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Growing Highlights

MAY 2026

A purple graphic for Staff Appreciation Week, May 4-8. The title "Staff Appreciation Week" is written in large white letters, with a pair of sunglasses above "Appreciation". The dates "May 4 - 8" are in a white box. Five colorful sticky notes are pinned to the background, each with a day of the week and an activity:

- Mon:** Pump Up The Jam. Bagels/Pastries & Coffee. Includes icons of a coffee cup and pastries.
- Tue:** Gettin' Crafty With It. Draw a picture, write a note for staff. Includes icons of musical notes, a flower, and a dog.
- Wed:** All That & a Bag of Chips. Variety of Chips & Drinks. Includes icons of a bag of chips and a drink bottle.
- Thur:** Livin' La Vida Lunch-a. Staff Lunch. Includes an icon of a bowl of fruit.
- Fri:** Ice Ice Baby. Ice Cream Bar. Includes an icon of an ice cream bar.

At the bottom, the text "Thanks for all you do!" is written in a white cursive font. Various icons like a boombox, a hat, and a cassette tape are scattered around the notes.

Dear Parents,

With warmer weather heading our way I wanted to touch base about footwear from now through summer! Children are welcome to wear sandals if they are “closed toe” meaning a T-strap going over toes or gladiator type sandals with multiple straps going across; croc-type sandals work well for water play and for keeping within the footwear policy. No flip flops or sandals that expose their toes.

Spring in Wisconsin usually mean chilly AMs and hot PMs so please remember while snow gear may go home, please still bring a zip-up jacket/coat. The transition of the seasons is always a good time to go through your child’s cubby thoroughly and make sure they have everything they need for the day/week (labeled cot sheet/blanket, labeled bottoms and tops, and for our potty training friends lots of extra underwear and extra clothes)! Using a sharpie marker on the seam of clothing or on the tag, label tape, or a name stamper are some creative ways to make sure your child’s clothing goes home with you.

Thank you to everyone who came to conferences. The teachers love being able to share all that your child is working on and mastering throughout their days here and hearing stories about how they are at home! It’s a great way to connect with you all.

Cassie Makinen, Director

cassie@grandmashouse.org

“Nothing is impossible. The word itself says ‘I’m possible!’” – Audrey Hepburn





- 2 Ms. Kailie
- 3 Goldynn M.
- 3 Ms. Esther
- 10 Arden B.
- 11 Otto S.
- 11 Amelia M.
- 13 Ms. Courtney
- 14 Charlie S.
- 15 Kaiyah R.
- 15 Ms. Emily S.
- 16 Thomas C.
- 18 Tullia S.
- 23 Ben H.
- 25 Ms. Vee
- 27 Everett D.
- 30 Alex W.



*On celebrating
anniversaries with
Grandma's House*

- Ms. Amy R. 26 Years*
- Ms. Joan 15 Years*



Infants

Welcome to May! This month, we are embracing the beauty of Spring with our theme “Flowers & Cinco de Mayo.” You’ll see bright colors, soft florals, and festive touches throughout our classroom as we explore new experiences together. We have a few classroom updates to share:
Hooray for Ben and Mia as they move on

Older Toddlers

This past month we have explored two topics: boxes and insects in my garden. We had lots of fun in our box unit. Every child got their own unique box to take home. We explored what happens when cardboard gets wet, sizes of different boxes, and we decorated pieces of a box with colorful squares. Bringing the boxes unit home is very easy. When

to the next room! We are so proud of them and will miss them dearly. At the same time, we are excited to welcome Corbin and Callie to our classroom! We are so happy to have them join us.

Our little learners have been busy growing stronger and more curious each day!

During tummy time, we are focusing on:

**Exploring different textures in books (soft, crinkly, and smooth pages).*

**Hands-on toy exploration to build curiosity and engagement.*

**Pushing up onto forearms to strengthen neck, shoulder, and core muscles.*

We are also encouraging sensory development by:

**Letting babies touch and explore books with a variety of textures.*

**Introducing soft vs. hard objects to build early understanding through touch.*

**Supporting hand discovery, as babies learn to look at, reach for, and use their hands.*

These activities help build important skills like muscle development, coordination, and early sensory awareness.

