

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



Tracy's Corner Message from the Director

It is official...spring is finally here and I am looking forward to the warmer and brighter days that lie ahead. March was a very busy and exciting month at Building Blocks. I am very proud to say that the students reached our reading log goal and read almost 200 books. Great job everyone. Thank you to the parents who took the time to read and fill out the reading logs for their child. Reading is a wonderful way to spend time with your child and helps create wonderful memories. We will celebrate this great event with a huge ice cream party for all of our students on Friday, April 7 complete with ice cream, hot fudge, whip cream, and a cherry on top!

A very special thank you goes out to all of our families who took time out of

their busy schedules to fill out our questionnaire/surveys. It was greatly appreciated and gave us the opportunity to see where we need to focus on. We have received 15 back. We are overwhelmed with the positive feedback. If you haven't had the opportunity to fill out your survey please do it at your leisure or bring your comments and concerns to me and I will be more than happy to talk with you. We are hopeful to have a summary report to you in our May Newsletter. It takes a lot of hard work, dedication, commitment, and a love of children to have such an all around great program.

April is the Month of the Young Child. We are excited to celebrate children, families and early childhood education profession-

als. Please show off your purple ribbon in support of this special Month. I am happy to say on behalf of myself and the rest of the staff we are very happy to be a part of your child's day and the Building Blocks team. Ms. Suzanne, Ms. Mary, Ms. Wendy and I were glad to be apart of the MIAEYC conference held in Grand Rapids March 29-April 1, 2006. We will share information with you in the next several weeks. The rest of the staff was able to focus on upcoming lesson plans and curriculum for the upcoming spring /summer months. It was a great learning experience for all.

I hope to see everyone at the Easter egg at Building Blocks on Saturday April 15, 2006. May you all have a great month and remember April showers bring May flowers! Mrs. Tracy

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April 2006



Special Dates

To remember



*Sat-April 15, 2006, 10:00 am Egg Hunt, come and have some fun

*Mothers Day Tea- May 13, 2005-Info will be in your parent files by mid month.

April is the Month of the Young Child.

Week One: April 1-8 Recognizing Early Childhood Professionals Research and experience show the social and economic benefits of a quality early childhood experience—please recognize the professionals who provide quality education and care.

- Smiles are an easy way to show appreciation
- Offer to help in your child's classroom
- Catch the moment! Donate a roll of film and prepaid film developing to your child's school
- Help children create thank-you notes or gifts for their caregivers and teachers

Week Two: April 9-15 Celebrating Community Partnerships When public and private enterprises work together, they can more effectively provide for the well-being of children and their families.

- Wear a purple ribbon in support of MOYCC®
- Work on a community fund-raiser
- Make a donation of time or money to your local Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Visit your child's classroom

Week Three: April 16-22 Promoting Healthy Children and Families Prevention is key in promoting healthy children and families; it assures excellent health for most children and allows more affordable treatment when children suffer serious health problems.

- Share an apple or other healthy snack with your child
- Enroll in a parent-child exercise class
- Schedule the first dental check-up for your toddler
- Learn what size car seat your child needs and how to install it

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

General House Keeping Items	2
Mrs. Nicole's Baby Dolls	2
Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits	3
Mrs. Mary's Marvels	3
Ms. Wendy's Newsbits	3
Enrollment	4
<i>Birthday</i>	4

General House Keeping Items

Late Fees- Please note all incoming late tuition will be charged \$20.00 per each day it is late. We hate to do this but have been left with no other choice. All tuition must be in by Fridays 6:00 p.m. in order to be on time. There will be no more Monday grace period. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sickness/health

We strive each and every day to have a healthy center and environment. We promote healthy habits, hand washing, healthy being. As stated in our parent handbook we ask all parents "if your child has a fever of 99* or above, diarrhea, vomiting, undiagnosed rash or sore, any profuse nasal eye/nose discharge' that they to keep there child out of the center for 24 hours or until the symptoms are no longer present." Or have a signed doctor's statement stating that the child is non-contagious and can return to school. This is a State of Michigan health department requirement and we ask that all parents respect this policy. We have been doing our best to be on top of things lately, however it is very difficult to help keep our staff and students healthy when children are brought into center ill. We understand this can sometimes be an difficult to miss work and have to make arrangements for alternative care however the children health and well being is always our #1 priority.

Check in Time

Please note if your child is not at the center on their **scheduled day by 9:00 a.m.** they will be marked absent for the day. If you are running a little late or have a morning appointment, please call ahead and let the staff know so we do not take your child off the class list.

