

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



Volume 2, Issue 12

August 2006



Tracy's Corner Message from the Director

We are headed into our tail end of summer and the fun continues here at Building Blocks. Wow the Big Center room is measuring up and the New Sand and Water Table has been a great addition. Each new improvement we have made and each new learning tool we have added to our program brings enrichment and pleasure to our children. We are on a wonderful journey and we are taking all of you with us. The students have had so much fun learning about the great state of Michigan and being a Michigan kid, the exciting life of the high seas being a pirate, and the secrets of King Tut's tomb. This month we will be heading off into the "Great Forest", showing off our game in "Extreme Sports", "Flashing Back" to fun, and "All things round-project approach". We are very excited about all of our August themes, especially our 2 week project approach "All things round." This will be a great learning opportunity for all of us here at Building Blocks. This is a new addition to our

program. We will be incorporating several projects over the school year. You may ask what is a Project? A project is defined as an in-depth investigation of a real world topic worthy of children's attention and effort. The study may be carried out by a class or by small groups of children. Projects can be undertaken with children of any age. They do not usually constitute the whole educational program. Younger children will play and explore as well as engage in projects. Older children's project work will complement the systematic instruction in their program. The Project Approach refers to a set of teaching strategies which enable teachers to guide children through in-depth studies of real world topics. The Project Approach is not unstructured. There is a complex but flexible framework with features that characterize the teaching-learning interaction. When teachers implement the Project Approach, children can be highly motivated, feel actively

involved in their own learning, and produce work of a high quality. The question that we ask when considering a topic of Study or "Project" is ***How can a study of this topic...***

- Build on what children already know?
- Help children to make better sense of the world they live in?
- Help children to understand one another better?
- Enable children to understand the value of literacy and numeracy in real life contexts?
- Offer children ideas for dramatic play/representation?
- Encourage children to seek sources of information outside school?
- Facilitate communication with parents?

This month **we will explore Balls**—your child will investigate and study Balls. We will be incorporating Math, Science, Vocabulary, Art, language arts and Large & Small Motor Skills. All hands on learning. This will be a lot of fun!! Enjoy your August, soon we will be implementing our great Fall School Program. Mrs. Tracy

Date to remember

August 21, 2006
we are celebrating
our 2 year anniversary.

Inside this issue:

General House Keeping Items	2
Ms. Jenna Camp Wahissa	2
Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits	3
Mrs. Mary's Marvels	3
Ms. Wendy's Newsbits	3
New Enrollment	4
Birthdays	4

Health Physicals

Parents, students are required to have yearly physicals. This is a State of Michigan mandated law. If a child does not have a current physical or is not updated on their shots they may not attend Building Blocks Preschool Daycare. If your child is need of current physical/shots please have them submitted as soon as possible. Mrs. Tracy will inform any parents that may be affected by this.

Sick Days

Parents, if your child is running a fever and absent from school, they must be fever free before returning to the center for 24 hours. Also, they should not be showing a rash, vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours as well. It is very important that you follow this health policy. It greatly reduces illnesses within the center for staff and children.

Snack Menu

Parents, please don't forget to bring in snack on your child's day. The children really enjoy passing out their snack to their friends. It promotes our philosophy of sharing and is enjoyed by all. If you do not bring in snack your account will be charged a \$10.00 fee. You may bring in a gallon of milk or juice, and

fresh fruit, crackers and juice, yogurt, or any healthy snack choice.

Annual Registration Fee

According to our handbook policy all students will be required to Re-register your child for the year and will have a **annual fee of \$45.00 per child is due on September 1, 2006**. This fee is to help supplement the administration cost for keeping all health documentation current for the state and additional child related expenses such as holiday gifts for families and art supplies. If you have any questions regarding this please see your Building Blocks handbook or Mrs. Tracy.

Bus Routes

Building Blocks currently has busing available for Spring Mills Elementary and for Highland Elementary. It is the parent's responsibility to confirm with transportation if your child will need busing services from Building Blocks. This is extremely important for all students attending kindergarten this fall. The number for transportation is 248-684-8200.

Schedule changes

Scheduling- parents, we understand that sometimes you need to make occasional doctor's, dentist, and other appointments for your child during their day at the center. We ask that you please try to make their

appointments in the morning before bringing your child to school. We schedule our classes by teacher to student ratio and we start breaking down our classes in the afternoon. If you need to pick up your child and bring them back to the center after their appointment, please let the staff know as soon as possible so that we can make sure your child stays on the list and the class is scheduled accordingly. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and expected. A two week notice is required. All schedules must be in writing. Please let the staff know of your child's kindergarten schedules, before and after school, and any other changes that affect their schedule.

Your child's supplies

Parents please make sure to check with staff on the status of your child's diapers, wipes, cereal, and extra changes of clothes. Please bring in any necessary items promptly. We also need all parents to bring in 2 changes of clothes to store in their nap baskets. Due to the low amount of extra clothes available, we may need to call you at work if your child has had an accident to have you bring in extra clothes for them.



Whew! Summer is flying by...and what fun we are having. The Camp Wahissa kids have been doing some great hands on science projects. Some of their favorites have been launching a bottle rocket made out of a 2 liter pop bottle, making and creating a volcano and seeing the effects. They are

Ms. Jena Camp Wahissa

also having a lot of fun with Thursday water fun days. This is one of the high lights of their week. They have also been excited about a new reading program that we have launched. They are now always asking to read to me. I am also happy with the response of the physical activity logs. Keep sending them



in! Let's have a great rest of the summer.

Ms. Jackie has been doing a fabulous job of working with the students on their math and reading skills. The children love the one on one attention and it is really strengthens their skills. Thanks to Ms. Jackie for all of your help!



