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Growing Highlights

January 2021

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed some time off during the holidays; it is such a special time of year. I wanted to thank all of the families that were able to help with the Giving Tree this year. We were able to help many children have a special holiday. On behalf of the staff, thank you for being so understanding during a crazy 2020. It seemed like every day brought new challenges and we appreciate the support from all the families especially in regard to changes in health and safety policies. We know we are privileged to have so many wonderful families who spoil and care about us!

Also, please note our new rates have gone into effect as of January 4, 2021.

I look forward to seeing what this year brings! Fingers crossed 2021 will be great!

Happy New Year!

Thanks,

Jess Donohue, Director

jdonohue@grandmashouse.org

[PRICE LISTING 2021](#)

[2020 Expense Statement](#)

[COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy](#)

Scholastic Book Orders

PLEASE HELP US EARN NEW BOOKS FOR THE BEDTIME BOOK CORNER

It's book order time. You are welcome to order as much or as little as you would like.

Orders can be placed online. Go to [scholastic.com/bookclubs](https://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs). You will set up an account in which they will ask for our center code: P6N7H. Books can be ordered and paid for online and will arrive at the center 1-2 weeks after the due date.

Book orders are due by Monday, January 25th

Reminder, our center earns books each time you order.

Happy Birthday

- 3 Rowan S.
- 3 Violet H.
- 4 Rory S.
- 7 Novella T.
- 9 Emersen D.
- 11 Sawyer F.
- 11 Ms. Tasha
- 12 Abigail R.
- 13 Isaac S.
- 14 Ms. Aimee
- 16 Della V.

Congratulations

17	Elliot D.	On celebrating anniversaries with
17	Ms. Darby	Grandma's House.
19	Rory S.	
25	Joseph L.	<i>Ms. Emma 6 Years</i>
25	Connor N.	<i>Ms. Cassidy 5 Years</i>
26	William S.	
30	Dimitrios K.	

Executive Order - Face Coverings

Governor Evers has extended the Executive Order through January 19, 2021. Children ages 5 and over are now required to wear face coverings while inside at Grandma's House; except when eating and drinking.

**Just a reminder....children should not come to the center if:*

1. **Anyone in your household has been tested for COVID-19 and you are waiting for results.**
2. They have a fever.
3. They have taken any medications in the last 48-hours for a fever or for COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms.
4. They have ANY signs or symptoms of COVID-19, such as shortness of breath, persistent cough, chills, body aches, loss of taste or smell, rash, vomiting, or diarrhea.
5. They have come into contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or ANY signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

*Staff take their temperatures upon arrival at the center each day and answer the above questionnaire each time they clock in.

Corduroy Bears

We hope everyone has had a great start to the new year! As always, the babies are working on meeting many developmental milestones through our Winter Clothes and Arctic Animals lesson plans. We

Very Hungry Caterpillars

This month we will be focusing on fine motor skills. One of our favorite activities is using scissors to snip paper. With a little help from Ms. Jennie and Ms. Diane, we will learn to hold the scissors

focused on hand to mouth coordination by placing infant's hands on their bottles during feeding times. We also began to explore new objects by offering hats and mittens for infants to hold, reach for, and grasp. We also focused on offering the infants different types of books to reach toward and explore. At home, infants can "read" and enjoy different types of books such as, touch and feel books, board books, soft cover, and wordless books. You will also begin to notice different facial expressions while reading. Help them by imitating the different facial expressions during each part of the story. While we are working hard, let's not forget to welcome our new incoming friends. We look forward to helping you grow!

Infants, Ms. Holly, Ms. Tasha & Ms. Claudia

Rainbow Fish

Does anyone else feel like winter came so quickly? One day it was Fall and then BAM! it was winter. With the weather getting chillier outside, it gives us the perfect opportunity to work on our transitions inside the classroom. For us, this can be transitioning from mealtime to playtime on the floor or going from tummy time to a diaper change. We are not only saying this to the child we are helping, but we also address the other children to explain what we are doing and assure them that we are and will come back. We never stop talking with them. Transitions

properly. Another fun activity is stacking igloo ice cubes. Our other favorite activity is Feed the Polar Bear. We will also be working on A-B patterning in which the simple pattern will be penguin-bear-penguin-bear.

2 1/2's, Ms. Jennie & Ms. Diane

Dragons Who Love Tacos

Welcome to the new year! We ended 2020 learning about the holidays and winter and we look forward to kicking off the new year! During our holiday unit, we learned about the different holidays that are celebrated during December along with continuing to work on our portfolio focuses. We practiced sequencing events with sequence cards that were elf and holiday themed along with understanding the difference between sinking vs. floating by putting different items into water. Putting your morning or evening routines at home onto cards would be a great way to practice sequencing at home. You could also teach the concepts of sinking and floating while in the bathtub with different toys. We then ended the year with our winter and snow unit where we recognized shapes with different shaped snowmen that we had to match along with using a simple tool like an eye dropper to observe what happens when warm water meets ice. Stay Healthy & Happy New Year!

