

# BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



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

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April 2007

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

- **Lifetouch Pictures- April 5, Thursday**
- **Egg Hunt - April 7, Sat. 10:00 a.m.**
- **“Exploring Clay” Parent Workshop - Wed., April 18 6:00-7:00**

## Emily's Corner Message from the Director



Spring is here!!!! All of the age groups enjoyed the warmer days we had in

March. As the season changes our environment will transform around us making learning experiences naturally occur. A great example of this happened several times last month with the toddlers and Ms. Wendy. As the rain fell outside the children sat in the doorway observing, expressing their reactions to the rain, and enhancing their language skills. Ms. Wendy placed pots, plastic bowls, and glass cups outside in the rain and the toddlers listened to the different sounds then used the water that was collected. We then water the plants in-

side. What a wonderful learning experience!!!

Our first Parent Advisory Council meeting was a huge success. It was great to see so many parents interested in getting involved in their child's early education experiences here and Building Blocks and support our mission and goals for children. Check out the article on the second page for more information.

Our teacher in-service day was very packed full of learning, exploring, cleaning, and rotating, and organizing. The staff expanded their knowledge and worked hard rotating toys and materials in all the classrooms. Areas of the center got thoroughly cleaned and organized. We spent the morning discussing different approaches to planning our curriculum here at Build-

ing Blocks. Each teacher shared their ideas and discussed how to incorporate all of our different teaching styles into our curriculum. In the afternoon we explored clay and learned how to approach introducing young children to clay. This month each age group will be introduced to clay as a versatile material that presents endless opportunities for exploration and learning.

I'm very excited about the month of April being *The Month of the Young Child!* The theme for this year is *Building Better Futures for All Children.*

I encourage parents to join me this month by recognizing and supporting the needs of young children in our community.

Early years are learning years-make them count! Enjoy the Spring, Ms. Emily

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## MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD®



Each April, Michigan celebrates the Month of the Young Child®. This is time when communities and individuals recognize the needs and rights of young children and families. Since 1971, one week in April has been celebrated nationally as Week of the Young Child. In 1985, Michigan expanded the celebration

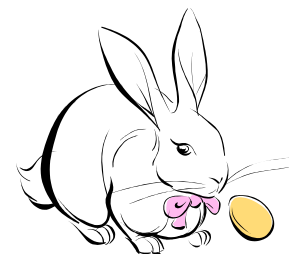
to the entire month of April, with each week having a special focus. The Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children coordinates the campaign with support from local and state organizations, businesses and public agencies.

This year the Michigan 4C Association and the Michigan Legislative Children's Caucus will hold the first annual *Michigan Child Care Day at the Capital* on Tuesday, April 24. Parents, Providers, and

advocates for young child are invited to speak with legislators about issues concerning child care. There will also be a speaker along with exhibits.

Look for a monthly calendar in your parent file for daily ideas on supporting and celebrating the Month of the Young Child, issues that face young children, and much more.

If you would like more information or have any questions about the Month of the Young Child® see Ms. Emily.



**Tuition**

Just a friendly reminder that tuition is due on 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.

**Extra Clothes**

The season is changing and children are growing!!! Please

**General House Keeping Items**

check your child's supply of (2) extra sets of clothing. Accidents and creative messes do happen.

**Playground**

During spring the playground tends to get muddy with all of the April showers we get. Snow boots or rain boots are recommended.

**Spring and Summer Shoes**

It's almost that time of the year for sandals again. For outside play this spring and summer we are

asking parents to send a pair of athletic type shoes and socks for their child. This way the children's feet will be protected from injury. Flip flops and other sandals can be worn indoors.

**Infant and Toddler Morning**

**Drop off** Please fill out your child's details of last feeding, how they slept, ect. Also, any specific details regarding diet, sleep, or concerns. We will update your child's clipboard information.

This will help with open lines of communication. If you have any questions please ask.

