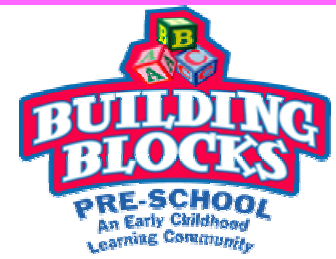


BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com

Volume 4, Issue 9

****Dates To Remember****

Thursday, April 10 ~
Lifetouch Spring and Graduation Portraits

Friday, April 11 ~
BUILDING BLOCKS
CLOSED for Professional Development Day

Sunday, April 20 ~ Earth Day Celebration and Spring Clean Up 11:00 a.m.

MAY—Thursday, May 8 ~
Mother's Day Tea 4:30 p.m.

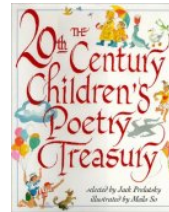
****Dates To Remember****



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April 2008



The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury selected by Jack Prelutsky and illustrated by Meilo So. I encourage you to share poetry with your child in honor of National Poetry Month and discover another powerful early literacy tool!

April is going to be a busy month for Building Blocks as we celebrate Young Children! Look for informational flyers about lots of exciting events and activities happening at Building Blocks and in the community!

Ms. Emily

Emily's Corner Message From The Director



*"Spring has come—
Nobody knows how it happened."*

I recently read this statement by the great Spanish poet, Antonio Machado about the transformation from winter to spring when change happens almost invisibly—one day the light seems different, the days are longer, and volume of nature's soundtrack is on high.

The world around us is always changing in ways we may not notice from day to day, but poems capture these tiny changes and special celebrations. Poetry has been called the language of the human heart and because poems speak an authentic language, they

help us to teach as well as to learn.

This year on the back page of our monthly newsletter is a section titled, Poem of the Month. April is a busy month for many celebrations including, National Poetry Month. Poetry can be a truly enriching early literacy experience for young children. Children believe the world revolves around them and that sense of self is so perfectly expressed in poems. Poetry is about having fun too. We all know children like to fool around, and playing with sounds and language is one of the first ways children explore our world. Silly poems with illustrations that capture a children's imagination can be a wonderful tool for parents.

A great collection of poetry for children is com-



Week of the Young Child is held each year to recognize the needs of young children and thank the adults involved in their early education and care. This yearly event is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The theme for Week of the Young Child 2008 is

Bringing Communities Together for Children-Children Bring Communities Together.



Our state affiliate chapter, Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MNAEYC) extends this celebration to the entire month of April. During the Month of the

Young Child® each week has a specific focus. The focus weeks for 2008 are Physical Development, Social-Emotional Development, Cognitive Development, and Language and Literacy. Look for information to be displayed through out the month and for ways to join in the celebration!

General House Keeping Items

Tuition

Tuition is due Fridays by 6:00 p.m. A \$20.00 late fee will be posted on Monday to your account if tuition is not received on time. Notices will be placed in your child's folder when a late fee has been applied to your account. If something comes up and your unable to make a payment on time please notify us. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Checking In and Out

Please remember to check your child in and out everyday for attendance purposes. Also, the messages posted on the system are a great way for us to communicate important information to families.

Outdoor Play Wear

The playground will continue to be muddy throughout the spring. Please continue to pack snow pants, boots, warm coats, hats, and mittens each day for your child the temperatures can often be unpredictable still.



Nap Blankets and Pillows

Please remember to take home your child's blanket and pillow to washed on Friday's or your last scheduled day of the week if you're a part time family and return them on Monday for the next week.

Snacks

Please remember your monthly snack day!

The \$10.00 snack fee will be applied to your account at the end of the month if you fail to provide snack.

6:00 p.m. Closing Time

Please note that Building Blocks closes at 6:00 p.m. each night. Please make a point to arrive early enough to gather your child's belongings and leave the building by 6:00 p.m. Please also recognize that our staff has commitments they must attend to (classes, families, etc.) and need to leave on time.

Smoke Free Zone

Building Blocks is smoke free including the parking lot. Please help keep our parking lot clean by disposing of your cigarettes prior to entering out parking lot.



