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## Growing Highlights

MAY 2023



Dear Parents,

I am looking for those May flowers! We are about a month away from the summer program beginning and field trip calendars will be coming out soon. It will be very important to hand them back in by the due date so we know how many children to expect on each trip. Also, the calendar serves as a permission slip for your child to attend. If we do not have them back, we cannot take a child on a field trip. Included on the calendars will be a list of items to make the summer go more smoothly. All children are asked to keep a swimsuit here at the center, shoes that can be wet, a hat if you want them to wear one, and swim diapers if needed. A water bottle is helpful too, but we always do have water available outside. We do lots of water play on the playgrounds all summer. Looking forward to a fun summer and getting our gardens going again!

I am reading a book called Grit by Angela Duckworth. I am not done yet, but so far it is very

interesting. It made me think of the way I parented, and how the children nowadays are being raised. I made my fair share of mistakes as a parent, but if I could offer any advice to parents raising young children now, I would say, be there for your children, but let them fail and make mistakes. Let them learn how to problem solve. It is so hard to see your child struggle, but in the end, you will be so grateful you did. One of my children (I have three- 28yrs, 22yrs, and a 20-year-old), became so anxious in middle school that she would make herself sick. Every day was a battle dropping her off, and she was so angry at my husband and I for making her go each day when she felt she was struggling so much. I had so many doubts about how we were handling it... but a couple years later, long years, she shared with me that at the time she was so upset with us, but that now she wanted to thank us for pushing her to face her worries, with support. Parenting is tough, filled with doubt and laughter! The best thing we can do for our children is to love them, but also prepare them for a life that is sometimes just not going to go their way. That starts at a very young age, like the kiddos that are here at the center- they are not always going to get the toy they want, the chair they want, the job they want... but that's where we can teach resiliency. Resiliency learned at a young age will carry a child through a lifetime. The ability to bounce back and adjust to circumstances not expected is a skill that is invaluable. I am going to finish this book by the next newsletter!

Just a final note, we did receive our NAEYC Accreditation from our evaluation back in February! Just want to thank my teachers for doing a great job and maintaining this Accreditation.

Hope you are enjoying the nicer weather and making the most of it!

*Jane Sweet*

Director

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



\* Visit the Appreciation Station during the week in the back entryway to create a Special Note.

**MON**  
May 8th  
Bring your teacher(s)  
a FLOWER

*Our teachers and staff make  
each day Brighter*

**TUE**  
May 9th  
DRAW your teacher(s)  
a PICTURE

*Together we create a  
Better Tomorrow*

**WED**  
May 10th  
Bring your teacher(s)  
a SWEET TREAT

*Together we  
Inspire, Engage, & Encourage*

**THU**  
May 11th  
Give your teacher(s)  
a HUG

*Together we ALL Shine!*

**FRI**  
May 12th  
SPECIAL NOTES delivered  
Pajama Day



*Together we plant the seeds of knowledge that  
will last a lifetime*

**CLOSING EARLY - Friday, June 9th - Hours: 6:00 am - 3:00 pm**

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, 8/19 - Family Picnic



1	Aedan G.
5	Eleonore L.
16	Aria S.
19	Paul G.
20	Paige-Marie S.
21	Ms. Kristine
25	Adler L.

## CONGRATULATIONS

*On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House*

*Ms. Shannon 26 Years*

*Ms. Donna 15 Years*

## *Scholastic Book Orders*

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: H27BF**.

Books can be ordered and paid for online and will arrive at the center 1-2 weeks after the due date. You can choose to have your books shipped to your home or delivered to the center with our order.

***Book orders are due by Friday, May 19th***

*Reminder, our center earns books each time you order.*

# Look What We Did!

## *Infants*

Thank you to all our families for taking the time to have conferences with us. We truly enjoyed taking a moment to share with you the growth and accomplishments your child has made this far and hearing from families the goals you have for your baby.

One of the milestones that was discussed repeatedly at the conferences was communication and "When will my baby start communicating with me?". We see indicators of communication as soon as infants are born. They cry a lot! This earliest form of communication lets others know that attention is required. As children age, there are certain milestones that they are expected to reach, such as cooing, babbling, and saying their first word. This milestone is found in our portfolio and one that is discussed often during conference time.

The first few years of a child's life are the optimal time for speech and language skills to develop. This period is called the window of opportunity for speech and language development. This means that during this time, the brain is primed to absorb language and make essential brain connections related to communication. There are many windows of opportunity associated with different areas of child development. If skills are not acquired

## *Toddlers*

April showers bring May flowers. During the month of April, we learned about Earth Day. We worked on matching colors and having fun with pretend play. As children play in the classroom with their friends, they are encouraged to use their words with their friends to express themselves by saying "mine" when someone takes a toy away. Toddlers will often choose to hit or scream at their friends. We have been really working on appropriate ways to deal with this. We are so excited that Spring is finally here and we have been able to spend so much time outside incorporating our outside experiences with our lesson plans.

