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## Growing Highlights

MARCH 2025

Dear Parents,

Glad everyone stayed safe with all the snow/ice we got last month! Let's hope for a calm March. I don't know about you but I am itching to do some spring cleaning. If you are too and find you have books that your kiddo has outgrown or toys still in good condition (inside & outside ones) but not played with anymore consider e-mailing me a picture of any unwanted items and I'll let you know if we can take them off your hands. The books and toys are very well loved here!

All of the GH staff take CPR every 2 years, and we have a class that is offered almost every month at our center. It costs \$40 for parents to attend and get certified. If learning or keeping your CPR certification updated is something you'd like to do, you are welcome to take the class with us! Let me know and I will be sure to add your name to the attendance. It's a great skill to have in your back pocket.

### *Events coming up-*

**April 7 - 11 is Week of the Young Child:** an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child® is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families. It also recognizes the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. Most of the events will happen during the day with the teachers in their classrooms.

**Week of April 20<sup>th</sup>** we will have formal **Parent/Teacher Conferences** – it is a great opportunity to sit and talk with your child(ren)'s teacher one on one without any day-to-day distractions. So please be on the lookout for sign-ups on the parent boards in April!

Thanks,

*Cassie Makinen, Director*

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



2	Faazil J.
3	Felicity G.
6	Rory B.
7	Ms. Allie
13	Sophie S.
13	Sophie R.
15	Jack B.
17	Vanessa S.
18	Gabriel S.
19	Isla W.
19	Ali K.
19	Eero M.
20	Aimee R.
22	Ms. Ana
23	Ms. Lizzie
26	Beau L.
31	Ms. Karen

## CONGRATULATIONS

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

<i>Ms. Virginia</i>	<i>10 Years</i>
<i>Ms. Ana</i>	<i>9 Years</i>
<i>Ms. Brianna</i>	<i>1 Year</i>
<i>Ms. Allie</i>	<i>1 Year</i>



### *Infants*

Marching closer to better weather,  
hooray! This month we will be focusing on

### *Young 2's*

Hi Busy Bee Families! We hope you are all  
staying warm in this cold and snowy

the great rhyming master Dr. Seuss, Leprechauns, and Rainbows. We will start the month working on our rolling both ways (tummy to back, back to tummy). We are finishing off the month by practicing our sitting up with and without support. For our social emotional work this month, we will be looking at ourselves in the mirror and labeling our emotions. This is something you can do at home by playing games in the bathroom mirror. Try peek-a-boo or sing if "you're happy and you know it" and change facial expressions. Or you could also do this on your phone in selfie mode, taking some silly face photos. These simple games help develop language skills and a sense of self. "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." -Dr. Seuss.

*Ms. Ana and Ms. Virginia*

## ***2nd Infants***

I think we wished hard enough and made the snow go away! Hopefully soon we can venture outside again but in the meantime, the babies have been hard at work inside. We ended last month with our Friendship lesson plan where we focused a lot on social-emotional skills. We practiced rolling a ball back and forth between friends, as well as exploring through our sense of sight with our "valentines" bottles. Ringing in lucky March, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and Spring! The children will get to practice opening and closing a book as well as continuing to work on cause/effect

weather! We just wrapped up our lesson on colors and shapes where we made lots of fun abstract art projects. One of our main focuses we have been working on is strengthening our fine motor skills. Stickers are a fun and easy way to work on these skills at home. With Valentine's Day last month, we transitioned our focus to learning about love, hearts, and everything red, pink, and white. The children had some really fun treats on Valentines that they really enjoyed. Two of our portfolio focuses that we worked on during this lesson were: following two step directions and matching two similar objects. We really appreciate you working with your child on taking their winter clothes on and off. We have seen a lot of progress over the last couple weeks, and we are very proud! Please continue checking your child's mailbox for all of their art projects and any other important papers. Also, just another reminder to please label everything! It is very easy for little mittens and hats to get lost/swapped. Having all those items labeled makes it a lot easier for us to keep track of everything. We hope you had a wonderful month filled with love! If you have any questions/concerns, please reach out.