Building Blocks Earth Day Celebration and Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Join us on **Sunday, April 20 at 11:00 a.m.** for our quarterly Parent Advisory Council Meeting with a light brunch and child care available. In celebration of Earth Day we will preparing a section of our garden to create a "Family Garden." We're looking for families to donate a perennial from their own gardens or purchase one to create this special garden here at Building Blocks!

Huron Valley Earth Day Festival Sunday, April 20 1:00p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Activities, games, and give-aways. Earth friendly vendors and organizations. FREE Food, Music, and More info visit www.HVEDF.org



HBA's-Women In Business Women's Enrichment Day

Saturday, April 26
8:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Join us for Women's Enrichment Day! Building Blocks will have a booth and be offering a workshop titled, Learning and Exploring Together with Children!

Take the morning off and have fun, learn, and be inspired with other women. For a \$5.00 donation you can enjoy 4 different workshops and check out the expo. Register to win an Ultimate Makeover!

For more info visit www.enrichment-day.com

YOUNG TODDLERS

Last months theme was Authors and Illustrators. We focused on Eric Carle and Dr. Seuss. Our favorite Eric Carle books were Papa Please Get the Moon for Me, they liked how the pages unfolded to really big picture and the really long ladder the man used in the story. We also enjoyed Have You Seen My Cat, and looking at all the different cats and finding the real cat at the end. Our favorite Dr. Seuss book was Cat in the Hat. We liked looking at the pictures and tried to figure out what the cat was doing on each page.

Connor, Amelia, Lucas, and Jayden tried out the clay for the first time this past month. Connor tore his into little pieces. Amelia pressed her fingers into it

and made lots of dents. Lucas broke it into different size pieces. Jayden touched it, thought it was too cold and was then on his way to do something else.

Connor is doing a great job on the potty! Amelia, Jayden, and Lucas have been taking trips to the potty with us and are doing an excellent job of practicing sitting.

Connor's vocabulary has expanded to include so many new words each and everyday that are clearly understandable. Great Job, Connor!

We're so glad Jayden is feeling better! He has so much fun playing with the children and riding around on the ride-on-toys.

Amelia likes doing puzzles and playing with the baby dolls! She loves babies is

getting practice for when she's becomes a big sister.

Madelyn moves and talks so fast she's hard to keep up with most days. She has become very loveable and shares lots of hugs shows concern for her friends.

Isaac is getting along great with the other toddlers and loves to observe them interacting with each other. He's got a great smile too!

Zachary's family made the tough decision to have him stay home with his Mommy! We look forward to hopeful having him join us part time in the future!

Happy Spring to everyone!

Ms. Janet

Ms. Jill

Ms. Laura

Older Toddlers

We have rediscovered the outside world again here at Building Blocks! The weather has reached a warmth that is agreeable to everyone and above the 30° State Licensing requirement. The children are very happy to get outdoors as am I. I strongly encourage the children to be able to get on most of their outside gear themselves with minimal assistance from me. I might ask your child to “try” to put on their own snow pants or coat by themselves. First, I will explain the process with a simple description then with a little tug here and there from me their able to independently dress themselves. Believe me there is some frustration on the child’s part and I even hear “I can’t” at this young age. When purchasing clothes and outside gear remember to ask yourself, “Is this something my child can independently put on themselves?” Dressing themselves is a great self-esteem and confidence booster and the children love to show off their new skills.

Do you ever wonder what other skills your toddler is doing independently here at Building Blocks? Here’s a quick list of some of the daily routine things your child is achieving and succeeding at:

- Serve themselves at lunch and

snacks. Clean up after themselves by putting their plate, cup, and silverware away and scrapping scraps into the garbage

- **Push their chairs in at the table**
- **Line up**
- **Pick out a puzzle, compete the puzzle, and return it to the shelf**
- **Wait for a turn**
- **Follow multi-step directions**
- **Help a friend when asked**
- **Share (it does happen)**
- **Help put their nap items away**
- **Clean up (especially when water is involved)**

The children love to point out the similarities and differences they notice. They’ll say, “I have that book at home!” Between each other I frequently hear, “We match!” Same color, same print, etc. In the book, Polar Bear, Polar Bear What do you Hear and Stand Tall Molly Lou Mellon by the children found the same reference to a boa constrictor and a snack in 10 Black Dots by . I think there is some comfort for the children in noticing and repeating things that they connect to home and with each other while here at Building Blocks.



