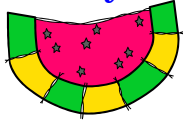


# BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



[www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com](http://www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com)

## Emily's Corner Message From The Director



Is it just me or is this summer flying by? Maybe it has to do with all the fun activities and learning experiences happening at Building Blocks this summer or the excitement I feel about the journey Building Blocks is on. I can't help but reflect on the quote, "It's the journey, not the destination", when I look toward the future for Building Blocks.

In September, we will be combining our Pre-school class of 3-5 years of age in a co-teacher environment, this modification will continue our commitment to the best practices in early childhood education. The addition of new teachers will allow for the development of a cohesive staff committed to the development of a philosophy based on the Reggio Emilia Approach. We also will be expanding our program to offer Tra-

ditional AM Pre-school. We do have a few spaces available, so let your friends know about our great program.

Most importantly Building Blocks will continue to give our families the same "peace of mind" they have relied upon by offering a safe, nurturing, and educational environment.

On August 15 there will be an Open House for current and potential families from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 pm. Join us to receive program information, meet our outstanding staff, get your questions answered or voice your concerns.

Some of you may be aware of what a quality early childhood program entails, however, others may need to be educated. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) emphasizes that quality early childhood programs foster positive relationships - among the chil-

## August 2007

dren, between children and adults, and among teachers and families - to help children get a great start on learning.

One of my many goals for Building Blocks is to create a sense of community within our center for our children, teachers, and parents. Building a culture where everyone feels respected, cared about, and bonded together. My vision is that our children, teachers, and parents will become a "family" during the years we spend growing and learning with one another.

Building Blocks will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 25. This is an opportunity to meet other families, say hello to new faces, and goodbye to old friends. Please join us!!!

Communication between our families and staff is one of our fundamental commitments. Please feel free to speak with me at anytime.  
Ms. Emily

## Volume 4, Issue 1

### \*\*Dates To Remember\*\*

**August 15** ~ Preschool Open House 5:00 -7:00

**August 20** ~ Building Block 3 Year Anniversary

**August 25** ~ Building Blocks Family Ice Cream Social

**August 29** ~ Building Blocks Creative Arts Show

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## Building Blocks Family Ice Cream Social



Saturday, August 25

2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Building Blocks Playground



## General House Keeping Items

### Parent Handbooks

Revisions are being made to the current version of our Parent Handbook. Revised editions will be available and distributed to all families soon.

### Yearly Fees

According to the current and revised edition of our Parent Handbook a **yearly re-registration/program/materials fee of \$45.00 per child is required on or before September 1, 2007**. This fee is to help supplement the administration costs associated with each individual child's records, holiday gifts for families, art supplies, and the many family activities offers here at Building Blocks.

### 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.

### Schedule Changes and Vacations

Remember to request in writing any changes in your child schedule or vacation time. Please give us two-weeks notice when making requests to accommodate staffing.

### Checking In and Checking Out

Please remember to use your four digit code to check-in and check-out your child each and everyday. If you have someone else who routinely picks-up or drops-off we can assign them a code as well.

### Monthly Snacks

Just a friendly reminder that the \$10.00 snack fee will be applied to your account after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

### Absences

If your child will be absent from the center on a regularly scheduled day please call the center by 9:00 a.m. to notify staff.

### Emergency Cards

Each family will need complete an updated Child Emergency Card. This is a State Licensing Requirement and it will ensure that we have the most current and up to date information on your child.

### Health Physicals

Children under the age of 30 months are required to update health physicals yearly. Children over the age of 30 months are required to update health physicals every two years. Immunization records are also required yearly. If your child is in need of a current physical or shot record please submit them as soon as possible.



This summer has been flying by so fast. We have been having so much fun with water fun days. The infants have been getting used to the water and enjoy splashing around and cooling off. It was so cool to have ice cream bus come to visit! Lucas and Landon enjoyed junior fire-cracker red, white, and blue popsicles while Amelia loved her big sponge bob popsicle.

All three babies have been developing and learning so much

## Ms. Laura's Infants

each and everyday. Lucas is really using his legs and is so close to walking. He can stand up without holding on to an object. He is such a happy little guy and he has so much fun here. His newest accomplishment is climbing up the slide in the baby room. Once he get to the top, he gets upset because he's not sure how to get down.

