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Growing Highlights

January 2022

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

All School-Age Children are required to wear face masks indoors at Grandma's House.



Dear Parents,

We made it through another holiday season! Thanks again to everyone who thought of the teaching staff (and myself) during that time. You guys really make the season brighter!

Thanks also for so many generous gifts for children in foster care. I'm not sure why I am always surprised by your generosity-our families are some of the best and most generous around. I am thankful for all you do for us and the community.

The new year brings us lots of children moving into new rooms, as well as opening a new room. We are very sad to see the Gross Motor room go away, but excited to see busy toddlers exploring and having fun in it. We will still be able to use a lot of the activities we had in that room but it will have to be used in current classrooms. Fingers crossed that temps stay above 20° this year and we never have to use it! (I know, wishful thinking....)

We have amended our COVID-19 quarantine guidance to allow for testing of close contacts after 5 days of quarantine. If a PCR test is negative on or after day 5 of quarantine, children and staff may return AFTER day 7 of quarantine. Otherwise, children and staff may return after 10 days of quarantine, without a test. If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact me or Colleen at cpomeroy@grandmashouse.org

As always, please see me with questions or concerns!
Christie Dapelo, Director
cdapelo@grandmashouse.org

PRICE LISTING 2022

2021 Expense Request

Year end statement requests will be emailed once they are available by the end of January.



- 1 Lulu B.
- 1 Wesley M.
- 5 Ms. Hannah
- 6 Elinor S.
- 13 Carter K.
- 15 Yakov N.
- 18 Avery K.
- 20 Ms. Nikki
- 21 Arthur S.
- 24 Amelia R.
- 24 Ellison P.

26	Layla L.
27	James R.
30	Ms. Emily
31	Brandt P.
31	Eleanor K.

Little Lunas

Happy New Year all! Brr! Brr! Baby, it's cold outside! With the temperatures dropping it will be less likely we can get outside, but if it's above 20* we will try to do so. If you have a snowsuit at home, feel free to bring it in. We want to welcome back Ms. Abbie and all our new infants to the Little Lunas classroom-Gianni, Ivy, Trevor and James. We are also saying goodbye to Wyatt, Leah, MaKenna and Fiona as well as thanking Ms. Stephanie for helping in our classroom. This month we will explore snowflakes and Nursery Rhymes. We will be using all our senses in skills such as raising our head and chest up when lying on our tummy and grasping close objects. For our older friends, we will be working on turning and manipulating objects.

Infants, Ms. Ana & Ms. Abbie

Somewhere Over The Rainbow

Even though it is cold outside, we can still go out if it's at least 20° with the wind chill. Don't worry, we will bundle up your little one with snowsuits, hats, and

Pooh-N-Tots

Where did 2021 go? Colors, shapes, sounds and smells are the primary and secondary focus in this room. We just finished our lesson plan about music and the beautiful sounds each instrument makes separately and together in a band or orchestra. We also have musical instruments for the children to play with in our room. During the last weeks of December, we talked about Christmas time and all the fun ways we celebrate with our families. We used this opportunity to work on colors and shapes with the children-their vocabularies are really coming along! It seems like we hear a new word each day. We will continue to work on washing our hands for 20 seconds, getting our clothes on and off, and gentle touches. We can tell that you are working on these skills at home, and we are grateful for that! Happy New Year!!

3rd Toddlers, Ms. Laura & Ms. Kim

Wittle Wizards

blankets. Even if our walk is only 10 minutes, getting that fresh air is one of our classroom's favorite things to do! Our friends have been enjoying looking at themselves in the mirror and in the All About Me books (if you need one, let us know). They enjoy seeing familiar faces of people they love as well. Mirror play promotes a sense of self in the babies which is an important foundation to know they are here and can make things happen. We will also do small group play in front of the mirrors so they can play and see other children to gain a sense of others and while the idea of playing together with friends isn't a "thing" yet, we already see some budding connections forming.