*Ms. Kim and Ms. Alaini*

## ***2's***

We are hoping that March comes in like a lamb and winter slowly fades away. We have a lot of friends that can get all of their winter gear on all by

activities. Busy boxes, instruments and pop up toys do wonders for this. It was so much fun having everyone participate in dress up week!

*Ms. Kayleigh and Ms. Brianna*

### ***Young Toddlers***

With the new year came new routines within our classroom. We are working towards transitioning from bottles to whole milk in sippy cups and taking one nap after lunch to get us prepared for our toddler journey next door. With everyone doing such a great job walking, we have been working more on our balancing. We are doing this by navigating how to walk up and down the stairs while standing, holding onto the railing, as well as going through obstacle courses with the wave mat and balancing while standing on that. A mini obstacle course is a great thing to do at home as well! Use pillows, boxes, furniture, and create a fun thing for your kiddo to explore, problem solve and conquer. We focused a lot on reading this past month in hopes of expanding our language skills. We have been reading books that have repetitive statements to help with this aspect. We also have been working on looking through books independently to work on our page turning and pretending to read aloud for speech. Our favorites have been "Old MacDonald" and "Who Am I?"

*Ms. Amy E. and Ms. Cherish*

### ***Middle Toddlers***

themselves! Please keep up with the encouragement at home! We had a lot of fun celebrating Dr. Seuss, especially making Oobleck. It was a fun, simple science experiment and is also good to try at home on a cold or rainy day. It starts with a cup of cornstarch and a ½ cup of water. You can also try adding food coloring to the water. We had fun getting messy and watching it go from a solid to a liquid. Lots of science talk is happening! At the end of the month, we will become gardeners. Fingers crossed we have green thumbs!

*Ms. Courtney and Ms. Esther*

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

Movie Buffs! Artists! Construction workers! Our GnomeSchoolers have explored all of these! We had a great time learning about emotions, colors, and teamwork during our Movie Theater unit. And of course, the snack mix was a delicious hit! We moved on to learning more about colors as well as shapes while studying Henri Matisse's art. We even tried using scissors like Mr. Matisse. Using scissors is a great small motor skill that your "gnome" should be practicing at home too. There are lots of wonderful safety scissors out there to try. You can have them use paper, yarn, straws, coupons, or even playdough to practice those cutting skills.

Our little gnomies have also been learning about the safety rules associated with other types of tools. We studied basic

We hope everyone is having a good start to their March. First, thank you for participating in our PJ's Valentine's Day party. Everyone had a blast munching away on their fruit salad and sweet treats. Our toddlers love it when we deviate from our usual daily snacks and can enjoy something different. Making snack mix and other cooking activities is fun for the children to learn their numbers and explore their senses. We appreciate it so much when you sign up to help bring in an item for our cooking adventures. So, thank you! Besides our party, we've explored many items in our sensory bin. We had the opportunity to play with cooked pasta which was a hit. We also had rose petals and tongs for our toddlers to feel and experiment with. Having items in our sensory bin is an excellent way for the children to learn new vocabulary, use their senses, and work on their fine motor skills. If you're in a pickle at home, place a bin on the kitchen floor, add a few unusual items, and just see your child's imagination take off. Some ideas to put in your bin are ice, rice, sand, dolls, washcloths with dishes, and cereal. The ideas are endless. This month, our themes are colors and St. Patty's Day. For colors, we will look at different colors, learn about them, and do some color mixing. You can help your child learn their colors by pointing to different colors around your house, on the way to school, or anywhere. First, you point to the color and say what it is, then have your little one try to repeat it after you. Reading books about colors is also an excellent way

tools like hammers, screwdrivers, paintbrushes, nuts/bolts, etc. They know that they need to have an adult with them to use any type of tool as part of the safety plan. While learning about tools, we also explored construction trucks. These are always a big hit with this age group. If you are interested, Home Depot sponsors free Saturday woodworking workshops that are geared toward younger kiddos. Stop in and ask about them; they are a great way to foster your child's interests and skills!

