

[View this email in your browser](#)



Growing Highlights

APRIL 2025

APRIL IS FAMILY STRENGTHENING MONTH



Get ready for **#WEARBLUEKIDS DAY**
Show your support by wearing blue

Friday, April 4!

Dear Parents,

Week of the Young Child is quickly approaching! We are focusing on our guidance policy: *"Treat others the way you want to be treated"* so we are doing a Kindness Week (posted by both doors).

Monday: PJ day and bring a favorite book.

Tuesday: Classroom food drive so please bring any non-perishable foods this day to your child's room.

Wednesday: Wear orange for anti-bullying and bring a stuffy friend.

Thursday: The children are going to make handprint "high five" cards to send to local hospitals and cancer centers.

Friday: We will "TIE" it all together and wear hair bows, neckties, bowties, or outfits with bows on them. There will be some paper ones you can color with your child to wear for that day as well.

A reminder that the end of April brings our formal conferences so be on the lookout for classroom sign-ups. It is not mandatory to attend but is a great way to address any questions you may have, talk with one of your child's teachers in a non-child filled setting and get different ideas for how to help your child master new skills.

A reminder...our enrollment is still growing quickly so we are looking at February of 2026 for availability for new children to start. If you are even just thinking of adding to your family (or know someone who is), please fill out a registration form so we can add you to our Registration List ASAP. No Registration fee required if you already attend! Thank you for sharing your children with us! Watching and helping them grow is our favorite.

Thanks,
Cassie Makinen, Director
cassie@grandmashouse.org

"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart." – Rainer Maria Rilke



March - November 2025
CLICK HERE for more details:
[Construction on Watertown Plank](#)

KINDNESS WEEK

APRIL 7-11

TREAT OTHERS
HOW YOU WOULD
LIKE TO BE
TREATED

DREAM OF KINDNESS MONDAY

PJ Day &
Bring your
favorite book

SHARING KINDNESS TUESDAY

Bring in non-perishable
food items to donate

PRACTICE KINDNESS WEDNESDAY

Wear orange for
Anti-Bullying
Bring a stuffy friend
to snuggle

COLOR YOUR WORLD WITH KINDNESS THURSDAY

Creating "High Five"
handprint cards to
send to area hospitals

KINDNESS TIES US TOGETHER FRIDAY

Wear your
Hair Bows, Bowties,
or Neckties



- | | |
|----|-------------|
| 1 | Noa H. |
| 2 | Lucy L. |
| 7 | Zeke Z. |
| 8 | Jordan D. |
| 10 | Ada Y. |
| 11 | Henry V. |
| 11 | Evelyn S. |
| 12 | Kai Z. |
| 16 | Louis W. |
| 17 | Ms. Joan |
| 23 | Ms. Mai Lee |
| 25 | Colin M. |
| 27 | Elyse M. |
| 30 | Lilyana M. |

CONGRATULATIONS

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

Ms. Zoe

1 Year



Infants

Hello Springtime! We are so excited about the warmer weather; this means more adventures outside when possible. So please have your little one's cubby ready with proper outside gear labeled. Also, it would be a good idea to go through your child's cubby to ensure they have the right size and type of clothing for back-ups. For the Spring we will really be focusing on vocalizing with the babies. You can do this at home by making a sound (ohhh, ahhh or mama, baba) then **wait** 10 to 15 seconds or until your baby makes a sound. When they vocalize in some way get super excited and repeat the sound they make. Also tours around the house/outside are a good activity for vocalizing. You will label everything you see and respond to each sound your child makes. This helps them find their voice different from their cries. Have fun gabbing.

Ms. Ana and Ms. Virginia

Young 2's

It is hard to believe that we have had some beautiful, warm days already. We enjoyed all of them outside! We will be focusing on the same portfolio focuses for a while as we have had a couple of new friends join us. We are working on shapes, colors, and matching. We learned about music and the instruments that we play to make music. We even had some live music and Irish dancing performed in our classroom. We loved it! We will soon be talking about bugs and insects and going outside to find them. A nature hunt is a fun thing to do on the weekends as well with your little one! Keep talking with your child and pointing things out to them and asking them questions. We are so proud of how their vocabulary is coming along!