3's, Ms. Cassidy & Ms. Jenna

Toy Story 4's

are easy to practice at home, too! If you stand up to grab a glass of water, assure them that you are standing up to grab a glass of water from the kitchen and you'll be right back. Continue to talk to them while grabbing a glass of water until you return to them.

Older Infants, Ms. Nikki & Ms. Olivia O.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

Happy New Year! We had fun with our Arctic Animals unit. The one activity we really enjoyed was creating a "snow scene". The children stuck cotton balls on contact paper and learned about different textures. Their work is displayed on our art wall, so please check it out! We also enjoyed a science project learning about magnets. The children placed magnets on metal cookie sheets. It was a little tricky placing the magnets the right way, but they did a wonderful job! We look forward to learning about everyone's pets in our next unit and also playing outside in the snow.

Toddlers, Ms. Lori

Llama Llamas

It's a new year, hooray! Hopefully it will be a less bumpy year! We had fun in December smelling peppermint, playing in our gingerbread house and meeting new friends. In January, we are looking forward to exploring snow, making a snowman and taking a ride on a sled. We

Welcome to 2021!! We made it and are so ready to learn and grow. I hope you all had a wonderful break and some time to relax. We have been working hard on some new skills and enjoying some games and new toys. One of our favorite games to play is "the floor is lava." We have the actual game, but you can play at home by using colored pieces of construction paper and having them jump from color to color. This is great for learning colors or just to refresh the colors we already know. This is also a great game to work/ practice that when you get out it's okay, and you will get another chance soon. Another one of our favorites was to make snow in a jar! All you need is a mason jar, baby oil, Alka seltzer tablets and glitter, mixing that all in a jar and watching the Alka seltzer make that glitter dance around. We have also been working hard on writing our names on all our papers, all the practice helps. At home when they are drawing or coloring, have them write their name on the top of the paper. It does not have to be all correct. We cannot wait to see what this year has in store for us, but we are ready and eager to learn!

4's, Ms. Brittnee

4K

In December we had a great time getting ready for the holidays in our class. We decorated a tree all by ourselves, we laced paper stockings and handed them to all the staff at Grandma's House and we

continue to work on sign language, using our spoons and simple words. For our older toddlers, we are introducing simple color matching and pointing to body parts. We look forward to a happy, healthy January and a year full of exciting creative activities.

Older Toddlers, Ms. Julie, Ms. Rosa, & Ms. Lisa

Puddle Ducks

Now that we are well into the cold weather, we have been working on getting dressed to go outside. As soon as I say, "it's time to get ready to go outside", they all sit down and start taking off their shoes! The rest is a bit tricky, but they are trying so hard to put on their boots and snowpants. The Puddle Ducks are really good at getting everything off when we come in (sometimes when we are outside, too!). It all takes time, so sometimes it takes us a while, but that is okay! At home you can work on this by allowing your child to do as much as possible (as much as they want to) when getting dressed. Our favorite books right now are "Construction Zone" by Tana Hoban, "Trucks and Diggers 1-10", and Shapes.

Almost Two's, Ms. Cat

Pete the Cats

Happy New Year! I'm sure we are all excited for a "fresh start" after 2020! To end the year, the 2 year olds enjoyed

worked hard at creating a memorable present for our families. Aside from all that, we listened and read many different versions of the Gingerbread Man, in different languages. We also used gingerbread as a theme to expand our learning in math, science, and writing. Here is an idea to try at home: Take a stuffed animal and hide it around the house. Pretend it is like the Gingerbread man hiding from the characters that want to eat him. Give clues about where it can be found or play the hot (you are so close or walking in the right direction) and cold (it's far away and walking farther away from it) game. Most children will look for a quick second and then ask for help. When that happens, tell them to keep trying. If they start to get frustrated, model more questions they can ask to get help from you, without you telling them where it is. This teaches children to use their problem-solving skills and they will have to put out a lot of effort. The reward of finding it is more fulfilling when they accomplish the task "on their own" (aside from your clues). And they love the smile on your face and hugs you give when they complete the task.

4K is looking forward to 2021. We will be taking our writing skills to the next level. We will be practicing our reading skills more at home and school and we will be using math in some new ways. Happy New Year to you all from the 4K class at Grandma's House!

4K, Ms. Holly L.

getting all their wiggles out in a number of ways – riding new bikes indoors, playing in the snow outside, walking on the classroom balance beam and dancing to their new favorite action song, “Let’s Go Swimming”. We started working hard to use our self-help skills in putting on and taking off all of our snow gear. We will continue to work on these skills throughout the year. We are looking forward to seeing where these next 12 months will take us.

2's, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Andrea, & Ms. Janell