2nd Infants, Ms. Cassie & Ms. Virginia

Candy Factory

Quote of the day-*"Every day is a chance to begin again. Don't focus on the failures of yesterday, start today with positive thoughts and expectations."* -Catherine Pulsifer

The new year brings new friends into our room and though we are sad to see our old friends go, we know they are ready to start a new adventure. The new Candy Factory children will be practicing cruising and balancing, as well as sign language, which really helps to let us know what their needs are. Check our Parent Board to see which sign we are working on each week so that you can work on it at home as well. We hope everyone enjoyed the

We have been really busy this past month! We were Paleontologists digging for dinosaurs. We became Explorers and made a yummy forest animal snack mix. We became Cultural Anthropologists and looked at multicultural holiday traditions. In the classroom, we have been working on using words to make wants known. For example, "more please" and "that's mine" are words we encourage our friends to use. We are also working on getting dressed by ourselves-we use the coat flip method. Start by laying your child's jacket on the floor and have them stand by the hood and put their arms in the sleeves. Once their arms are in, they need to raise their hands over their head-if done correctly, your child should end up with their jacket on the right way! Keep encouraging self-help skills at home, and with the colder temperatures and possibility of snow, please make sure everything is here every day and labeled with names or initials.

2's, Ms. Courtney & Ms. Esther

Gnome Schoolers

Gnome sweet gnome! After all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, we are settling back into some routines. We had a great time decorating our wreath and cookies. Learning about snow and other cold weather fun has been awesome as well. Our gnomies have been working hard putting on their own snow pants and boots, so please encourage these self-

holidays!

3rd Infants, Ms. Sherry & Ms. Shantice

Unaccompanied Minors

We hope that everyone had a fabulous holiday. Hopefully, you all had the chance to relax and enjoy some family time. In review, our class talked about holidays around the world. It was a pleasure to read each of your holiday celebration sheets. We have learned so much about what you do in your own home during these special times. This unit is a wonderful way to introduce new cultures into your child's life. Though they are young, exposing them to culture can help them see their own identity. As we swing back into the routine, we will be focusing on our five senses. During our five senses unit, we will do a lot of sensory learning. For example, each child will explore different texture materials that are soft, rough, smooth, or bumpy. This new exposure will help them develop stronger hand-eye coordination and add new words to their vocabulary. We will also be exploring many more through our senses. More so, our class will still be working on other milestones, such as turning pages of books, using our utensils, and learning to express our wants and needs by signing or pointing. These are just a few things; there are plenty of other activities that we will be doing to make sure your child reaches new goals. As always, please do not hesitate to ask questions or talk to us about any

help skills at home. We also encourage the children to use their words when they want something or when they are frustrated. You can encourage them at home by not responding, immediately, to their gestures, grunts or whines. A common phrase we use at school is "I'm sorry, I can't understand you. Can you use your words?". You can then "guess" what they are trying to say, in order to provide them with some words— in case they're not sure what words they want. This tends to help with meltdowns, too. We have lots of fun learning "scheduled" for the New Year— stay tuned! Remember to check your child's "Take Gnome Box" for important papers and artwork!

2.5's, Ms. Amy R. & Mr. Randy

Picture Perfect 3's

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed their family time! We are excited to share that we are working really hard at group games and we are getting really good at it! We all do a great job following the rules. Some good games to try with your little one are Candyland and Memory. If you have any games that you play at home and would like to share, we would love to give them a try! We also love that our classroom library has become such a big hit! We want you to know that the class decides if they want to share the books with their families. If you take a book home, please ask your child questions about the book to see if they are

concerns. We are always here to help the best way we can. Have a fantastic January!

Toddlers, Ms. Kayleigh & Ms. MaiLee

The Rolling Scones

Happy New Year!!! Time sure has flown by this year. We want to wish a warm welcome to the new toddlers coming into our room. Our class enjoys the outdoors, projects, and lots of dancing! One of the activities our toddlers enjoyed was exploring light and shadows. We put extra holiday lights into a cardboard box, then we cut holes and slits into the box. The toddlers loved to see all the colors and move the box around to observe how the light cuts through the dark. Another activity that we are working on is having the children work on helping us dress and undress. Although it may seem tedious, when the toddlers take on or off their hats and mittens, it helps build independence and fine motor skills. They get so excited to put on their hat on their own or unzip their zippers for us. You can try this at home by starting with them putting on their hat first and building from there. We look forward to a fun and bright year ahead!

2nd Toddlers, Ms. Hannah & Ms. Emily

able to retell the story. You will be amazed at how much they remember.

3's, Ms. Jess & Ms. Melissa

PK Masks

Did you watch the video from our holiday Party yet? We had so much fun learning our songs while developing our language skills! Even when we were dancing along, we were strengthening our gross motor skills. Our melted snowman kits were so much fun to put together-we used our fine motor skills and our math skills to count out the correct amount of ingredients. Stay Warm!

4's, Ms. Jennifer