We hope you are enjoying our weekly sheet. This is a great update on the learning activities we are doing here at Building Blocks. Continuing from our March newsletter we discuss Secrets to our classroom.

One of the many tools we use to support children is by being very clear about what our expectations are of them. It is important to set clear rules, be consistent and repeat as often as necessary.

We take time to remind them about each step, which requires extra time. We confirm that it will take longer at first, but praising each step, a child will grow in self confidence when faced with new challenges. Research proves that if you praise a child more you will inevitably discipline less. By praising children, we encourage good behavior, thus, reducing the negative ones. This, or course, leads to not having to discipline as much as those boundaries and expectations are learned and consistently enforced.

For example is providing them with clear direction on an activity and the

space designed for it. By providing them with these clear and constant expectations they become successful managers of their relationships, activities, materials, and behavior.

We have designed center activities for free choice, however, there are rules and boundaries in place to keep children safe and in an environment conducive to learning. Children look at the tables for cues with numerical symbols to tell them how many can be at each location and chairs dictate how many can safely share space and supplies. Recently we



Hunter stands at the Learning Center Choice Board to see what activities are available to choose from.

I would like to help reinforce these connections between home and Building Blocks. This month I will have each child select one of their favorite books from our special collections of class favorites to take home and enjoy with their families. We have about 20 stories in our collection. Most are quick reads and have a true involved storyline. I am excited that you will be able to share in this connection with your child.

We’ve also been singing more than ever! I’ve noticed I have been singing my instructions and I can tell by their faces that their slightly amused. Megan and Alex enjoy “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” which we have our own rendition, “We’re Going to the Potty.” Kennedy enjoy, “Herman the Worm” (but mistakenly calls it the “snake song”) Kitty requests the “ABC Song” and Cathy and Madison like, “Little Bunny Foo Foo.” We love “Farmer and the Dell” and acting out the parts. These songs all involved action with lots of interaction and hand movements which children love!

We are busy being busy! If you have any questions or concerns please call or contact me at Building Blocks!

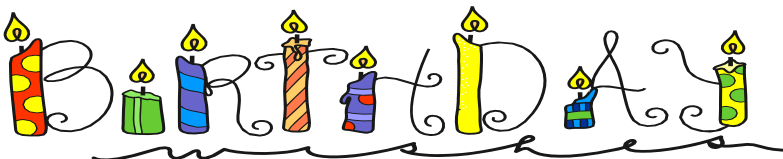
Ms. Wendy

have started our, “ticket choice board”. Not only are the learning centers clearly marked with numerals and dots but now each area has “tickets” which can be found on a board. This allows the children to determine when and where they want to go, who they want to play with, and more importantly what is available.

Another addition to our classroom will be a picture schedule that will allow the children to visually see the daily routine outlined and acquire knowledge of time concepts. These boards include visual, word, and number cues.

If you have any questions, please contact us .

Mrs. Lesley and Mrs. Kelly



April Birthday's

Lindsey ~ April 3

Madison ~ April 18

Madelyn ~ April 26

Poem of the Month

April Rain Song

Let the rain kiss you.
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.
Let the rain sing you a lullaby.

The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk.
The rain makes running pools in the gutter.
The rain plays a little sleep-song on our roof at night -

And I love the rain.

Langston Hughes



Kim Lucas from 5-Star Ace Hardware ,in Highland, celebrated March is Reading Month by sharing her favorite book, Fluffy the Porcupine by Helen Lester with our preschool class on Tuesday, March 25.



Curriculum Corner

3/31 — 4/11 **Our Earth**

4/14 — 4/25 *Fairy Tales/Nursery Rhymes*

4/28 — 5/9 **Rainbows**

Tell Your Friends About Us!

We offer children the opportunity to explore new ideas, practice making choices, feel competent and in control, interact with others, and fine tune new skills.



We are very excited about all the great things the children are doing here and we are looking for friends to share it with.

We have enrollment spaces available and if you know of anyone looking for care, please recommend us.

We will be more than happy to give you \$50.00 off one weeks tuition for every referral that signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days. This is a special offer for April.

Please tell your friends about us!!!!



**Summer
2008
Adventure
Creative
Arts Camp**

Book Now!

Space is limited.

Camps fill quickly and we want to ensure our currently enrolled Building Blocks families receive first selection. If you have any questions, see Emily.