Landon is improving his walking skills. He loves to play outside, especially in our new sandbox! He also likes to play in the toy cars outside. Landon is

also having a lot of fun at Building Blocks.

Amelia is getting six new teeth at the same time!!! She is learning so many new words. Some of her new words are, what happened?, open, bye bye, more cracker, mine, and blanket. She loves the sandbox too!

I hope the last month of summer is as great as the last two!

Ms. Laura



What a busy month for all the families, so many, many, many vacations! The last week of July was the only week I had all my toddlers. Megan went Up North to visit her Great-Grandpa, Alex spent a week with his Grandparents, and Kennedy visited her Grandpa Up North! I also took a week off in July to visit my family in Indian River, MI.

Water Fun Day's are a huge hit with the toddlers, just thinking about their antics make's me smile! For one thing they are soooooo cute in their swimsuits. We're usually the first into the pool, which is very cold, the this stop

## Ms. Wendy's Young Toddlers

them, NO. Kennedy loves to pour the water and one day she was grinding the water to make we coffee, yum! Megan made a big mud hole on the playground, oh no! Alex found out that if you take a bucket of water and splash your teacher with it she will do the same to you. To hear this laughter of delight is worth every cold wet drop.

We're all TWO YEARS OLD!!! Kennedy May 12, Alex June 13, and Megan July 7. This can be a fun, frustrating, hilarious, lost my mind, you're growing up to fast time. So slow down and enjoy all the wonderful times you and your toddler are going to share.

We are reading books every-

day like Run Away Bunny and Busy Toddler, and BINGO is our new favorite song. We are working on colors (you're sitting on the blue chair or you're holding the yellow bucket). We are picking up after ourselves when we play with toys or after a meal. We wash our hands at the sink, hold the railing when we go outside, and line up when it is time to go inside. We are learning to put on our shoes and take them off. We are singing the ABC's all the time and counting too. We are learning to share and be a good friend. We are having lots of fun!

Ms. Wendy





The children are just loving the Water Fun days on Tuesday's and Thursday's. They have fun sliding down the slide and also jumping in. They take buckets and dip them in the water and pour it back into the pool.

Dillon and Jacob really

## Ms. Janet's Barely 3's

enjoy playing together. When they're outside they like to take all the vehicles put them in a big pile. They are always so proud of their creation. Sometimes they go into the middle of the pile and hide, then jump out and surprise us. They do a good job cleaning up and putting all the cars back in a line.

Abbigayle, Genna, and Alivia still like to swing on the tire

swing and sing songs. They sometimes have big discussions on what song to sing., most of the time its "Happy Birthday."

They really enjoyed when the ice cream bus came, they told me, "It was yummy in our tummies."

This month we'll be working on ladybugs, fish, stars, and bears!  
Ms. Janet



Hello Again, I hope everyone is having a spectacular summer. Another month has come and gone and I am so proud at what is taking place in our classroom. For the week of the 4th of July we looked into the flag, it's colors, stars, and the pledge of allegiance.

We did a review week followed by ladybugs. Ladybugs were fun and the children determined that it was a bug/insect because it had three body parts and six legs. We discussed its colors from red, yellow, and orange, to 0-22 spots. We also talked about what they eat (aphids) and how they help plants grow. This week has been spent talking about bees. Once again they determined that a bee is a bug/insect because of those major requirements. We have talked in great length about how bees go from flower to flower collecting pollen on their legs and drinking nectar, which they re-

turn to their hive and is used to make honey. We did a honey taste test and everyone but Skylar and Neveah liked it. We have pretended to be bees ourselves as we have flown around the room to the "Flight of the Bumblebees."

