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## Growing Highlights

MAY 2025



Hello Families!

May is a special month because we get to celebrate our teachers! ***Teacher Appreciation Week*** is ***May 5th - May 9th***. This year we will be doing something special each day for our amazing teachers!! A SignUp Genius link for these events was sent out in a previous e-mail. See me if you have any questions.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ***Spring Fling*** is coming up on ***Friday, May 30th***. We are excited to invite all our families to this event. This will be a great time to mingle with other families that attend the center. This year we will have 2 face painters, a balloon artist, all playgrounds for the

children to play on, and dinner will be provided. Please be on the lookout for your invite!

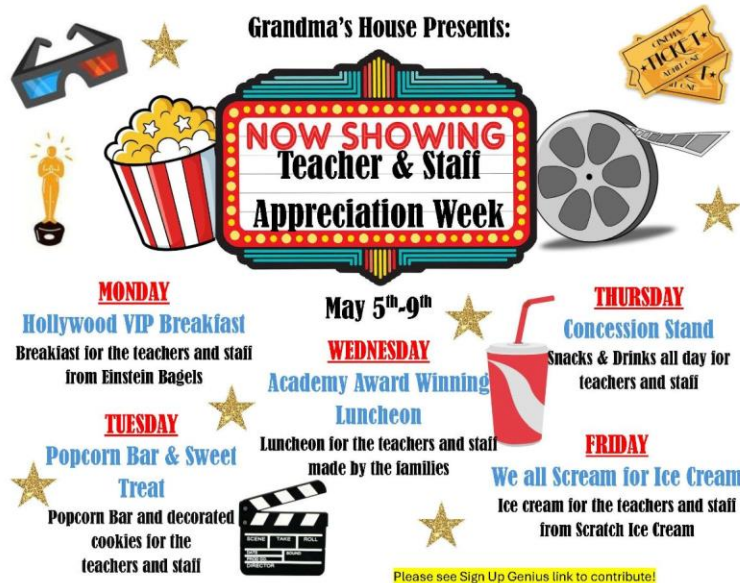
We will be having a Lifetouch Photography *Spring Picture Day ~ Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>* starting at 7:00 am for our families. We have used Lifetouch in the past and are looking forward to their return to our center.

Lastly, I want to give a shout out to all our amazing teachers! They all do such a great job of making Grandma's House an incredibly special place. Seeing the creativity that the teachers implement in their lesson plans and activities and watching them engage in both inside and outside play, really warms my heart! We have such great staff and I look forward to showing them how much they are appreciated.

Thanks,  
*Jess Strick*, Director

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





## Scholastic Book Orders

PLEASE HELP US EARN NEW BOOKS FOR THE BEDTIME BOOK CORNER

It's book order time. You are welcome to order as much or as little as you would like.

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: JC8WF*. Books can be ordered and paid for online and will arrive at the center 1-2 weeks after the due date.

Book orders are due by *Monday, 5/19*

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



- |    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 3  | Brooks M.   |
| 8  | Liam L.     |
| 8  | Dean K.     |
| 9  | Graham H.   |
| 10 | Izzy G.     |
| 10 | Piper G.    |
| 10 | Ms. Cassidy |

12	Natalie P.
13	Olivia B.
14	Parker M.
14	Ms. Rina
16	Olivia K.
16	Emma A.
20	Harlow N.
20	Franklin L.
20	Mason F.
21	Talaya B.
24	Hudson S.
29	Isla H.
29	Bennett C.
31	Ms. Ashley

## CONGRATULATIONS

*on celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House*

*Ms. Jess      26 Years*

*Ms. Bree      3 Years*



### *Brown Bear*

Those dreary April showers sure are going to make the May flowers beautiful. We look forward to watching the flowers and babies grow! This month, we will continue to work on many age-appropriate developmental skills. Plenty of tummy time is at the top of our list as it helps to develop head and neck control to aid in

### *Jungle Book*

We are so happy to be in this season of Spring! This past month, we enjoyed learning about Bugs and Pond Life. We had a blast painting with giant fly swatters and dressed up as different insects. We also had fun walking to the pond to make some nature observations. We also worked on re-telling familiar stories using

rolling and core strength. We are also working on sitting up with and without support. Your lap or a boppy pillow can be used to provide such support. We've had several new friends join Grandma's House family so we will be assisting in the skill of becoming aware of self and others. We will be placing your child in front of a mirror and close to the other children. The teachers will get down on their level and talk to them, encouraging language development. As always, with changing weather, please be sure your child has appropriate extra clothing and outerwear for our outdoor adventures! Thank you!

*Infants, Mr. Jared and Ms. Diane*

### ***Very Hungry Caterpillars***

At last warmer weather has arrived and it's time for fun outside! Reminder for extra clothes for our crawling explorers and shoes for our beginning cruisers. In April, we had a lot of gross motor successes. We built confidence while walking holding some of our friends' hands and helping our class to roll from their backs to the right and left sides. Some of our friends only favor one side when rolling so we place throw pillows on the floor and roll them side to side while singing, *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*. We also have started giving the children plates and spoons to dine with during meals. It gets a bit messy, but it's a process for success. Our friends gave lots of smiles when we explored sensory activities like painting with objects, such as balls, bubble

duck and frog stick puppets. Week of the Young Child kept us busy, too – creating art as a group, dressing up together, and celebrating early childhood! We are looking forward to another fun month and lots more playtime outdoors!

