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## Growing Highlights

FEBRUARY 2025



National Wear Red Day is **Friday, February 7,** a day to raise awareness for women's heart health.

Dear Families,

The entire building received a fresh coat of paint! A great way to start the new year! We are slowly getting things back up on the walls. Ms. Kelly, our teacher/photographer, has taken some updated pictures for the stairwell- keep your eye out for those! They are really awesome pictures.

We are in the thick of things as far as winter illnesses/colds. We do our best to not send children home unless we really feel it is necessary or we are following our licensing rules. If we call you, it's because we really need to. Please use your judgement about sending your child to the center; sending a sick child only causes more illness to others.

We have had lots of new families start in the new year. If you have any questions, the Family Handbook is a great resource. For our older families, if you need another copy,

please just ask! It has all the information you need on policies, procedures, and even the history of Grandma's House!

Frequently Asked Questions:

*\*Do I need to pay for sick days?* Yes, we give credit for the second week of illness only. We still need to pay staff even if a child does not attend when they are supposed to.

*\*How do I ask for a vacation day?* The best way is through our website, [Vacation Request](#). The requests are sent right to me and Sheryl, who tracks vacation days and credits tuition in accordance with our vacation policy.

*\*Can you please keep my child inside; they have a cold...* If your child cannot go outside, then they are too ill to be here. Fresh air does not cause illness.

For school age families, please notify us if we are not picking up your child from school. This has been happening with more frequency and it is a safety issue if a teacher has to run to the office to check or we have to call multiple numbers to find out where a child is. The app is a great way to let us know or at drop off! Thank you for helping us. Hope some of this helps!

As always, my door is always open! Please never hesitate to reach out with questions.

*Thanks,*

*Jane Sweet*

Director

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

## Year End Expense Statement Request



- |    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 1  | Brecken E.  |
| 3  | Brynn S.    |
| 3  | Brayden S.  |
| 5  | Rosalie D.  |
| 6  | Adalind K.  |
| 17 | Ms. Lindsay |
| 21 | Cody C.     |
| 22 | Wren D.     |
| 23 | Connor C.   |

25 Ms. Savannah  
27 Ms. Tonia  
28 Ms. Andrea

## CONGRATULATIONS

*on celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House*

*Ms. Moira 7 Years*  
*Ms. Lindsay 5 Years*  
*Ms. Kristin 1 Year*



### *Busy Town, Infants*

"February, the month of love, is a time to cherish the bonds that warm our hearts." With this on our minds, and babies just starting day care a short time ago, Mo and I are focusing on making connections with our babies knowing how essential this is for all. An infant's social and emotional development is crucial because it lays the groundwork for future relationships, self-esteem, emotional regulation, and the ability to interact with others. Our child evaluation and portfolio have a focus on a child's social and emotional growth. In our daily routine, we take time to talk to each baby one on one, sing songs together, and recognize their needs by their differential cries. By making

### *Magical Moons, 2's*

Hello families! We can't believe it is February already. We have kept the children busy with multiple activities. We learned about transportation, which brought us to decorate stoplight cookies, race cars, and trucks around the room and speed around on the scooters. Watch out, you might get run over! Our friends tend not to look both ways before crossing the room. We also painted with sponges in the shape of circles and squares and Bingo Dabbers. After Transportation, we explored the Arctic. We painted with Arctic animal feet, glued cotton balls to paper, and painted with Q-tips. The children don't seem to mind what they are painting with, as long as they can get

this connection, children feel connected to their caregivers and want to cooperate and learn from us. Being a parent and caregiver is the toughest job we have! And time is not always on our side. Here are 3 ideas to add connections with your child that could leave a lasting impression.

*\*Play with each other and laugh together. It is important to take the time to have fun with each other.*

*\*Turn off technology when you are together. It is so easy to have our phone in our hand or check our e-mail one more time. However, it is very important to focus on the people we are with and let them know they are important.*

*\*Slow down and savor the moment together. Every interaction all day long is an opportunity to connect. Spend a few minutes before bed, make mealtime a time for the family to connect at the end of the day, talk about your child's day before they rush off to school in the morning.*

Making little connections in the present moment has a lasting impact.

*Ms. Kristine and Ms. Mo*

### ***Very Hungry Caterpillars, Older Infants***

Happy February! This month we will be learning about our 123s and ABCs through play. We will also be incorporating love and friendship in our lesson plan for Valentine's Day. Children are capable of forming friendships at a very young age and something they do to express that is mimicking each other. For example, if one child bangs 2 toys together and more

messy. Another fun activity that kept them busy was burying Arctic animals under cotton balls; simple things can keep them busy for a while. Unfortunately for part of this lesson plan, the temperature was almost Arctic. Too cold to go outside which kept them inside. This can be hard for them; our class loves to be outside. We have a good group of kiddos that once they are out, they don't want to come back in. They are also getting the hang of dressing themselves. It is hard to put all that gear on, but they are troopers. It doesn't take much for us to show them off, they go on their own. This month we will be exploring dinosaurs and Valentine's Day. The goal for this month is learning how to talk through our feelings when we are frustrated with our friends. We are trying to take some deep breaths and talk calmly about how we feel. Have a wonderful February.