Healthy Snack Menu Snacks

Please don't forget to bring in snack for your child's class. This is an exciting day for your child, they get to help pass out snack to their friends, and it helps promote our philosophy of sharing. As you have probably noticed our center is growing with more and more enrollment making our class sizes bigger. Please bring in a healthy snack for your child's class. We do serve 1st and 2nds so please make sure you have enough snack and juice or milk. We ask that you bring in a gallon of milk/or healthy juice and a healthy snack. Here are several great snack ideas. Cheese and crackers, a bag of apples, oranges, carrots and dip, celery and raisins. The students love putting their own snack together, you may bring in peanut butter and crackers and the students can put them together. This is a great opportunity to utilize their math skills. Our infants/ toddlers should have enough snacks for 12 students and our young preschool/preschool should have enough

snacks for 24 students. This includes 1st and 2nds. If your child would like to celebrate their birthdays with a special treat we ask that you please include a healthy snack with their birthday treats if you plan on bringing in on their snack day. Those families who do not bring in snack will be charged \$10.00 to their account.

Summer Schedules/Fall schedules

It is hard to believe that summer and fall are just around the corner. Our enrollment is quickly increasing and we want to make sure we have a space for everyone. We will once again be offering our great school age summer camp "Camp Wahissa" for our students ages 6-12. Please talk to any staff member about our camp program and for enrollment information.

Also, for any students that will be enrolling in Kindergarten in the fall, please make sure to let the staff or Tracy know of your child's schedule and any adjustments that will need to be made.

Spring Pictures

We will be having Spring Pictures in May at the center. We will be working again with Life Touch photography. We are very excited and look forward to taking pictures of their smiling faces. There will be more information to come in the near future.

Month of the Young Child Continued from page 1

Week Four: April 23-30 Advocating on Behalf of Children and Families Although most of our children live in healthy, nurturing environments, too many do not. We have sufficient resources to assure the well-being of every child, but it will take citizen ad-

vocacy to make that happen.

- Protect children from second-hand smoke
- Trade off child care with a friend
- Celebrate your family; create a family tree
- Register to vote

Displaying a purple ribbon shows you care about young children and are aware of their needs. Show your commitment to Michigan's young children by placing a purple ribbon: on your lapel, on your car, in your window, on your desk, on your briefcase, handbag, or tote on your child.



Our babies are having a blooming spring start this April. Everyone is doing well. Kennedy and Tyler are well on their way to becoming crawlers while Alivia is exploring her wonderful new world of walking, and Abbi your sign language is coming along so good. A very Happy birthday to Lindsey who will be turning 2 on April 3, Happy

Mrs. Nicole's Baby Dolls



Birthday Lindsey. A very special thank you to all the infant/toddler parents and children that participated in our March reading. Our infant/toddler class contributed 50 books to our goal. Great job everyone! Some of the upcoming themes we will be working on this month are reptiles, Earth week, and pet week. We will also be doing some Easter projects. Feel free to bring in a stuffed pet for

your child to share with his/her class the week of April 10th. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Easter egg hunt on Saturday April 15, 2006. This is a great family event that was enjoyed by everyone last year. You won't want to miss it. Hope everyone has a happy Easter. Mrs. Nicole.



Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits



The toddlers have been enjoying learning new finger plays. This month we will be working on learning new springtime songs. They love showing everyone how well they know their songs. Some of their favorites are 'wheels on the bus' and "Itsy

bitsy spider'. With the warmer weather we have been able to get outside more and the children really enjoy the fresh air. The toddlers did a great job getting putting on their snow pants and boots all by themselves.

The children really enjoyed all the books we read throughout the month for March reading month. The Dr. Seuss books were some of their favorites. They love pretending to be "The cat in the hat." Happy spring, Mrs. Janet



Mrs. Mary's Marvels



The sun is shining and we are all so happy spring is here. Besides playing outside we have been very busy in our class. We have a new friend, Caden, in our class. Our boy ratio has caught up to the girls!!! This month while reading some counting books, we came across an author named 'Emma' and an author named 'Elizabeth'. How fun it was to see our friend's

names on the cover of a book. (Of course they were our favorite books to read this month.) On Fridays we have been having a baking class. Ms. Amy Jo is the young preschool teacher on Fridays and she has been measuring and mixing great recipes with the students. They have made home made from scratch chocolate chip cookies, banana bread, other yummy treats. The treats have been Delicious! They have been practicing their

math skills while enjoying this activity. This month we have also been matching letters in our name to foam letters. We have also been talking about beginnings and endings of our name. Just like stories have a beginning and an ending. Even though the weather is warming up keep your child's boots at the center, you never know what the weather will be like living in Michigan.



