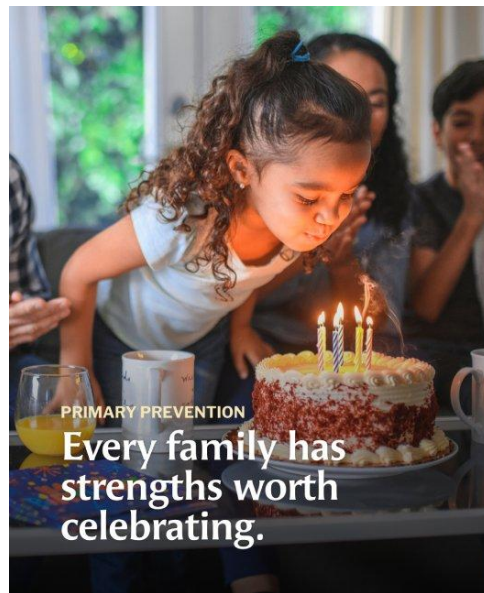


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## Growing Highlights

APRIL 2026



April is Family Strengthening Month  
**FIVE FOR FAMILIES**

Dear Parents,

I'm so happy to be able to break out my flip flops once again, even if I have to pair them with long pants for a little while still!

April is a busy month for Grandmas House! For those of you who don't know, April brings

our formal Parent/Teacher Conference time! Be on the lookout for signups in your child(ren)s' room for you to pick a time/day to meet with one of their teachers and chat a little more in depth about your child. It's a great time to ask questions as well. Please remember that signing up is not mandatory but encouraged and conference times should be child-free so plan accordingly.

Also in April, we will be celebrating NAEYC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during Week of the Young Child. There will be activities going on each day of the week in your child's classroom to honor NAEYC and the children we teach and love! There will be signs posted at the doors, so you'll know what to expect each day in April.

Take care,

*Cassie Makinen, Director*

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

*"April rain is not a cause to complain; it's busy preparing the terrain for spring to sustain."—Unknown*



naeyc  
**Week of the Young Child**  
 100 years of EXCELLENCE

**APRIL 13-17**

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**MUSIC MONDAY, 4/13**  
**dance party**




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**TASTY TUESDAY, 4/14**  
 Decorating Cookies




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**WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY, 4/15**  
**Classroom Collections**

**CARENET**  
 MILWAUKEE

*Donations of new and gently used baby clothes and other baby items. Greatest needs right now are size 4 & 6 diapers and gently used clothing sizes 18-24, 2T and 3T*

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**ARTSY THURSDAY, 4/16**  
**100 Art Collage**




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**FAMILY FRIDAY, 4/17**  
 Black & White Picture Day



Need an expense statement?  
 Click [HERE](#) to request your statement.



- 1 Noa H.
- 5 McCoy O.
- 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.



*On celebrating  
anniversaries with  
Grandma's House*

*Ms. Miracle 1 Year  
Ms. Vee 1 Year*



### *Infants*

Wow, April is here already! In March we had fun painting with the infants with red paint to represent Dr. Seuss hats and also did a lot of sensory activities to stimulate their 5 senses, touch being everyone's favorite.

This month we say goodbye to Owen and warmly welcome Griffin to our classroom! We will also be holding in-person conferences so please be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet. As the weather begins to warm up, be sure to update your child's clothing to match the Spring temperatures. Our theme for April is Springtime, animals, and eggs. We've been focusing on developmental activities such as exploring our reflections in mirrors and practicing holding items in our hands. Week of the Young Child takes place April 13-17 and is organized by NAEYC, which is celebrating 100 years this year. So, be on the lookout for special activities and celebrations throughout that week!

*Ms. Ana and Ms. Vee*

### *Almost 2's*

*"Hello April, I'm just here for the pranks and chocolate bunnies."* -Unknown  
How is it April already?! Well, the weather doesn't help. The Little Librarians had some fun last month and look forward to April. We ended the month with our St. Patrick's day and healthy eating units. Hopefully the weather will be like our next unit, Spring. Also in April, please be on the lookout for information for week of the young child and in person conferences. We will also let you know about the healthy snacks we will try so keep an eye on your messages! Along with working on self-help skills, we have also been working on gentle touches with friends. We noticed a lot of friends struggling with this and are trying to reinforce the words to work through frustration. We teach the children phrases such as "I don't like that" and "walk away" to encourage problem solving skills. These phrases can also be used at home. Thank you, and happy Spring!

