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May 2-6, 2022

Celebrating our

SENSEational

Teachers and Staff

Growing Highlights

May 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of our families for helping to make Week of the Young Child a success this past month! While the children enjoyed pancake parties, PJ day, art projects, and music, we hope you appreciated "taking your child to work". Also, thank you to those families who signed up for Parent/Teacher conferences last week. Even though we touch base with parents/guardians at drop off and pick up times every day, it's nice to dedicate some time without distraction to discuss your child's progress.

As a reminder, this week we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Again this year, we will set up our Appreciation Station at the front entryway. Be sure to stop by with your child to fill out 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.). In addition to our Annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, we will be providing breakfast, snacks, and candy for our staff during the week to show our thanks. If you haven't already signed up, here is the link to do so:

[TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK SIGNUP](#)

Thanks,
Kristie Potter, Director
kpotter@grandmashouse.org

5 DAYS 5 WAYS

to celebrate our

May 2-6, 2022



SENSEational

Teachers and Staff

M Monday 5/2		SOUND Tell your teacher how much they are appreciated. CANDY STATION
T Tuesday 5/3		SMELL Bring your teacher a flower. DONUT DAY
W Wednesday 5/4		TASTE staff Appreciation Luncheon
T Thursday 5/5		TOUCH Give your teacher a hug, high five, fist bump. BAGEL DAY
F Friday 5/6		SIGHT Thank you cards distributed to our staff to read. SNACK & SODA BUFFET

*Visit the Appreciation Station during the week in the front entryway to create a Thank You card.



3	Mr. Terry
4	Emma B.
6	Milo C.
6	Ms. Anna
10	Kenzley A.
10	Ms. Destiney D.
13	Jacks F.
16	Journee L.
19	Rory K.
25	Arthur M.
25	Ms. Lynn
27	Eleanor N.
28	Hazel B.
29	Elliot K.
29	LuLu Y.
30	Ms. Kim

CONGRATULATIONS!

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House!

Ms. Jennifer	9 Years
Ms. Erica	1 Year
Ms. Alyssa	1 Year



Young Infants

In April our theme was rain and we read Rain Feet by Angela Johnson, Rain by Carol Thompson, and

Toddlers

Spring is finally here! With that being said we will be going through cubbies and packing up all of those unnecessary items

had fun seeing and reading the Book *The Little Cloud* by Erik Carle. We also played a lot together on the floor enjoying toys and tummy time in order to get stronger. We are excited that May is finally here. We hope to enjoy the Spring days and take many walks outside. May will be a busy month; our theme of the month is Fruits and Vegetables. As Mother's Day soon approaches, we will work on a special Mother's Day project. We will read new books such as *Baby Let's Eat* by Stephan Lomp, *The Vegetables We Eat* by Gail Gibbons, and *Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert. Children will enjoy the pictures of vegetables and fruits that they will look at. We will read the book *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krause and do a very cool art project "Carrot Feet", using orange color. Babies will learn sign language for fruits and vegetables. Children will continue to develop gross motor skills by using their hands, neck, and trunk muscles. We love to have family photos in our classroom! So, if you haven't done it already, please bring in some family photos. If you have any questions, we are always available. Young Infants, Ms. Alex, Ms. Jamie & Ms. Kylie

Infants

Happy May! We are so excited that warmer weather has arrived. We are taking walks outside and enjoying the fresh air and sunshine. If you haven't already, please take home your little one's

for you to take home, so be on the lookout for those. This month we have been focusing a lot on animal sounds and colors and are moving into contrasts (light vs dark, colors, weights, etc.). We are continuing to encourage parallel and collaborative play inside as well as outside. With the weather getting warmer, please remember to bring in a light jacket, a sun hat and sunscreen. Even with moving into a new lesson plan and exploring contrasts, we are still keeping up with shape recognition to practice and encourage 2-4 word sentences. So, feel free to keep practicing those at home while we build on them here at school. As always, stay safe and healthy!
Toddlers, Ms. Jennifer & Ms. Alyssa

Almost 2's

This month we embarked on a new way to play called "loose part play." I hope that you were able to read the article that was sent home regarding this type of play. Please ask us if you would like more information. Our favorite part of doing a unit like this is watching the children's creativity in using the "loose parts" and that we are actually using items that may not be normally viewed as play items like small pieces of wood/sticks, napkin rings, and small scraps of material, a portion of fencing, and even bricks. The great part is that the children are still working on their developmental skills. One of the portfolio focuses is to use objects as something else (i.e., using a stick as a

winter gear and replace it with a light jacket, and sun hat. This month, our lesson plan themes will be shapes, colors, and animals. We will be focusing on learning and responding to our names (through song) and pulling up to stand with assistance. We encourage our families to ask questions if you are interested in what we are doing in the class, would like to know our methods within the classroom (learn through play), or if you want to see what we do. Make sure to check out our “Look at what we do” board to see pictures; or our parent board to see our bi-weekly lesson plans. Stay happy and healthy!
Infants, Ms. Judeen & Ms. Sam

