasionally get a little excited/goofy on our walk back and forget these things. Also as a reminder to children and parents, we need to have closed-toe shoes at Grandma's House. It is important for the children to wear comfortable closed-toed shoes to protect their feet. Ms. Loryn, SA

Tender Turtles

During this past month Andrea and I have seen tremendous growth with the babies as they pull themselves up from a sitting position, crawling and moving towards a toy and then reaching for it. All wonderful developmental milestones. And a major part of all this coming together is "Letting children be children". They are born with a love of movement. Given the chance, the time and the space to move, nature will take its course. We all know that as parents there are many chores awaiting you at the end of the day. However, instead of leaving your baby to sleep in the car seat or using a jumper to keep the baby contained, use a Pack N' Play instead. It may feel like you are placing them "in a cage", but it offers your baby a chance of movement. The Pack N' Play doesn't just have to be used on weekends you are away for your baby to sleep in. Use it everyday! He or she can roll over, lay on their belly, move on their hands and knees or pull themselves to a standing position with the aid of the sides of the Pack N' Play. The Pack N' Play is also a great tool to use outside as the weather becomes nicer. It gives your baby a chance to enjoy the great outdoors in a safe environment. Many of the ideas shared with you came from the article *Three Things That Have Changed Since I Became an Early Childhood Consultant* by Rae Pica. If you would like to read this article and learn more, we have hard copies at the center we would love to share with you or *State of Early Childhood* can be found on our website under Parent Information tab: <http://grandmashouse.org/parent-information.html>.

Ms. Kristine & Ms. Andrea K., Infants

RSVP
by
Monday,
May, 21st!

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

Creative Critters

We have been busy getting to know new friends and routines. We explored new toys and environments. Some things we are working on are matching colors. We matched turtle shell colors and plastic Easter eggs. We also observed the colors of feathers and used them to paint with. We are also working on using crayons to draw lines on paper and scribble on pastel colored paper. During our Nursery Rhyme unit we worked on concentrating to build towers with Lego brick blocks. We also worked on our pincer grasp and used our fingers or tweezers to pick up pom poms and small wooden circles to place into jars. *Ms. Tricia & Ms. Loryn, 2's*

Marvelous Mouseketeers

Our superkids unit was a huge hit! We loved reading about being super and different ways to use our super powers for good. For the next several theme units we will be having a huge focus on science. Our first unit will be on Weather, followed by Spring and finally Planting and Seeds. We will be participating in messy activities both inside and outside of the classroom. So, I would like to apologize in advance for messy clothing, but we are having a ton of fun learning!

Our learning focuses for this month are:

*differentiating the 4 seasons

*discussing living and non living

*understanding life cycles of both plants and animals

Ms. Amy, 4's



Curious Crawlers

In May, we will be working on Mother's Day activities and Bridges. Our outside playground has a bridge that the children enjoy climbing and we will introduce Bridge activities in the classroom. Our first child portfolio focus was cause and effect actions for which we used the shape sorter to practice. As we play with the shape sorter toys, the toddlers begin to figure out where the shapes go and how to get them back out. Another cause and effect action is simply pulling toys from the shelf and/or taking scarves out of a box. Toddlers figure it out quickly. Another child portfolio focus is recognizing their names and responding to their names being called. We find this to be an exciting time because toddlers social development is beginning to progress. Repetition is a tool for toddlers to learn their name.

Ms. Marti & Ms. Chantel, Toddlers

Merry Monkeys

I am happy to say that Spring has FINALLY sprung! Not only am I super stoked to finally have some nice weather but the children are excited as well. The children really enjoyed our units on Flowers and Bugs. Unfortunately, we were not able to really explore these units as much as I had hoped due to the weather (there were no flowers or bugs to be found as they were covered by snow). During our flower and bug units we really focused on our math and fine motor skills. We practiced both snipping with scissors as well as cutting on a straight line with scissors. We also did a lot of sorting and matching as well as introducing patterning (AB). The children really enjoyed the field trip to see *The Wizard of Oz* and did such a wonderful job using their listening ears. We have really been working hard on walking safely during the past weeks and will continue to do so now that the weather is consistently nice. Our goal to is to be able to walk to Nixon Park and play on the equipment (we are doing a great job of getting there). Our upcoming unit is an author study on Laura Numeroff. The children really seem to enjoy her book and seeing what adventures the characters get into. After Laura Numeroff we will be doing another author study on Dr. Seuss. I want to remind parents to take some time and check that their children have appropriate spare clothes in their cubbies (top, bottom, underwear, and socks). Accidents happen and unfortunately we do not always have enough spare clothes on hand.

Ms. Donna, 3's

Happy Birthday

4	Airianna Tichy
5	Jaxson Haase
9	Nathaniel Smith
16	Lilly Cary
17	Marcela Aguilera
17	Clare Cary
21	Sawyer Hansen
21	Ms. Kristine
23	Emily Ward
26	Ellison Jansen
27	Carter Haase
29	Kaileigh Wambold
30	Ms. Kim

Congratulations

*On celebrating anniversaries with
Grandma's House!*

Ms. Shannon 21 Years

Ms. Donna 10 Years

Happy Hippos

April showers bring May flowers. During the month of May we will learn about Rainbows and Flowers. Our child portfolio focuses for the month include *attending to simple rhymes, fingerplays and stories*. Children are exposed to stories and fingerplays on a daily basis. We will work on assembling shape puzzles by fitting handled puzzle pieces into the correct shape. Children are also encouraged during snack and lunch times to use their spoon to self-feed.

Ms. Kelly & Ms. Ruth, Toddlers

Delightful Dinos

We had lots of fun exploring Spring, Butterflies & Caterpillars along with Bugs & Insects. We read various books that related to each theme. We had fun planting our flower seeds and pretending to take care of our garden in our dramatic play area. If you have not brought in family photos yet, we are still accepting them. The children LOVE looking at their families. Our portfolio focuses will be to show *visible reactions to feelings of others* and work on *children demonstrating interest in what other children are doing*.

Ms. Shannon & Ms. Andrea G., 2 1/2's