*2's, Ms. Amanda and Ms. Bree*

### ***Little Superpigs***

At last, the warm weather is finally here to stay and we love it! If you could please bring in rainboots and make sure there are extra socks and pants in your child's cubby, we greatly appreciate it. This past month we worked on some social emotional skills. We really worked on trying to help ourselves calm down. We did this by counting to ten and taking deep breaths or getting hugs and a drink of water. Our final focus for this past month was working on making safe choices when it comes to our bodies and friends as we start to prepare for summer field trips. We are working on keeping hands to ourselves, listening when a teacher calls our names to line up, or stop what we are doing.

*2 1/2's, Ms. Jennie and Ms. Janell*

### ***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie***

April flew by! Our friends loved seeing their baby photos of each other and talking about flowers, plants, and how baby animals grow. We also really enjoyed our field trip to Frog Play. We explored

wrap, ice cubes, toddler brushes, and squeegees. We will continue working on simple sign language and playing simple rhymes like *Wheels on the Bus*, *Old MacDonald*, and *Itsy Bitsy Spider*. We are really looking forward to exploring more on our playground. It is also sunscreen time and Grandma's House offers a 30 SPF brand, or you are welcome to bring your own as well. Remember to label, label, label all of your child's items. Thank you! *Older Infants, Ms. Denise and Ms. Savannah*

### ***Wild Things***

Happy Spring! With the warmer weather, we have been trying to get outside twice a day for some fresh air! Please make sure your child has shoes, coat, hat, and mittens at school. For the month of April, we enjoyed learning about Zoo Animals. We brought zoo animals and zoo puzzles into the classroom and read stories about going to the zoo. We also learned about bunnies, chicks, and eggs. We explored plastic eggs in the sensory table and enjoyed dressing up in bunny ears. For the month of May, we will be talking about the author Eric Carle. We will read different stories he wrote and talk about all the colors in the pictures of his books. To end the month of May, we will be learning about Dinosaurs. We will paint with dinosaurs and explore dinosaur eggs and dinos in the sensory table. We want to wish all our toddler mothers a Happy

dirt and talked about insects that come out in Spring. We even tried a tasty treat, Dirt Cake! In April, we practiced cutting skills, and letter recognition. This month we will be talking about Fairy Tales and will practice retelling the stories. We are excited for the warm weather and fun activities outside to come!

*3's, Ms. Rina and Ms. Madison*

### ***The Crayons***

May is already here. There has been so much learning going on, time is flying by! We loved having the Easter Egg Hunt looking all over the playground for eggs filled with different toys and treats. We really enjoyed having Retzer Animal Adaptations visit with the animals and learning if the animal was prey or predator. It was very cool to be able to see and touch a snake, feel a walking stick that all the children said tickled their hands as it crawled around on them. One activity that the children are engaged in doing is smoosh art. The children are allowed to squeeze different colors of paint onto their paper and smoosh the two halves together. The children are also interested in the big bad wolf by reenacting the play with different toys around the classroom creating a scene and knocking it over when it's not strong enough. The children like to see plays and watch the different characters and recreate the roles they have seen. Please make sure your child's cubby is always stocked with appropriate clothes for the weather as it changes from

Mother's Day!

*Toddlers, Ms Lori and Ms. Jenny*

### ***Puddle Ducks***

The word of the month is "Energy"! The Puddle Ducks have been full of energy – only slowing down to eat and nap. If only we could harvest this energy – we could power the world! Their energy compels them to run, climb, slide, and move as quickly as possible. One of our toddler goals is to help each child develop a sense of self and the world. We do this by encouraging them to help each other when sad or lose a shoe, and when we notice the birds, wind, and trees when we are outside. They love to watch the trees dance in the wind and watch the robins hunt for worms. We are hoping for warmer weather so we can spend more time outside and watch the world change from Spring to Summer.

*Toddlers, Ms. Cat and Ms. Olivia*

### ***Panda Bears***

April showers bring May flowers! It's crazy how fast April flew by. We had so much fun during Week of the Young Child. We loved decorating our stepping stone with our hands prints and all the fun dress up days. During our Weather unit, we loved going outside to look at the clouds and watched what happened when we dropped food coloring on shaving cream and water. In May, we are going to

morning to afternoon!

*4's, Ms. Brittnee and Ms. Nikki*

### ***Pigeons - 4K***

April was an exciting time for the 4K class. We learned about Music and our caterpillars arrived!

During the Music unit, we were introduced to many different musical genres and instruments. We practiced playing the keyboard and many percussion instruments. A middle school music teacher (also a parent) shared her talent with 5 different instruments. We listened to how music can make us feel different emotions and we listened to how music can help tell a story. We categorized different types of instruments and how some are high in pitch and some are low. With this first glimpse of music, I hope each student gets excited to learn an instrument in their future.

Something to try at home, at any age: point out different instruments you hear while listening to music in the car. Share with them how music makes you feel.

We are talking more about bugs in the next two weeks but our caterpillars arrived early so we are watching them as they grow and transform. We documented what we were seeing and measured their growth. They start off as small as 1cm and grow up to 4cm in just 2 weeks. Stay tuned to the 4K classroom for more exciting bug or insect lessons coming in May.



continue to work on matching 2 similar objects and using the “flip trick” to put on our jackets. You can use the “flip trick” at home by placing your child’s jacket down on the floor and have them stand with the hood by their feet and place their arms in the arm holes and lift to flip over their head. We are looking forward to warmer days and spending more time outside.

*Toddlers, Ms. Makenzie and Ms. Ashley S.*

Something to try at home, (in that unfortunate event of finding a bug inside): use a clear container to capture the bug. Watching them move around is captivating for little ones.

*4K, Ms. Holly*