*Ms. Courtney, Ms. Alaini, and Ms. Steph*

## ***2nd Infants***

This past month we explored themes of bright color and growth with our rainbow and flora units. The room got decorated with various light reflecting elements that flashed rainbows onto different surfaces of the room, along with a large rainbow tapestry. Real plants were added to the classroom, thank you Amy R, so the babies could enjoy natural elements with their classroom environment. We did an art project with a large paintbrush on a canvas! The large brush helped the children grasp it more easily and really worked their fine motor skills. We displayed the artwork on our parent board. Faux patches of grass were used as a sensory activity while the children did tummy time to give them different textures to feel and explore. This month we are going to work with our friends, eating solid foods, drinking water from a sippy cup, and sitting on their own without support. Get your umbrellas because next time we see you the flowers will be blooming!

*Ms. Elise and Ms. Allie*

## ***Older Infants***

Spring is here, and we're excited to kick off April with a fun and engaging theme all about zoo animals! Our babies will be exploring different animals, the sounds they make, and where they live through hands-on activities and play. We'll be reading a variety of animal-themed books

## ***2's***

"April showers bring May flowers." We are hoping Spring comes soon in the Time Travelers classroom. We have been having fun learning about the weather. Everyone's favorite weather is Rainbows. We planted different seeds so hopefully we have a green thumb. We had fun making Bubble Dough. You can make Bubble Dough at home by mixing together in a bowl 1 cup of Cornstarch and ½ cup dish soap. If mixture is dry, add small amounts of dish soap. If mixture is too sticky, add small amounts of cornstarch. Enjoy this fun activity on those rainy days.

*Ms. Esther and Ms. Virginia*

## ***2.5's***

Happy Spring! Our weather may be a little mixed up during this season, but the Ground Breakers are on a roll! We had so much fun exploring OZ and meeting some interesting characters there. We did talk about different types of weather systems like tornadoes, hurricanes, thunderstorms, and snowstorms. The children were very curious about the types of weather so it might be a good idea to have them tell you what the weather is for the day and what they should wear based on it. Not only does this build their vocabulary, but it also helps them problem solve by having them make choices based on information. After OZ, we rambled around the farm and learned about the animals that live there.

to build early language skills and spark curiosity.

Music and movement will also be a big part of our days! The children love singing and dancing to “Baby Shark,” which helps support memory, rhythm, and coordination.

As the weather warms up, we’re excited to spend more time outdoors. Our babies will enjoy playing with bubbles, which encourages visual tracking, reaching, and lots of giggles!

In addition to our theme, we are continuing to focus on important developmental skills. Gross motor development: practicing climbing up steps on our climber to build strength, balance, and confidence. Fine motor development: working on the pincer grasp by picking up small items like Cheerios, helping prepare for self-feeding and future writing skills. We’re looking forward to a month full of exploration, movement, and fun! Thank you for your continued support.

*Ms. Amy E. and Ms. Kailie*

### ***Young Toddlers***

This month in our classroom the toddlers had fun learning through play and exploring new themes together. We celebrated St. Patrick’s Day by exploring the color green through painting, simple art projects, and sensory play. The children enjoyed looking at shamrocks, listening to music, and dancing during our holiday activities. We also spent time learning about different types of

The Ground Breakers learned that some animals are hatched from eggs while others are born similarly to us. They should also be experts on the noises that the animals make as well as the names of the babies they have.

April is a very busy month with Week of the Young Child and conferences. We have some fun activities planned for Week of the Young Child so please keep an eye out for that information. Also, conference sign-ups will be posted at the beginning of the month so check our Parent Board. And remember, your child should not be present at these meetings so that we can focus on what we need to talk about. Any questions, feel free to stop us or message us anytime.

