



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,  
Happy Holidays! We have a lot going on in the month of December. On Saturday, the 9th, we will have our annual 'Parents Night Out.' This is a night from 3:30-7:30 pm that some of teachers and myself volunteer 4 hours for parents to have a night out. It is a night when parents can drop their children off and we will have games, crafts, dinner, and a movie! We set up a donation box and all donations will go to a charity that we decide upon. Secondly, there is a Giving tree on the back door of the center with tags. Each year we help gather gifts for families in need. Many of the items are essentials, like coats, socks, etc. If there is something else you would like to provide, please feel free to do so! Simply wrap it and put a tag on it so we would know best what to do with it. Thank you for helping us do this each year. I think we all have so many blessings in our lives and it is very rewarding to help others.

Recently, a parent asked me about our safety plan and what we would do in an emergency. If for any reason we would need to evacuate the building for an extended time period we have an agreement with Hartland North to go there. We have the capability to mass email out that alert and are working on maybe a text option. Our clipboards travel with the group of children for each classroom with accurate sign in/sign out information and Emergency Contact information. I have put this out there before, but if any parent would be interested in helping to set up a parent group or want to have a meeting once in a while to talk about things like safety plans, child topics, etc. please let me know. I am happy to coordinate something, and it might be a nice way to meet other parents with children the same age as yours.

Please remember that in order to receive credit for time off we need a 7 day notice. If you plan to take time off for the holidays we need to know 7 days ahead of time. The best way to do this is to go our website, [www.grandmashouse.org/vacation-notice.html](http://www.grandmashouse.org/vacation-notice.html) and submit a vacation request online.

I wish everyone the best for the holidays and thank you all for another great year with your children.

*Jane Sweet, Director*

[jsweet@grandmashouse.org](mailto:jsweet@grandmashouse.org)

## Upcoming Events

*December 9 ~ Parent's Night Out*

*December 20 ~ Wrapped gifts Due*



## Grandma's House

will be **CLOSED** the following days:



*Monday, December 25, 2017*

*Monday, January 1, 2018*

## Curious Crawlers

Messy art and sensory activities are an integral part of your child development and learning. We made orange Jell-O and put whipped cream on top for sensory fun. In December, we'll use pudding as one of our sensory activities. Our themes for December are Shapes and Holidays. The children enjoy singing and imitating our hand gestures during our songs. I'm not sure young toddlers understand the holiday meaning, but I'm sure they understand the joy of being with their loved ones and eating good food. Most young toddlers will be more interested in the wrapping paper than the actual gift!

*Ms. Marti & Ms. Loryn, Toddlers*

## Tender Turtles

As the season changes and the temperatures drop, please remember that the babies do spend a small amount of time outdoors when the weather permits. Having mittens, hats or a winter suit is very helpful for this time. We enjoy going for walks around the neighborhood and play time on the playground. After being outdoors, all of us have a more pleasant personality! Harvey Karp, author of The Happiest Toddler on the Block, writes that being indoors can be overstimulating and bombard a child at times, making them feel stressed. Being outside gives a child the opportunity to be more worldly and a great explorer about their environment. As the babies grow and master new skills like crawling, pulling up and rolling over, Andrea and I strive to change the environment in our classroom with different equipment and toys to build on and encourage each baby to explore and learn at their own pace.

*Ms. Kristine & Ms. Andrea K., Infants*

## Price Listing Effective January 1, 2018

<i>Youngest/Single Child Pay First Child Rate * Older Child(ren) Pay Second Child Rate</i>					
	Age	Under 2	2 Year Olds	3-5 Year Olds	6+
<b>Full Day</b>					
First Child		68	64	61	57
Second Child		58	54	52	49
<b>Half Day (5 hours or less)</b>					
First Child		--	54	52	49
Second Child		--	48	47	44



### Happy Hippos

We hope you enjoyed spending time with your families over Thanksgiving vacation. With fall coming to an end and Winter around the corner please take a few extra minutes to go through your child's cubbies to ensure they have weather appropriate clothing. Also, please be sure that your child comes to school with all their Winter gear.

