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Growing Highlights

APRIL 2024



April is

**FAMILY
STRENGTHENING
MONTH**

**Wear BLUE
April 5th**

Dear Parents,

This is a busy month here at the center. Please keep an eye out for Parent-Family Conference sign-up sheets in your child's classroom. It's a great way to see your child's progress and meet with teachers!

Also, the *Week of the Young Child* is coming up in April, too! This is a week to celebrate children. Each day will be special and we will have a family night. See details below.

The school age room is going to take over the gardens this year and Ms. Donna is planning

a Saturday morning planting session. She will send out information regarding that as it gets closer.

Hope everyone has a happy Spring!

Jane Sweet

Director

jsweet@grandmashouse.org



MUSIC MONDAY
Music on the playgrounds & in classrooms

TASTY TUESDAY
Special Snack
Please see the parent board to sign up

ARTSY Wednesday
Art Gallery
4:45 - 6:00 pm
Appelizer Stations throughout center

WORK TOGETHER THURSDAY
Planting seedlings

FUN FRIDAY
PJ Day & Bring a book to share

naeyc[®] Week of the Young Child™
APRIL 8 - 12
A FUN FILLED WEEK CELEBRATING YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH HANDS-ON, COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES ENCOURAGING MOVEMENT AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES THROUGH MUSIC, FOOD, AND ART.
Please see your child's teacher for the specifics on activities for each day.

Walks for Cancer
Join Us!
Saturday, May 4, 2024

LAKEWALK - Fowler Park, Oconomowoc
Click [GH Team](#) to Join



- 1 Lillian B.
- 2 Ro S.
- 2 Ezra D.
- 6 Collin B.
- 7 Ellie S.
- 8 William P.
- 14 Dhriti C.
- 14 Norah W.
- 21 Mariam A.
- 23 Charles D.
- 26 Rocco A.
- 27 Coleman G.
- 30 Atlas B.
- 30 Ms. Suzanne

Congratulations

on celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

Ms. Kelly 11 Years

Look What We Did!

Little Cuties Infants

Mini Muffins Almost 2's

Communication is part of our everyday life. We communicate hundreds of times a day in many different ways. Babies' communication, of course, looks different than our pathways of communication. The very first communication that a baby makes is their cry when they are born to let us know they are here! The first vocalizations are cries, grunts, and laughter. With growth and achievements, non-speech like sounds become fewer and babbling and word mimicking sounds develop.

Communication and vocalization have been our focus over this past month since we have a younger group of children in our classroom. As parents and caregivers, we are responsible for creating an appropriate environment for language development (Ivy Panda (2021 March 3) Infant Babbling and Social Development). Responding to baby's gestures, facial expressions, and the sounds that they make helps build their budding skills. Talking to them while feeding them breakfast or changing a diaper are all opportunities built right into the daily routine. Reading and singing together is a time to build a personal relationship along with exposing the baby to vocabulary that we may not use in our everyday lives. Children's communication grows by leaps and bounds the first few years. There is always something 'computing' in that little mind! The [Zero to Three](#) website is a great resource for child development with articles to read and ideas that we can do as parents and caregivers to jump start these early years in the right direction.

Ms. Kristine & Ms. Mo

Yay! Spring is here! We have been enjoying the Spring weather watching birds and bunnies. While on the playground, we watch and wave at the motorcycles and bicycles going by. This past month we have been exploring colors by mixing watercolors to make rainbows, matching rainbow colors using paper circles, and taste testing Lucky Charms.