*Ms. Amy R. and Ms. Kim*

### ***3's***

What’s that around the corner? It’s Spring! This past month, the 3’s had an exciting journey around the sun and learning about Space. We talked about the important work astronauts do like Chris Hadfield and Mae C. Jemison, who was the first Black woman astronaut to travel to space. The children were fascinated to learn how astronauts live and work while orbiting Earth. Speaking of orbiting, can you name all the planets? The 3’s had a blast listening to The Planet Song and sang the order each planet is from the sun! We explored how each planet is different and special. The class loved imagining what it would be like to travel to space! We finished up the

weather. The toddlers explored sunshine, rain, and clouds through songs, movement, and simple crafts. We talked about what we see outside each day and practiced using new words like sun, rain, and clouds. Throughout the month, the children practiced important skills such as using their hands during art and sensory activities, listening during group time, moving their bodies during music and dance, and interacting with their friends during playtime. It has been a fun and busy month in our classroom and we love watching the children learn, grow, and explore each day.

*Ms. Mai Lee and Ms. Miracle*

### ***Toddlers***

Spring is finally here and we couldn't be happier! As the weather has gotten nicer, we have been able to get outside a lot more, much to the joys of children and teachers alike! We were still able to fit in many fun projects though. March seemed to be the month for veggie and fruit tasting. Thank you to all who brought fruit for our fruit salad! We also tried several different green fruits and veggies for St. Patrick's Day. As we tried different fruits and veggies, we charted to see which ones we liked and didn't like. We also got to explore different types of music during our Ireland unit as we listened and danced to Irish River Dance, jigs, and bagpipes. It has been such a fun month, and we can't wait to see what the next month will bring!

*Ms. Emi and Ms. Karen*

month by talking about Community Helpers. The children learned about the important jobs people do to help keep our communities safe and in tip top shape! We discussed helpers like firefighters, police officers, and doctors. We even got to share what our parents do while we're at Grandma's House! One of the highlights of the month was visiting our local fire department. The firefighters showed us their equipment and explained how they help people in emergencies. The children were excited to see the fire trucks up close. We also talked about fire safety and how firefighters help protect our community. It has been a wonderful month full of learning, curiosity, and appreciation for the people who help us every day! We look forward to see what Spring brings. Sending Warm Wishes from our spaceship!

*Ms. Lizzie and Ms. Abi*

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

Happy Spring! We have been getting ready by discussing life cycles of plants and animals, exploring seed pods and pinecones in our sensory table, and discussing what changes come with the new season. As the weather evens out, please keep boots, snow pants, waterproof mittens, and a hat at school. On wet days, the children will wear their snow pants and boots to protect their pants and shoes while playing outside.

*Ms. Kari and Ms. Emily*

## *Older Toddlers*

We had a wild month of weather in March. Going into April, we should still expect some fluctuating weather so we will still need hats, coats, boots, and mittens. Throughout the month, our themes were Ocean and Building with Blocks. We worked on skills like using utensils to make art, taking turns, problem solving through trial and error, stacking blocks, and more. One thing we work on in our classroom every day is saying or signing "help". The sign for "help" is - make a fist with one hand and use the other hand palm up to lift the fist up from the bottom. When we notice one of our friends indicating that they need help, such as by crying or pointing, we will sign and say "help" right before we help them to show them what they can say. We can reinforce this with repetition at home and school to help reduce frustration for our toddlers. We look forward to next month in which we will be learning about Boxes and Insects/Flowers.

*Ms. Bekah and Ms. Anna*

**2026**  
**Grandma's House**

will be **CLOSED** the following holidays:

**New Year's**

Thursday, January 1

**Memorial Day**

Monday, May 25

**4th of July**

Friday, July 3

**Labor Day**

Monday, September 7

**Thanksgiving**

Thursday & Friday,  
November 26 & 27

**Christmas**

Thursday & Friday,  
December 24 & 25

**Grandma's House**

will be **CLOSING EARLY**

the following days for  
**Staff Development &  
Classroom Changeover:**

**Fridays,**  
**June 12, 2026**  
**August 28, 2026**

**Hours:**

**6:00 am - 3:00 pm**