December's portfolio focuses will be *Scribblings*, *jumping up and down*, *two-word combos* and a *sense of mine*. These focuses will be met through the following activities/observations.

*Scribbles* will be met through small motor skills and being offered paper and crayon.

*Jumps up and down* will be met through your child using their large motor skills while jumping up and down to the song "I See Froggies In My Pond".

*Two-word combos* will be met through literacy offered in books as well as our natural elements offered in the classroom while talking to each other.

*Sense of mine* will be met by observing your child playing and how they play around other friends.

*Ms. Andrea G. & Ms. Ruth, Toddlers*

### Creative Critters

Can you believe it's already December? Before we know it, it will be 2018! This month we will continue to work on fine motor skills. We will practice by gluing, doing sticker art, squeezing and rolling play dough and ripping/cutting wrapping paper. We will also be busy making some special projects this month. Just a reminder, it's that time of year where we will need snow gear. Please make sure your child has: a winter coat, hat, mittens and boots. Also, please label everything with your child's name. We are so excited to build snowmen outside, make snow angels and of course, shovel – their favorite thing to do.

*Ms. Kelly & Mr. Carlos, 2's*

### Merry Monkeys

We are a busy classroom building blocks, making railroad tracks for our trains, writing in our journals or taking care of our babies. A few friends built a house in our classroom with: 4 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 5 bathrooms, 7 garages for our 7 motorcycles, 5 four wheelers, 5 three wheelers, 10 snow blowers, 10 lawn mowers, 5 trucks and 9 cars. Five people live in this house who share 6 toys, 5 swing sets, 5 dining rooms, 4 dryers and 2 washing machines. We also have 2 living rooms and 6 basements. Oh, and 4 mailboxes for all the mail we get.

We are also working on our child portfolio focuses. In November, we worked on recognizing our own name, listening to stories, jumping off 1 foot without holding on and A-B patterning. As we work on recognizing our own names, I put a list of names on a piece of paper and the children pointed to their name. We also have journals and name cards where they can practice recognizing their names. Everyday the children are encouraged to participate in group time where we have flannel stories and books for listening to stories. We continue to work on gross motor skills by jumping off of one foot. The children try their best, sometimes the other foot just wants to be up with the other foot and they end up jumping off 2 feet. Lastly, we worked on A-B patterning using blocks or Fruit Loops to create A-B patterns with colors.

*Ms. Shannon, 3's*

## Happy Birthday

- 2 Kara Hoeft
- 8 Samuel Schroeder
- 15 Penelope Lorenz
- 19 Mackenzie Kempen
- 20 Emma Schneider
- 22 Henry Buechl
- 22 Jack Buechl
- 29 Decklin Whelan

### Congratulations

*On celebrating anniversaries with  
Grandma's House!*

**Mr. Carlos 7 Years**

### Marvelous Mouseketeers

We have been very busy with our pretend play. We had a pumpkin farm set up in our dramatic play and we had a blast! We added cars and now we are traveling the world like Chicago or Arizona. This month we are working on the following:

- \*cutting straight and curved lines
- \*identifying our first and last names
- \*using tripod finger grasp
- \*writing our names
- \*understanding time concepts of next, after, before



Food Pantry Delivery

*Ms. Amy, 3 & 4's*

### Delightful Dinos

Our first two portfolio focuses were playing games and matching colors. First, we learned how to play Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down and we also played a "leaf twist" game moving our bodies to Twist & Swirl. Second, we matched fall colors with leaves, bugs and animals.

Our next lesson plan was on Manners where we practiced saying *please*, *thank you*, and sharing while we parallel played throughout each day. In practicing parallel play we also focused on problem solving with one another to ensure we could get along using our manners.

*Ms. Tricia, 2 1/2's*