Ms. Kim and Ms. Alaini

2's

2nd Infants

They say that April showers bring May flowers, let's just hope winter is finally over. As we kick off the month we will be learning about bugs. Our art projects will consist of creating a classroom caterpillar where each child will decorate their own piece. Exposing the infants to art works on many of their developing senses and cause/effect. Want to bring a little of the school day home? Try singing "Itsy Bitsy Spider" with your baby. Our friends love the simple songs and finger plays. It helps them to feel connected to us and gets the "wheels in their brain" turning by putting together sounds to make words. After that, we will learn about the weather and hopefully, warmer days will come so we can spend time outside. Please bring in a labeled jacket to keep at the center as we will try to get outside every day.

Ms. Kayleigh and Ms. Brianna

Young Toddlers

This past month we focused a lot on interactions with peers. This entailed sharing with others, playing with toys like their peers, and engaging in playing with them together, and how to express kind touches. We used stuffed animals and baby dolls to show how to give high fives, hugs, and waves when it came to modeling kind behavior. We love to watch your children interact with one another in such positive manners! We also focused a lot on gross motor development with helping some of our new peers learn how to gain confidence in themselves to start their

How do you know flowers are friendly?

They always have new buds!

This month is going to be a little busier than most. We have the Week of the Young Child and in-person conferences. Please look for upcoming details on both of these events. The Time Travelers will be finishing our Spring unit and we will continue with Sesame Street to talk about colors and numbers. We will then end the month by becoming chefs and have pizza mania. At home, matching colors can be done when doing laundry. Ask your child to find colored socks to put in the wash. Your little ones can also help with cooking by letting them pour simple ingredients like flour or sugar into a bowl. They will be so excited to help!

Ms. Courtney and Ms. Esther

2.5's

Learning is so important and we are invested in doing so in the GnomeSchoolers' room! We have been learning about architecture and all the jobs that go along with creating new buildings. We learned about our colors and are trying to name all the colors in a rainbow. Mixing all the colors of paint seems to be our favorite type of art. Exploring how the color paddles change how we see our classroom world has been exciting, too. Our little Gnomes enjoyed watching and trying Irish dance with Ms. Hannah's family. We definitely have some future dancers in our group! We have explored

walking journey. We have added mats to various areas of the room to help everyone learn their balance and problem-solving skills by getting to certain areas. We also have brought in boxes, along with the stairs on the climber to help gain skills in bending our knees. We placed larger toys in spots around the classroom where children can help pull themselves up and let go of as they take steps. With the weather constantly changing and hopefully getting warmer, we are going to be able to spend more time on the playground and going for walks. If you could please bring a jacket, hat, and shoes to allow your child some time outside, that would be greatly appreciated. Also, please bring extra bottoms/pants to keep in their cubbies in case we end up getting dirty. As always, thank you for your cooperation and all that you do to help!

Ms. Amy E. and Ms. Cherish

Middle Toddlers

We hope everyone enjoyed the month of March as much as we did. We finally went outside and ran off some of our energy. The children love the outdoors where they can work on their gross motor skills and interact with their peers. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and allow us to enjoy more of it. Besides outside time, we had so much fun learning our colors and about St. Patrick's Day. Exploring Lucky Charms cereal in the sensory bin, crawling through tunnels, doing many art projects,

different countries and some of the magical beings that live in Ireland and Scotland. This is important to develop an understanding of real and make-believe, which will help us as we grow and watch movies/shows that may have some scary parts. Hopefully, we can remind ourselves that it is only make-believe.

Your little Gnomie has also been learning lots of self-help skills which help with self-confidence, resiliency, and problem-solving skills. Please remember to really allow your kiddo to work on those skills and try to help with words of encouragement. Your child is so much more capable than we can imagine. Help them believe in themselves!

Ms. Amy R. and Teacher Ty

3's

Happy Spring everyone! As much as we loved playing in the snow and having LOTS of dance parties to get our wiggles out, we are so excited for Spring! We kicked off March by finishing up our Space unit. It was a blast having lots of tiny astronauts floating around our room and adding 22 new planets to our solar system thanks to our creative kiddos! Once we touched back down to Earth, the Threenagers hung up their helmets and picked up their hoses for our gardening unit! Our baby botanists learned all about the life cycle and loved planting their own seeds to take home. They can even help in your garden at home. As we march into April, we are learning by using our favorite

and jumping on color tiles kept us very busy.