*Ms. Amy R. and Ms. Hannah*

### **3's**

What an amazing start to our new year! Thank you to all of our parents, grandparents, and aunts for taking part in our "Breakfast with a Loved One!" The children were so excited to invite everyone to the classroom and enjoyed Valentine's Day with the people they love. We also have spent time talking about kindness and how we can all practice being kind to one another. We really enjoyed our field trips to Cowboy Camp, First Stage Theater, and the library. This month we will focus on pre-writing skills. On our dry erase boards, the kiddos will be practicing making horizontal and vertical lines, shapes, and some of our friends are even ready for writing letters they see in their name! At home you can offer your 3 year old a writing utensil and paper and have them try to practice drawing shapes and lines, simple coloring

for children to see and learn their names. For our St. Patty's theme, we will try green foods, count shamrocks, listen to Irish music, and read about Ireland. We hope this month brings warmer weather and lots of luck to everyone.

*Ms. Mai Lee and Ms. Zoe*

### ***Older Toddlers***

Hello families! In February, we had a lot of fun celebrating Valentine's Day as a class. The toddlers loved ALL the treats that were brought in. It was a great way to work together as a class and practice patience in taking turns when making the snack mix. The snack mix was also another opportunity to encourage muscle control with pouring and mixing! There is so much toddlers can learn from what seems like a simple activity! We also had fun with our Senses unit exploring textures, tastes, and smells. The toddlers loved exploring the different seasonings, too. The biggest hit was taco seasoning to smell, taste, and even paint with! We are looking forward to how creative we can get next month as well as warmer weather! Keep those snowpants coming, we feel it's not over but will hopefully have more outside time soon.

*Ms. Emily and Ms. Karen*

### ***Almost 2's***

books work too! We also are going to be planting herbs in our classroom this Spring and talking about how to take care of a garden/plants. We can't wait to see what March weather has in store for us!

*Ms. Abi and Ms. Emily S.*

### ***3-4's***

At the beginning of February, the preschool All Stars were learning about pets and animals. We also learned about the letters S and T. We pretended to be the vet and filed important documents about all the sick pets in the community. We pretended to be the Humane Society and took care of stray pets who do not have a home. We also had a number of birthdays in the month of February! We enjoyed our field trips "Cowboy Camp" and the Dino play. We continued to practice recognizing letters as well as holding a writing utensil properly and writing our names. We are proud to say we all have emerged to write our names and many have mastered it! Our Love and Friendship unit had us asking ourselves if we are being kind? Polite? Helpful? We hope you might hear your child repeat and echo our words around your homes. We want to thank everyone for your generosity by donating food items for our Valentine's Day snack mix.

This past month we even started learning simple addition by rolling 2 dice and counting the total dots of each and then using that number for a game or activity. We have been practicing number

We are finally springing into a new season, and while the weather may still be cold, our tots' hearts have been warm with the excitement from our lesson plan last month. First, they had a ball exploring our sports unit with energizing new activities and learning about different ways we can move our bodies. Then we expanded on our continuing themes of friendship, love, and expressing ourselves. Our "Things That Go" unit really took off with a bang as we explored more about transportation which was a favorite with our tots. This month we will hopefully get more warmer days so that we can get outside. If not, we have plenty of new ways to keep busy. In the meantime, keep encouraging your little one to use their words, problem solve, and use the words "wait" and "deep breaths" to work through their feelings.

*Ms. Elise and Ms. Kailie*

recognition by seeing a number and counting out goldfish. If they get the correct number of goldfish that corresponds with the number in the bowl, they can eat the goldfish. This game is one of their favorites and has taught them the beginnings of math. Upcoming in the first weeks of March we will be learning about Dinosaurs and then exploring the make-believe worlds of Dr. Seuss. We can't wait to see the places all of our friends take us with their imaginative play! As always, please remember to feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you!

*Ms. Lizzie and Ms. Allie*