Most of the children are now doing 25 piece build it yourself puzzles. That means they have to build the border first and then fill it in. It has been amazing to watch them grow and develop these skills. I think I am most amazed by this groups bounding development of social skills. They are beginning to talk to one another more when a situation arises and yell or throw tantrums less often. They are cooperating as group and helping one another out in cleaning up, solving problems, or extending a hand or word of sympathy. I have watched Lindsey come to the snack table and see that her friend Danielle was going to be without a chair and before Danielle knew their was going to be problem, Lindsey went to

another table and retrieved a chair. Bravo Lindsey. I have watched Hunter pull his friend Owen in the wagon and when was too hard to pull a passer by friend, Skylar, dropped what they were doing and helped push. WOW way to go Skylar! I have seen Kailee enjoying making new friends. She still gets excited when Neveah comes to school. Danielle is tenderhearted and mothers everyone who seems to having a bad moment and is in need of a gentle word, hug, or someone just to sit next to them.

What can I say, your children awe me everyday that I come to work. I have been blessed to see them look beyond themselves and start to think about other thoughts and feelings. What an extreme statement to make about 3 and 4 year olds. Thanks for doing such a great job. It makes my work so much easier.  
Have an awesome August!

Ms. Lesley

## Ms. Lesley's Young Preschoolers



## Ms. Amy's Creative Summer Camp Artists

Summer is flying by so fast! The pre-k group of Alexa, Mikayla, Elizabeth, and Michael have officially joined us for the remainder of the summer before they head off the Kindergarten in the fall. Olivia, Rowan, and Quinn have finished up their year-round school year and are excited to join their friends.

We have had so much excitement from a wildlife visitor in our art studio, caterpillars transforming into butterflies, and

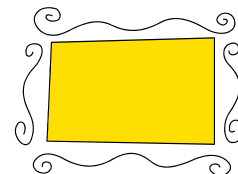
even the ice cream bus visit!

The campers have enjoyed learning all the different techniques, materials, and mediums that can be used to create their own works of art. We had a chance to make paper maché bowls, a large group wall mural, color wheels, wire art, and so much more.

You may have noticed that your child has not been bringing home very many art projects. This is because we are planning an art show towards the end of August where our art will be on display for all to see. We're also

creating group projects to be auctioned off at the art show. The group is very excited about this! There will be more information about this coming soon, but be sure to tell your family and friends because we are working on some amazing stuff! I can't wait!

Ms. Amy





### Happy Birthday To You!

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Ms. Suzanne ~ August 1

Hunter ~ August 1

Mason ~ August 2

Genna ~ August 6

Building Blocks ~ August 20

Lucas ~ August 21

## Song of the Month

### FIVE LITTLE DUCKS

5 Little ducks went out to play  
Over the hills and far away  
Momma duck says quack, quack, quack  
And 4 little ducks came waddling back

4 Little ducks went out to play  
Over the hills and far away  
Momma duck says quack, quack, quack  
And 3 little ducks came waddling back

3 Little ducks went out to play  
Over the hills and far away  
Momma duck says quack, quack, quack  
And 2 little ducks came waddling back

2 Little ducks went out to play  
Over the hills and far away  
Momma duck says quack, quack, quack  
And 1 little ducks came waddling back

1 little ducks went out to play  
Over the hills and far away  
Momma duck says quack, quack, quack  
And no little ducks came waddling back

5 Little ducks went out to play  
Over the hills and far away  
Daddy Duck says QUACK, QUACK, QUACK  
And 5 little ducks came waddling back

## 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 looking for a few new friends to play with here at Building Blocks. We are very excited about all the great things the children are doing here and 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 \$150 off one weeks tuition for every referral that

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

signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days. This is a special offer for July and August. Please tell your friends about us. See Ms. Emily for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE



**Building Blocks Program Open House**  
Wednesday, August 15  
5:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.



## Building Blocks Art Fair



Wednesday, August 29 6:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.  
View masterpieces of art created by our Summer Camp children. Artwork will be available for purchase with all profits going toward fundraising. Invite friends and relatives! If you have any questions see Ms. Amy or Ms. Emily.



## Parent Forum

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders: Their Future Is In Our Hands

**Thursday, September 13**  
**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Building Blocks is very excited to be hosting one of several community forums offered in Oakland County. The **Great Start Collaborative** in will be engaging members of our community to take a look at the current status of our children, determine what is working, and identify ways to improve services to young children and families. Child Care will be available. Visit [www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org](http://www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org) for more information or see Ms. Emily. We now know that whether a child reaches his or her full potential depends greatly on what happens in their first five years of life.