Wow! The summer is just flying by and we can't believe how big and grown up our infants are getting. Congratulations to Kennedy with her new accomplishments of pulling and standing up by herself. We are anxiously waiting for her to amaze us

Mrs. Nicole's Baby Dolls

with her walking skills! Abbigayle and Makenzie are really getting into exploring their artistic side. They have really been enjoying painting lately and we can't wait to see their next masterpiece. Hannah is adjusting very well and her friend love to play with her when she is here. Alivia has also



been making us giggle and laugh with her growing curiosity. We are all excited for this months themes especially "Grossolgy" Hope you all have a great month! Ms. Donna, Ms. Amanda, and Ms. Danielle



Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits

A big happy birthday goes out to Genna! Karissa, Danielle, Lindsey, and Genna love playing with our new sand and water table outside. They are learning that if they keep the sand in

the table there will still be sand to play with next time! The girls are also doing a great job of practicing going on the potty. Keep up the great work! They have also been learning the importance of patience. They are

taking turns at art, squeezing the glue bottle. We go around the table and see how much glue will come out of the bottle by how hard they squeeze it. We will be practicing more Patience activities this month.
Mrs. Janet



Mrs. Mary's Marvels

This month Ms. Amy Jo is sharing our young preschool news! Summer is flying by; I can't believe August is here! We've had a lot of exciting and memorable moments so far this summer. I would like to share one that makes me very proud our class. Our young preschool class overcame a fear that most of us never have (even I just got over it myself on a field trip with my daughter). They allowed a

daddy long legs (harvestman) to crawl over their arms. What a big feat for 2 ½- 3 year olds. This month we found and caught 5 monarch caterpillars and watched them make their cocoons. Soon they will be beautiful butterflies, Water fun day has also been a lot of fun- the kids love splashing in the water. They are finally able to really enjoy this summer addition of our program.

We have a great new sand and water table that has become an everyday thing on the playground. Everyone is doing a great job adjusting to our new classes because everyone is moving up. Happy Birthday Hunter and Olivia!! I would like to take a moment and welcome our new friend Averille to our class. We are so glad to have you!
Ms. Amy Jo



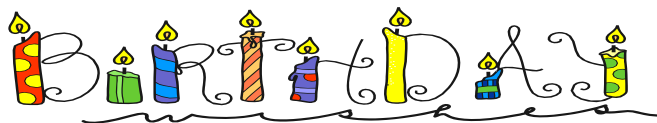
Ms. Wendy's Newsbits

This summer seems to be flying by and of course the students are really enjoying themselves. I have really enjoyed having the opportunity to really get to know your children; typically we do not transition the classes before September. This early transition is a great benefit for the students and the teachers. We have 9 students in our up and coming preschool class, Alex, W, Alexa, Cameron, Stella, Emma, Michael, Mikayla, David, and Elizabeth. I would like to welcome our new friend Stella to our class. We are so glad that you are here. This past month the students

went on a great adventure on the big blue seas with mermaids and pirates. Here is a story I would like to share with you about the students. We were reading a story about mermaids and the students wanted to know if they were real, I explained to the class that only a very few people have claimed to see a real mermaid and that no one had ever seen a real mermaid. I also shared how I like to believe that mermaids are real and live at the bottom of the sea. I asked what the children thought and they agreed with me too and they do believe they are real too. We also went on a treasure hunt, we found an old pirates map, it lead us to

the playground, we had to fight alligators and jungle vines. All of our students really turned into pirates that day! Ahoy mate! Thank you to Becky Glisan, Jordan and Emma's mom who donated the pirate caps. We also traveled to Egypt in search of the secrets of King Tut's tomb and learned about pyramids. We danced and "walked like Egyptians!" We are really enjoying the new outside water and sand table and are excited for the rest of our activities for the summer. Warmly,
Ms. Wendy





Happy Birthday To You!!

Student-Hunter August 1

Genna August 6

Staff- Mrs. Suzanne August 1

Olivia G. August 25

Katie W. August 26

Looking for Outcomes

As adults, we are concerned with the outcomes or the product of our efforts. We want the report to look nice, the cookies to taste great, or the hedges to be perfectly straight. We participate in few activities just for the fun of doing them. In part, this is because we are not still learning how to do most of these activities.

Do you remember how you learned to ride a bike or swim or use a new computer program? In the beginning you needed to spend a certain amount of time "messing around" -- exploring what happens if you did this or that. That is the way it is with your child. Kids are learning new things all the time, and they need the freedom to try things out without worrying about the product. Luckily, young children tend to be more involved with the process or the doing than they are with the end product or

results. That is why your child may draw all afternoon yet still not be able to tell you what he drew. And why one child can pour rice back and forth between pitchers all day long and another will string and unstring beads every day for a week.

It is hard for adults to look beyond the product of an activity and see what the child is learning from the process.

Perhaps he's learning coordination or beginning writing skills or making discoveries about triangles or gravity. He's certainly finding out that doing for one's self is very satisfying, and that builds confidence.

Be patient. Allow your child the time to grow and learn through the various processes that are part of the task.

Enjoy watching his or her involvement. Later, we all can be proud of the product.

Enrollment-July and August Earn \$ 160.00 back on Tuition
Special Promotion
Tell Your Friend's About Us!!

We have a few enrollment spaces available for the Fall and if you know of anyone looking for care, please recommend us. For the month of July and August we will be more than happy to give you \$160 off your weekly tuition for every referral that signs up for Full Time. And for 3 day part-time enrollment will give a \$50.00 off your weekly tuition referral . This will be reimbursed off of your tuition on the third week of the new families enrollment.



"We offer a high quality program and we are very excited about all the great things the children are doing here . We are looking for a few new friends to share it with. "

Mrs. Tracy

This is a special promotion for July and August. The more that you refer and sign up the greater the savings you will receive. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Tracy.