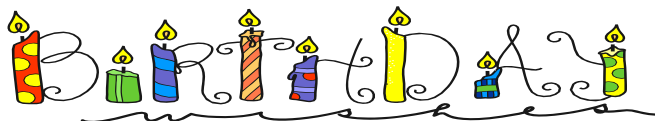
Ms. Wendy's Newsbits



By now you should have heard your child talking about 'Wow' days, o.k. days, and sad days. You should also be receiving your child's behavior charts in their file folders on Fridays or your child's last day of the week. You may also check the behavior chart that is posted in the big room to see how their day has been if you can't wait till Friday. Your child will be more than happy to show you where it is in the big room. The children have really been enjoying this program and I have seen a great response of positive behavior with the students. We are adding a new incentive to our behavior chart, a special from Miss. Spider's treat bucket. If a child has 5 'Wow' days or if they receive a 'Wow' day for each day they attend Building Blocks they will be able to pick out that many treats from the bucket. This is also a great math tool. Just a few friendly reminders, please make sure your child leaves their toys at

home. Lately we have been having a problem with toys being brought in from home. They are often getting lost and broken. Your child however may bring 1 soft toy or 1 doll from home. These are utilized during nap time. Your child may also bring their game boys, however game boy time is utilized in the morning during station time before 9:00 am and in the afternoon for station time. The students are only allowed scheduled time for game boy activity. Please make sure your child's name is on their belongings. Many of our Preschool students have been coming into the center with exciting news! Kindergarten round up has begun! Yeah! We are so excited for our students. We enjoy hearing what the children have been sharing with us about their big school experience and all of the things that they have to look forward too. Our 4 veteran kindergartens Rowan, Coral, Devin and Alyssa have sharing stories

with their friends to let them know how fun Kindergarten will be. We will continue to focus on letter and number recognition, pre-reading, pre-math, and literacy skills. We are starting to really focus on full names, addresses, and telephone numbers. This is a great area to focus and practice with your child. I am pleased to tell you that March 30-April 1, 2006 I had the opportunity to attend the MIAEYC conference held In Grand Rapids with Suzanne, Mary, and Tracy. This conference is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is one of the most top conferences held in the State. There will be more information in the upcoming weeks on all of the great learning opportunities that were offered and shared. I look forward to telling you about the trip. Ms. Wendy



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Lindsey Tirell-April 3

Devin Kurpinski-April 8

Trevor Welsh- April 14

Kaylyn Davies- April 16

Spring Time Cleaning

Are you doing some spring cleaning? We are in need of some items that you may be willing to donate to the center.

We are in the need of:

- *Spoons
- *Forks
- *Baby Bibs
- *Children's Books

We appreciate all your support and your donations!!



Did you know?

That you can help you child learn instrumental reading skills by:

- **Reading together**
- **Pointing to letters and words as you read**
- **Read in unison**
- **Helping them with the tough words**
- **Avoid distractions**

Enrollment-Tell you friend's

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

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

We will be more than happy to give you \$50 off your weekly tuition for every referral that signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days. The more that you refer and sign up the greater the savings you will receive! Also, if you have community boards in your place of work we would like to display some of our brochures/flyers. If you could do this please see Tracy.

Enroll you child now for day camp.

**SURVIVOR CAMP
Wahissa**



Wahissa comes from the Cherokee tribe meaning Happy Place . *We at Building Blocks offer a fun filled adventure for your child AGES 5-12.* Our summer program is about having hard earned fun. You child will take on a new theme each week, and master lessons and activities designed to expand the mind and strengthen developmental, physical and social skills.

- **Weekly Themes such as "Grossology- the study of all things gross", "Stars and Stripes", "Lights Color Action", "Under the sea" just to name a few**
- **Wacky Wednesday, A celebration of the wacky and wonderful and Thursday Water day.**
- **Monday- Friday 6:30 am-6pm**
- **State Licensed, you supply brown bag lunch & we will provide the Snacks. Teachers are CPR and First Aid Certified, low staff to child ratios**
- **Before May 1 registration fee is \$50.00 After, May 1 registration fee is \$75.00**
- **Enroll Now, Call 248.889.2727.**