Older Infants

“Under the Sea, Under the Sea. Darling *it's better down where it's wetter, Under the sea*”. Last month the class put on their scuba gear and dove into the ocean. In our classroom, we saw octopi and jellyfish and had an underwater themed backdrop. We worked on self-concepts by finding our own picture frozen in the waters of the Antarctic/Southern Ocean and then fished them out when the ice melted. We also learned about x-rays as we examined x-ray photos of shells and fish on a light board. We also worked on our gross motor skills by pushing “iceberg” boxes around the room. After our trip to the ocean, we came back to wonderful Wisconsin to learn more about the state we live in. We

spoon to stir things or placemat pieces for roofs of houses built with blocks). This is also fun for the parents to participate in as you can enjoy your child's creativity and imagination. Have fun imagining and being creative!

Toddlers, Ms. Theresa & Ms. Rosie

2's

This month we will be working on self-help skills such as taking our shoes on and off, flipping our jackets, and solving simple problems on our own. We will also be talking about bugs, flowers, colors, and shapes. One of the activities we like to do is mix food coloring in water and watch the colors appear. This is a fun and easy thing to try at home too. We can't wait to explore outside to see what types of bugs we can find. We look forward to May and the Springtime weather that goes along with it. We love watching your children learn and grow. Thank you for your continued support!

2's, Ms. Salessa & Ms. Brittannie

2 1/2's

Spring is here and we are excited about the upcoming months. We want to remind parents to bring outside gear and bedding for their child. Also, remember to label all of your child's belongings! In the month of April, we focused on our fine motor skills, self-help skills, and math skills. For our fine motor skill enhancers, we placed

listened to songs sung by Ojibwe Native Americans and looked at artwork by Sun Prairie native, Georgia O'Keefe. We worked on the small motor skill of clapping one's hands along to "On Wisconsin" and we also looked at black and white cows as a high contrast stimuli. Lastly, we can't forget cheese as we enjoyed a snack of cheese and cherries.

Older Infants, Ms. Christie & Ms. Melissa

Young Toddlers

April was a busy month of growth and learning! We spent a lot of time working on our fine motor skills such as grasping crayons and putting objects into small holes. We also spent some time on the toddler playground working on our gross motor skills by climbing the stairs to get onto the slide and using the riding toys. This month we will be reading books and doing fun activities based on familiar children's songs. One activity will involve plastic spiders going in and out of paper towel tubes. This activity can easily be done at home too and encourages children to begin to notice cause and effect through play. We hope to enjoy more sunshine in May and use our senses to explore our outdoor environment.

Toddlers, Ms. Pakou & Ms. Maddy

Toddlers

Thank you to all the parents who came out for conferences. The biggest question we

cheerios onto pipe cleaners to help with hand eye coordination. During cooling or cleaning activities at home, the children can bead cereal onto strings or place onto uncooked spaghetti noodles. We work hard on our self-help skills. This can be practiced at home, too! Some examples would be to have your child remove their outdoor gear, help clean up after meals, and dress themselves. This gives your child independence. Lastly, we worked on math skills by counting to 15. Our "Who's Here Today?" board encourages number recognition as we count the friends that came to school. We want to thank our parents for coming to conferences. Our mission is to make sure we are doing the best we can to help each child grow. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

2 1/2's, Ms. Johnnetta & Ms. Destiny

3's

April showers bring May flowers and that is our focus this month – flowers! We will put on our critical thinking caps and explore the parts of a plant, learn how a seed becomes a flower and experiment with different ways of planting seeds. We will also learn about the traditional dance around the May pole. In our second unit, we will be exploring our 5 senses.

3's, Ms. Claire & Ms. Samantha

4's

received was how we can encourage language development in our child. By the time your child turns 18 months, they should be saying about 5 words, starting to make sounds of familiar animals and pointing to objects that you name. Reading books, telling stories, and describing daily events to your child provides 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. This month we learned about nursery rhymes, the farm, and did a unit on our Favorite Things. The children enjoyed singing about the farm, Hickory Dickory Dock, and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. We also had fun creating our art for the Week of the Young Child.

Younger Toddlers, Ms. Diana & Ms. Desiree

First Dr. Seuss and then our theme on Nursery Rhymes this month. All of the children have enjoyed learning about words that rhyme. Another favorite activity was acting out the rhyme. Looking forward, our focus will be signs of Spring and pond life. The children all enjoy learning about animals so that will also be a focus. One of our portfolio focuses will be: "answers who, what, where and why questions." This can also be done at home when talking about their day or when reading them a bedtime story. We will also continue to use our excellent vocabulary to express our needs and thoughts and to problem solve. Finally, a thank you to everyone for your help in supporting Ms. Michele while I was on vacation.

4's, Ms. Lynn