Ms. Tricia & Ms. Jessica

Donuts 2's

I can't believe how fast March just flew by. During the month, we worked on friendship and working together. We did fun cooking activities as a group, making cupcakes & fruit pizza bars. The children really like mixing things together, dumping the ingredients in the bowls, and of course taste testing the ingredients all the way. We also have been working on recognizing all of our friends' names with family boards all around the classroom and also making an all about me book that we read together during group time. They love it especially when they see they are in the book. We also have been doing art projects together like finger painting a picture and talking about what colors we were using on the picture. Also, we have been talking about the color green. We made Shamrock shakes as a group by putting the ingredients into a blender and watched all the ingredients get blended up together and did a taste test to see who liked that shamrock shake and who didn't. We also put green food coloring into milk

Sliders Older Infants

Yay for official Spring!! The year seems to be flying by so fast! With that being said, our little friends are growing up so fast, too. As our babies get closer to the age of one (and a few already are!!), they are ready to eat more at the beginning of the day. If you are someone that drops off on the earlier side, you are more than welcome to bring breakfast in for your child. We have been noticing that our friends are pretty hungry and fall apart before our 9am snack time. A few breakfast ideas include fruit (berries, banana), waffles, breakfast sausage, scrambled eggs, and yogurt. If you have any questions about this, we are more than happy to answer them! Speaking of Springtime, we are super excited about getting outside more regularly. Fresh air and vitamin D is good for all of us and getting outside allows our friends to interact with friends from other classrooms. Even though it's just a doorway away, the playground is a whole new world for our babies. It's a place to work and experience their 5 senses. So many cars to see and hear, dogs being walked, new textures to touch, birds flying over their heads and chirping, just to name a few. As always, please make sure your child has extra clothes in their cubby, a sheet and blanket (if they're on a cot) and signing in on the app each morning so we have a smooth transition from home to school.

Ms. Ruth & Ms. Kelly

and mixed it up to see the milk change colors and also taste tested that to see who liked it and who didn't. Come to find out this classroom loves green milk!!! Please check child's cubby weekly for anything that needs restocking and to take artwork home. Please make sure your child's things are labeled. If you have any questions or concerns, we are here.

Ms. Shannon and Ms. Bry

Little Veggies 2.5's

Happy Spring! During the month the children really enjoyed learning about arctic animals and their habitats. The children's favorite activity was counting how many fish they caught while using magnetic fishing poles to pull out each fish from the ocean. This activity focused on fine motor, math and science skills and offered many problem-solving skills working with a group and by yourself.

Ms. Andrea G.

Fruity Pebbles 3's

Hey families, we have been so busy doing so many different things. We worked on our colors, shapes and numbers. We did an activity where we painted with marshmallows that the children enjoyed. We also did a taste test of different crackers and sausage cut into different shapes. The children enjoyed tasting the crackers. We will be going into our Ocean lesson plan next. We have also been

Lil' Nuggies Toddlers

March started off with many fun Dr. Seuss activities. We painted with loofahs to make our Truffula trees. We sorted colored goldfish crackers after reading *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* along with our Dr. Seuss stories. Our music time with instruments was sung to songs from *Seussical The Musical*. We continued through March with our "Green" theme. We made dirt cake, counted shamrocks, painted with giant marshmallows and paint crayons. We did have one more last chance to play with snow in the classroom and they all really enjoyed it. We are really encouraging the children to use their utensils for meals. They are doing great with plates and cups, but using utensils takes lots of practice. We would encourage families to practice at home, too. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Ms. Andrea K. & Ms. Bree

working really hard on spelling our names and identifying the letters of our names. We ask that all families please check cubbies to make sure your child has extra clothes that are appropriate for the season. Any questions, please reach out to one of us.

Ms. Emily & Ms. Chantel

Rainbow Chip Cookies 4's

We have really been enjoying our author studies of Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, and Mo Willems. One of our favorite books was *The Lorax*. The children also enjoyed counting, graphing, sorting, and eating colored goldfish. We have begun the early planning stages for our garden which our class will be in charge of this summer. The children seem to be really excited about heading up that project. Keep a lookout for more information regarding a Saturday morning garden planting family event. We really enjoyed the nice weather and spent more time outside. We really like to look and listen for signs of spring during our walks to and from school. I want to remind parents that even though spring has sprung, it is still chilly outside early in the morning and later in the afternoon. I would recommend sending gloves and a hat even as it gets warmer out. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Ms. Donna