**Parent Advisory Council**

Our first Parent Advisory Council meeting was held on Wednesday, March 21. A special thank you goes out to Rebecca Borst, Shelly Pietraszkiewicz, Janette Russell, Megan Theil, Holly Topness, and Ms. Lesley for attending. Building Blocks Preschool believes that parents are viewed as partners in their child's education. We want to provide as many opportunities as possible for parents to partake in their children's early educational experiences here at Building Blocks. Your participation, ideas, and concerns are always encouraged and welcome. Research indi-

cates that when teachers, parents, and families work together children benefit. Parental involvement is a significant factor in determining a child's later success in school. By forming a parent group we will increase the awareness and need for high-quality child care and early childhood education in our community. Together we discussed what type of activities the Parent Advisory Council will do, how parents can get involved, and the different committees we can form. The formation of a Fundraising, Special Events, Staff Appreciation, and Community Involvement and Awareness Committees was discussed in detail. We also talked about ways the center can effec-

tively communicate information with parents. Several parents voiced concerns about not being able to properly get to know their child's primary teacher. We discussed the parent interest in knowing the weekly themes and curriculum for each age group and the best options for teachers to communicate that with parents.

The parents in attendance wanted to make sure a welcome was extended for other parents to attend the next meeting. Don't worry if you missed the first...we're only getting started. Look for an upcoming meeting next month. We will be forming our committees and looking for members. If you would like a copy of the agenda from our March meeting see Ms. Emily!

**Creative Arts Summer Camp 2007**

It's time to start thinking about Summer Camp!!! Building Blocks has a fun filled Arts Summer Program. We will have a full day program and a Tuesday/Wed/Thursday Morning program. For current enrolled families of children that are entering the first grade or higher will be at a discounted weekly rate of \$160.00 for Full Summer Enrollment. A second child enrolled in the camp program will be \$150.00. This rate includes lunch so you don't have worry about packing a lunch each day.



Your child will...

- Build self-esteem through pride in their accomplishments and the positive reinforcement from teachers.
- Express their ideas, feelings and dreams through creative movement, Music and short plays.
- Explore a variety of media including clay, painting, drawing, sculpture, wire, print making, photography and more.
- Learn about artists past and present from all corners of the globe
- Create awesome artwork in a warm and caring environment.

Superhero's Return, Pattern Wizardry, Around the World in 5 Days, Back to the Future, and Reinventing the Masters just to name a few are weekly themes. We will be having our Water Fun days and our Wacky Wednesdays, too. This summer camp program is designed for school-age children ages 6-10. Small Class size ratio of 1:12. Choose a few weeks or a full summer for your budding artist who will get a creative charge out of stimulating activities every day! See Ms. Emily about registration or more information.

**Space is limited. Register your child today.**



## Infant and Young Toddler Newsflash



Who would of thought that just sitting in an open doorway on a rainy day with five toddlers would turn into one of those magical moments, one to savor and hold on too! Just watching there little faces Alex B.-Kennedy-Amelia-Megan and Ales S. listening to the rain. Feeling the rain and watching the water fill up a blue bowl with rain water and then watering our plants. For art that day we painted with water colors and then we set our painting outside in the rain! Not once did we think of singing " Rain, Rain go away!" We also had a rain band we set out pots and pans and listen to all the different sounds the rain makes.

We are having so much fun, we are working on taking turns during hand washing and holding hands when we walk to the play ground. We usually sing a make up song " We are friends holding hands, we are being safe La La La la!" So cute!

The children really enjoy all the changes in the baby room the butterflies and rotation of new toys. Please make sure we have two or three changes of clothes for your little one.

Morning updates on your child help with the morning drop off. We need parents to fill in their drop off information. Last Feeding, Last diaper change,

how they slept any health concerns, ect. Your child has a clipboard for you to leave this important information. This will help us better care for your child through out the day. If you have any questions please feel free to ask. Open communication is KEY! Thank you, The Baby Room Team



Observing the Rain



### Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits



Mason and Alex S. we are so glad to see your smiling faces in the morning, you both have come a long way.

Congratulations to Abbi, Alivia, Genna, and Samantha on all the dry pull-ups! Keep up the good work.

The toddlers had so much fun last month playing with bird seed. They love dumping and pouring!

Another favorite activity they have fun with is making a path out of the alphabet waffle letter then marching, running, and walking on them to music.

This month we will be learning about the weather, flowers, and other outdoor things!