During the month of April, we will be talking about Butterflies & Flowers and Fairy Tales. For our Butterflies & Flowers unit, we will focus on Springtime. We will play with real and pretend flowers. We will also learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and flowers. Even though it may seem like our toddlers won't understand what a life cycle is, it's such a good exposure for them. We hope that they will start to pick up on certain vocabulary and or can connect them to their everyday life.

For our Fairy Tale unit, we will mix some "potions" using vinegar and baking soda. Simple science projects like this really bring joy to our toddlers. They always ask for more and are intrigued by how things happen. The small and simple things we do always make the biggest smiles. Each child will also plant a bean plant and watch it grow throughout our unit. So, fingers crossed, we all have a green thumb.

A few reminders: Week of the Young Child is the week of the April 7th, and more information will be available through the MyKidzDay app. Parent/Teacher Conferences are the week of April 21st, and sign-up sheets will be posted by our parent board if you choose to sign up! Please take home snowsuits/pants and boots, leave the hat and mittens for now. Lastly, please check your child's cubby, if not daily, every Friday to take home any important papers and art projects. Thank you, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

video games. But no couch potatoes here! The Threes plan to take what they've seen on screens and bring it into their play.

During this time, our kiddos will be racers, farmers, chefs, dancers, paleontologists, and explorers! We can't wait to host Mario Kart races on the playground and teach the children some of our favorite "Just Dance" dances from our childhood. Better protect your high scores!

Ms. Abi and Ms. Emily S.

3-4's

The preschool Allstars have been so busy tuning their fine motor skills, recognizing letters, learning numbers, and how to rhyme this past month. The end of February and beginning of March was our Dr. Seuss unit. We learned many ways to rhyme and pattern with the many different stories from Dr. Seuss. We tuned our fine motor skills by lacing shoelaces through holes around different characters to connect the dots. We patterned with goldfish, gummy bears, and pom poms. We learned about the letters W, X, Y, and Z. We had so much fun dressing up each day during Dr. Seuss spirit week and pretending to be different characters. We practiced almost every day using scissors, staying on the line to cut out cat in the hat hats and other shapes. We reintroduced the basic shapes: circle, square, triangle, diamond, star, heart and even octagon, rhombus, pentagon, and hexagon. We count the days of the month every morning and are aware of the days of each

Have a beautiful month!
Ms. Mai Lee and Ms. Zoe

Older Toddlers

Spring is finally here and we couldn't be happier! As the weather has gotten nicer, we have been able to go outside a lot more much to the joy of the children and teachers alike! We still had time to fit in many fun projects though. March seemed to be the month of veggie process art and sensory. We explored painting with broccoli, celery, and peppers! The peppers were so slippery but a great sensory activity, too! We watched the celery leaves change colors when placed in blue and red water and practiced saying our colors. The toddlers also enjoyed some live music and dancing to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! They tried dancing along to the Irish jigs as well as watch the Bouzouki strum and the beat on the drum. What fun experiences we all had during March that we are sure April will be just as exciting!
Ms. Emily and Ms. Karen

Almost 2's

"Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil" - Bishop Reginald Heber
Happy Springtime, families! This past month the children have been exploring the atmosphere while learning about planets, galaxies, and stars. We also explored tiny things on earth; for example,

week and what month it is, what month it was before, and the month coming up next. We have gone over the seasons and the different kinds of weather that Wisconsin faces. We all can hear rhymes and think of new words that rhyme to different words. Most of us can read our name and read some of our friend's names which is a good start to reading in general. We had fun making slime for Dr. Seuss Oobleck!

During our preschool Dinosaur unit, we offered numerous ways to continue to foster our love for learning by including ways to develop vocabulary, literacy, and math skills, sparking imagination and creativity, and introducing basic science concepts in a fun and engaging way. We learned about different dinosaurs, their names, and habitats. We're trying to grasp the concept of earth's vast history. We are counting dinosaurs and sorting them by size. We are reading dinosaur books and we are digging for dinosaur bones in our sensory bin. Through dinosaur stories and activities, we are also trying to help our preschoolers express a wide range of emotions including awe, wonder, and even fear.

In the coming weeks of April, we will learn about Spring and Earth Day!
Ms. Lizzie and Ms. Allie

bugs, spiders, worms, ladybugs, etc. If they crawl, we are on it! In class, we have been practicing self-soothing and gentle touches. We give the children space and tools to work through big emotions. We have also been practicing using an open cup regularly. In practicing, we often get “April showers”, so don’t forget to bring in spare clothes, as learning is the most fun when getting messy!

Ms. Elise