*Ms. Shannon and Ms. Savannah*

### ***Pinkalicious, 2.5's***

Hello families, we have been keeping ourselves busy this month; new friends joining us, new routines, and lots of fun activities. We have been learning about weather and the 4 seasons. We kicked off the lesson plan by discussing what the weather outside looks like and feels like right now. We also got to see what a snowstorm and thunderstorms look like by watching a video. We created our own thunderstorm by using different color paints and a sponge. We also have been

children join in on the fun, that is their way of making friends! Something that helps us greatly is signing in on the app every morning. It helps so much to make the day go smoothly. With this age group, we do a lot of transitioning. Please talk to us about moving away from the bottle (if appropriate for your child) and starting to use a sippy cup! We are more than willing to work on that with your child. Another thing is the sleep sacks at nap time. If your child is using a sleep sack, but on a cot, we can discuss moving away from that and just using a blanket. Everyone is different and not everyone is ready at the same time. We are happy to work on these things with your child and support them in toddlerhood!

*Ms. Ruth and Ms. Kelly*

### ***Duck and Goose, Toddlers***

Wisconsin winter is here and we've been having so much fun exploring all the chilly, cozy, and creative things about this season! The cold weather has made us spend a lot of time indoors, but we had so much fun with activities. We learned a lot about snowflakes and saw that each is different and unique. We looked at snowflakes close-up through famous photos by Wilson Alwyn Bentley. We did a lot of sensory bins, where we worked on our fine motor skills by scooping rice into bottles and other containers. We saw ice melt and worked on our fine motor skills to rescue toys stuck in the ice. We did a lot of painting with winter-themed stamps

listening to songs during group time about the 4 seasons. We made rainbow parfaits and discussed when a rainbow appears in the sky. Our next lesson plans are going to focus on our 5 senses and a Valentine themed unit. It's still really cold outside so please make sure your child has hats, gloves, snow pants, jacket, and boots here and everything is labeled. Please make sure you check your child's cubby each week to make sure they have extra clothes and any artwork that needs to go home. As always if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

*Ms. Bry*

### ***Woodland Animals, 3's***

Hope everyone has had a great start to 2025. We kicked off this year with a great start and lots of fun activities. We welcomed three new friends into our class and the children have been enjoying getting to know each other and making new friendships. We kept ourselves busy this month even when we were stuck inside because of the cold. We got to make our igloos, make our playdough, and paint with snow paint. The children also enjoyed getting to play outside in the little snow that we got. We are working with the children on their independence skills, especially with bathrooms and getting their snow gear on, to get them ready for 4K. We ask that you continue to bring in their winter gear and make sure that they have extra clothes in their cubbies that are winter-appropriate. We are looking

and fun fingerpainting. When we go outside, we talk about our snow gear, like our hats and mittens, and practice helping get dressed. We sing a song to go along with getting dressed called "Hat and Jacket, Pants and Boots" by Miss Carole. Our class is always learning to do things for themselves and we would encourage you to do it at home. We use utensils and plates at mealtimes, washing our hands, putting our bibs in the laundry basket, dirty dishes in the kitchen bin, and putting toys away to name just a few. As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

*Ms. Andrea & Ms. Bree*

### ***Chicka Chicka Boom Booms, 2's***

January was a busy month. We are working on learning about our new friends and working on new tasks with everyone. We have been encouraging all the children to work on self-help skills such as getting their own soap and paper towel when washing hands, sitting on the toilet at all diaper changes, and learning to clean up and put our toys away when we are done playing. We also enjoyed learning about Planets. We explored galaxy magnets, read lots of books about Space, and mixed colors to paint to look like galaxies. We also learned about Community Helpers. Some of our favorite activities are to watch out the window for the mail truck and UPS trucks that come to deliver goodies to us. We also had fun pretending to be doctors and fixing up

forward to seeing what this year continues to bring us.

*Ms. Emily and Ms. Natalie*

### ***Mushrooms, 4's***

Happy New Year! We have kicked the year off with some fun science activities. The children really enjoyed making slime and seeing the different variations we can make. We have also been practicing our fine motor skills by making bracelets and cutting a variety of things. We are also working hard on letter and number recognition. I have been writing the child's name on a whiteboard with a number, and they must identify their name and say the number. We will continue to work on this and hold writing utensils properly. A friendly reminder that it's cold and we do go outside if the temperature is above 0°. Please make sure your child has all the proper winter gear here and labeled. As always, if you have questions feel free to ask me!

*Ms. Chantel*

### ***Backyard Fairies, SA***

Hello families! We ended January learning all about snowflakes and trees. We learned that you can count the number of rings on a tree stump to find out how old it is. One ring = one year. The children also enjoyed playing memory match with different snowflakes. As most of you know, we got our building re-painted,

baby dolls.

*Ms. Tricia and Ms. Lindsey*

which sadly turned our blue room into a white room. I rearranged our “white room” and the children have been loving it. Ms. Jane also got us some new accessories and clothes for our dolls and it was so exciting for them. They’ve really been loving the swimsuits and hair salon for the dolls and it has brought out so much more of their creativity and imagination. It is such a great feeling knowing they love what we’ve provided for them. Also, please keep in mind it is very important that your child has the proper outdoor gear for walking to and from school. It is also very important that you let us know in-person or through the MyKidzDay app if your child does not need to be picked up from school so we can continue to ensure the safety of the rest of our children and staff. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

*Ms. Desi*