As always, thank you for trusting us with your little ones. We love watching them grow, explore, and bloom—just like flowers in Spring!

Ms. Ana and Ms. Vee

2nd Infants

you have an empty container at home, you can give it to your child to explore it, break it, rip it, or color it! For the second half of the month, we discovered different bugs, insects, and other crawlers. In class we planted our own grass seed, played with worms, and used our observation skills outside to find bugs in their natural habitat. Encourage your toddler's natural curiosity by allowing them to observe bugs and insects in your home or outside. If you're feeling up to it, build a terrarium in your home! It is a nice, wet, easy environment for insects and it allows your child to watch the insect's life cycle.

Ms. Bekah and Ms. Anna

Almost 2's

Spring is in the air! Hope you all have been enjoying the beautiful weather! With the new weather patterns, please look through your child's cubby to make sure they have appropriate clothing! During the month of April, we welcomed some new friends into our classroom, Grayson and Thalia!

We have had lots of fun learning about healthy eating and all things Spring! Thank you to everyone who brought fruit for our fruit salad. The children really enjoyed it. Also, in the month of April, we celebrated the Week of the Young Child. We were able to enjoy some fun activities that we don't get to do every day; such as decorating cookies and an outdoor dance party.

Some skills we continue to work on every

Hello from baby room 2!

Our friends have been busy learning, playing, and working on goals like:

~"charging up" on hands and knees to get ready to crawl

~sitting without support

~grasping toys with fingers and thumb

~putting items into a container and taking them out

Our themes last month were Bunnies and Spring, and On the Farm. We read lots of bunny stories and farm tales. Our friends have also been exploring new sensory activities while they finger paint.

Welcome to the new friends next month and good luck to friends moving up to room 3!

Ms. Elise and Ms. Cali

Older Infants

Last month we explored the children's interest in animals with different themes such as zoo animals, farm animals, and more commonly familiar animals one may see especially with the changing season and Spring weather.

We also read books, observed various pictures, and sang songs such as Old MacDonald, 5 Little Ducks, 5 Green and Speckled Frogs, Itsy Bitsy Spider, and more. Our little friends have been working hard on their fine motor control through play and mealtimes with grasping, gross motor control with tummy time, and practicing crawling or pulling up, and self-soothing. In addition, there is a bit of problem solving as they navigate

day are eating at the table, using our pincer grasp, and cleaning up our toys. While eating at the table, we practice using our spoons instead of fingers, drinking out of an open cup, and sitting with our tummies to the table. These are great skills that can be practiced at home, too.

Something we are doing in May is learning about Mexican culture as we celebrate Cinco De Mayo. We are looking forward to some really yummy food. Have a wonderful month!

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

2's

Can you believe it is already May?!? One more step closer to summer. We had fun learning about space and the planet we live on. We also had fun learning about the ocean. We liked dressing up as octopus and clown fish. We made ocean waves in a bottle. Here are the instructions in case you would like to do it at home.

Step 1: Fill a water bottle halfway up and add blue food coloring

Step 2: Fill the rest of the bottle with baby oil

Step 3: Cap tightly

Step 4: Tilt back and forth to make waves

Voila! You have your ocean wave in a bottle!

Ms. Esther and Ms. Virginia

2.5's

movement and learn control. Even little bodies can do big things, and we look forward to growing strong!

Ms. Emi, Ms. Kailie, and Ms. Allie

Young Toddlers

Happy May! We hope April was wonderful for you. In our class, we've been having a great deal of fun learning and growing together. The children continue to explore through play and build friendships through a variety of hands-on activities. Exploring with flowers was so much fun and we just hung up the class birdhouse we painted together. Hopefully, we will get to see some birds soon.