*Ms. Ruth & Ms. Bree*

## *2's*

Spring is finally here, we hope! We are enjoying these warmer days. We have been spending a lot of time outside; rain boots and sun hats are welcome. We have really been enjoying dancing to silly songs, especially one called Freeze Dance. We also enjoy dancing with instruments and streamers. We are working on encouraging everyone to clean up their toys and spaces when they are done playing, this helps them learn where things

during these windows of opportunity, it does not mean that the skills can't be learned. It just means that learning the skills will be more challenging and may take longer to develop.

The best way to promote language and speech with young children is to speak to them. When others speak, infants are exposed to the sounds of speech as well as the patterns of grammar and sentence structure.

Reading to children is another vital opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words and create strong bonds with children. Introduce a variety of literature to children including poetry, fables, and works of nonfiction. Doing so will help ensure that children are exposed to a wide variety of vocabulary words and styles of language. *Source: March Newsletter ChildCare Education Institute March 2022*

We are so thankful for the warmer weather! We are taking advantage of it when we can with walks through the neighborhood and time spent on the playground. The babies, as well as the teachers, are loving the fresh air and the scenery. We're looking forward to getting out more as we inch closer and closer to Springtime. We will be asking you to sign permission to apply sunscreen with the nicer weather approaching. Keeping a lightweight jacket at Grandma's House is also a good idea as the weather is always changing in Wisconsin!

*Ms. Kristine & Ms. Mo*

### ***Older Infants***

belong.

*Ms. Tricia & Ms. Desi*

### ***2.5's***

Last month the children enjoyed going on nature walks as we learned about Birds; how they stay warm and what they like to eat. We then pretended to be baby birds hatching out of eggs. The highlight of our Bird unit was to go outside and use bird whistlers to mimic the sounds birds make, then use our binoculars to try and find them in the tree to see them living in their natural habitat.

*Ms. Andrea G.*

### ***3's***

Boy has this weather been all over the place! We're really enjoying being able to go outside more without having to put on all our snow gear! We have been doing a unit on Earth Day and talking about how we can help our earth. We made art using recycled items and planted grass. The children really enjoyed watching the grass grow. In the upcoming weeks, we will be doing a unit on Bugs and Weather. We are also working on being good friends, what it means to be a good friend, and how can we be good friends. We're also working on how to use our words with our friends and not our hands and body, and becoming more spatially aware of what is around us. As always if you have any questions,

We are all enjoying seeing Spring happening all around us. The rainy days, the muddy puddles, things are sprouting, the cold morning frost, and the warm sunny afternoons are making our outside play very interesting and messy. We are loving it! Our class goes outside at least twice a day. It is the most important part of our day. The children are learning so much as they play outside. Gross motor, fine motor, communication, sensory, science, and social skills are just a few of the skills we practice outside.

We had so much fun celebrating the Week of The Young Child. It was great to see everyone who attended our Gallery Night. We all worked really hard on our masterpieces and enjoyed displaying them. We have been exploring painting with different vegetables. We concentrate on process art at our center, which is focused on the experiences during the process. The children get to use all their senses and learn about the vegetable they are using. The finished product is always beautiful but it's all about the process.

We want to welcome all the new families to our classroom. We are looking forward to getting to know all of you. If you ever have any questions, please let us know.

*Ms. Andrea K. & Ms. Bry*

please reach out to me!

*Ms. Chantel*

**4's**

Man, we been enjoying this warm weather and we hope you are, too! We have been spending as much time as we can soaking up the sun and playing outside! But when we are not outside, we have been learning and doing a lot of fun activities as well. In April, we learned about different kinds of bugs. We made little "name" caterpillars and even made some caterpillars out of sibling's names. We also went on a scavenger hunt to see what kind of bugs are on our playground. We also learned about the different kinds of weather. We made different types of weather jars to demonstrate the changing weather. One of our 'would you rather' questions was "do you like a rainstorm or a snow storm better? And why". We had 6 friends say snowstorm, and 12 say rainstorm. We are looking forward to what the next month brings us!

*Ms. Shannon & Ms. Emily*

**School Agers**

Don't be fooled by the bursts of warm weather we are getting; it still is chilly out there. It is still pretty chilly in the early mornings and evenings (when we are outside). I would still recommend sending your child with a weather appropriate jacket and a hat. I would like to take a

moment to remind parents and children of a few classroom rules...the first is that home toys need to stay at home. Also, there is no gum chewing in the school age classroom. Please remind your child of this. We have about a month and a half until the summer programs starts. I look forward to a great rest of the school year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.  
*Ms. Donna*