Ms. Janet



Toddlers + Birdseed = A Hands on Learning Experience



### Young Preschool Marvels



The young preschoolers marched right through another month.

We're all getting to know our new morning teacher Ms. Lesley and all of the new activities she shares with us. We continue to enjoy music and learning the words to new songs, animals, dramatic play, messy art activities, snack and

meal times, outdoor time, and of course nap time. Ms. Lesley has been focusing on helping all of us get ourselves dressed to go outside. We loved taste testing fruits, exploring shaving cream on the table top, and all of the play fruit and vegetables this past month. We're looking forward to learning all about spring, storms, the

environment, and the world around us next month!



Shaving Cream



### Ms. Mary's Pre-K Superstars



How excited to think summer is around the corner! March Themes started out with pet care and everyone enjoyed that theme. Elizabeth was thrilled to play with "doggie" everyday! We had a special Visitor, Ms. Brelin, Alex's Mom came in and talked to us about taking care of your pet. A big Thank you for your time, the children loved the first hand "Expert" information! We too,

got our first pet at school our goldfish, "Rex." Sorry to say he already passed away. We're thinking about getting a turtle or an aquatic frog soon.

Learning about our bodies was very fascinating for Peter, David, and Caden. We talked about bones, skin, muscles, our heart, and lungs. They love brining out the human body book!

We're still working on positive behavior, being kind to our friends, and teamwork with our classmates. Our

next reward is an ice cream party with all of the extra toppings!

Thank-you to David, Elizabeth, and Mikayla's families for putting together great boards for "Star of the Week" The children are proud to share them. Keep checking your parent folder to see who's next. Boards are displayed in the literacy room...check them out. Ms. Mary



Happy Birthday To You!

April Birthday's

Lindsey ~ April 3

Trevor ~ April 12

Madelyn ~ April 26

Song of the Month

If all of the Raindrops

If all of the raindrops  
Were lemons drops and gum drops  
Oh, what a rain it would be!  
Standing outside with my mouth open wide  
(stick out tongue as your saying the next line)  
**Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah**  
If all of the raindrops  
Were lemons drops and gum drops  
Oh, what a rain it would be!

If all of the snowflakes  
Were candy bars and milkshakes  
Oh, what a snow it would be!  
Standing outside, with my mouth open wide.  
**Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah**  
If all of the snowflakes  
Were candy bars and milkshakes  
Oh, what a snow it would be!

If all of the sunbeams  
Were bubblegum and ice cream  
Oh, what a world it would be!  
Standing outside, with my mouth open wide  
**Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah**  
If all of the sunbeams  
Were bubblegum and ice cream  
Oh, what a sun that would be!

Curriculum Corner

Week of 4/2	"Spring"
Week of 4/9	"Storms"
Week of 4/16	"Earth Day"
Week of 4/26	"Our World"
Week of 4/30	"Flowers and Plants"

**Artist of the Month:** Georgia O' Keeffe

**Author of the Month:** Madonna

**Colors of the Month:** Brown, Blue, Green

**Shapes of the Month:** Circle, Oval, Octagon

**Numbers of the Month:** Two, Seven, Eight

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 \$50 off one weeks tuition for every referral that signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days. If you need more information please see Ms. Emily.



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

Exploring Clay

During our teacher in-service day the teachers were introduced to clay as a developmentally appropriate art material that can enhance early childhood classrooms.

Young children love working with clay. It is a valuable creative material that can be easily manipulated, changed, and reformed over and over again. Clay teaches children about form, shape, texture, weight, and structure. Working with clay aids in the development of fine and gross motor skills through, touching, poking, pushing, pulling, prodding, squeezing, and joining. Clay provides a medium for children to express ideas, feelings, and what is going on in their lives. Clay builds self-confidence by responding to the child's will. Its malleable nature allows children to control the forms they make and change. It is impossible to make mistakes. Handling clay claims the nervous system and relieves tension.

Join us on Wednesday, April 18 for a special Parent Workshop about the benefits of clay for young children and explore clay yourself.



Parent Workshop  
Exploring Clay

Wednesday, April 18  
6:00pm-7:00pm