This month, we will be exploring the farm by reading books about different animals, learning about farm life, and handling hay in our sensory table. We will also continue working on our daily routines, including learning to share, taking turns, and expressing our feelings. We will also learn to self-soothe by getting hugs, lying on pillows, reading a book, and dancing. Learning to self-soothe is a valuable skill to have, as it helps with understanding feelings, being independent, and helping little minds de-stress.

Lastly, just some reminders:

**Please check your child's cubby and switch out clothes for the weather. Also, add more clothes and socks if they are out.*

**Please take home snow items.*

**Check cubbies daily or every Friday for important papers and art to take home.*

Thank you for your continued support.

Hooray for 100 years! Thank you to all our Groundbreaker families for helping us celebrate NAEYC's 100-year birthday! The children had a blast dancing and decorating cookies. Thank you for all the donations as well! We had a fun time learning about the vintage toys that you all played with as kiddos, as well as learning about toys that are also turning 100 this year...we're looking at you Winnie the Pooh!

After learning to play with toys that encouraged us to use our imagination, we have moved on to our Gardening unit. The Groundbreakers are literally breaking ground in our playground garden to plant some great fruits, vegetables, and herbs! We are hoping to get a great crop that will feed your hungry kiddos for the whole summer! The children love to eat straight out of the garden. This is a wonderful time to introduce the origin of the foods they eat. Have your child plant some seeds/seedlings at home so they can watch them grow and blossom. Children can help weed the area around the plantings and they can try a variety of foods that they might not normally try. And if you don't feel like you have a "green thumb", farmers' markets should be up and running soon and you can buy from a farmer/gardener! Any questions or concerns, please stop us and let us know!

Ms. Amy R. and Ms. Kim

3's

We're looking forward to a wonderful month full of imagination and learning! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.

Ms. Mai Lee and Ms. Miracle

Toddlers

Hi Families! Spring is in the air, and our classroom is buzzing with energy. With the warmer weather finally here, we've been spending more time outdoors. The toddlers love the extra space to run, push toys, and climb! Please remember to send in labeled jackets and consider switching out heavier jackets for some lighter layers so we can stay comfortable during our outdoor adventures.

We've also been moving our large muscles with lots of dancing! Moving to the beat helps our friends develop coordination and balance. Our current favorites are *Hop Little Bunnies* and *Party Dance Freeze*. Our artwork has been focused on more group projects. We recently have been taping long sheets of paper to the wall or table and making "collaborative murals". It's a great way for the children to practice sharing space! Hopefully most of the April showers are over and we can look forward to May flowers and more sunshine!

Ms. Karen and Mr. Jose

April Showers Bring May Flowers! The three's classroom has been full of hands-on fun and exciting discoveries! We've been diving into the world of recycling and learning how we can all help take care of our planet, especially as we celebrate Earth Day. The children have loved exploring ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle while talking about how these small actions make a big difference. Our classroom has also been buzzing with excitement as we learn all about bugs—observing their features, talking about where they live, and discovering why they are so important to our environment. To top it all off, we are growing our own tadpoles and butterflies! What a wonderful way to be a part of nature's life cycle. We are eagerly looking forward to celebrating the beauty of Spring and learning about numerous life cycles in our environment. Find us outside exploring the great outdoors!

Ms. Lizzie and Ms. Abi

3-4's

This past month in the preschool room, we had so much fun exploring the world of music! The children enjoyed listening to different kinds of songs, moving their bodies to the rhythm, and trying out simple instruments like drums and shakers. We talked about how music can make us feel happy, calm, or excited, and the class loved expressing themselves through dancing and singing. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and confidence grow

as they discover new sounds and ways to make music together.

We also went on an exciting learning adventure to the zoo! The children learned about different animals, the sounds they make, and the places they live. We practiced animal movements, roared like lions, and swung our "tails" like monkeys. Through stories, pictures, and play, the class explored how to care for animals and respect wildlife. It was a joyful month full of imagination, and we look forward to continuing our learning and having fun together!

Ms. Kari and Ms. Emily

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**