

# BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



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

## Emily's Corner Message From The Director

December 2007

Happy Holiday's to all of our Building Blocks Families!

During the holiday season, we are frequently bombarded with advertisements for children's toys that are often expensive or inappropriate, and many parents find themselves at a loss when trying to decide on the right gift for that special child in their lives.

Selecting toys for young children is an important task that involves decisions about the kinds of interests, motivation, and skills we want children to develop. Any toy given to a child should match his or her developmental age and individual needs.

When choosing a toy, careful attention should be paid to safety and durability--materials should have lasting play value and help provide a foundation for

future development..

Toddlers are increasingly mobile and independent. Dressing, lacing, and stringing materials, picture and nursery rhyme books, non-toxic crayons for scribbling, and stacking materials will be enjoyed by one-year-olds, while role-playing toys, pegboards, and large balls to kick, throw, and catch are good choices for older toddlers.

Three- to five-year-olds often find enjoyment from materials that promote pretend play and foster their language and social skills. A large variety of books suitable for this age are available, as well as an assortment of blocks, dress-up clothes and simple games, including dominoes, bingo boards, and card games.

Sharing the experience of giving can be the most rewarding present you give your

child this holiday season.

I'm very excited to be partnering with Community Sharing and Lighthouse this holiday season. Research has indicated that parents play a key role in getting children involved in charity efforts. Children look to our examples of generosity, compassion and selflessness more than ever at this time of year. Giving your children the chance to realize how they can be generous this year will foster fond holiday memories. Your children will learn life lessons of both compassion and generosity while they promote self esteem and pride.

Have a wonderful December! As always, I'm available for any of your questions, concerns, or comments.

Ms. Emily

## Volume 4, Issue 5

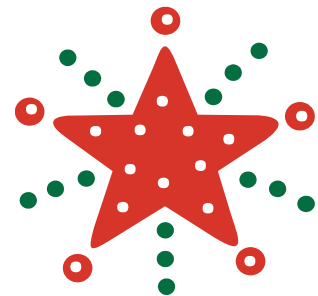
**\*\*Dates To Remember\*\***

**December 24 & 25 & 26 ~**  
Building Blocks Closed ~  
Christmas Holiday

**December 31 ~ 1/2 Day**  
Depending Upon Enrollment

**January 1 ~ Building Blocks**  
Closed ~ New Years

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



## Holiday Parents Night Out

Wednesday, December 19

6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.



Building Blocks is offering a night of babysitting for our families who have holiday shopping to do or just need a night out! The children will enjoy pizza, a holiday craft, and a movie. Cost is \$15.00 per child or \$20.00 for a family with two children. The cost covers dinner and payment for staff. There is a sign-up sheet at the Parent Communication Board! If you have any questions speak with Ms. Emily!

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## Community Sharing and Building Blocks Holiday Food, Clothing, and Paper Product



This holiday season Building Blocks will partner with Community Sharing a nonprofit organization striving to provide food, clothing, costs of shelter, services, referrals and advocacy for needy citizens living in the Milford and Highland areas.

We will be accepting donations of children's clothing,

food, and paper products.

There will be a labeled bin on the porch to collect the donations. Look for flyers posted around the center for high demand items needed at Community Sharing.

Building Blocks will also be adopting a local families through Lighthouse. As we did last year, there will be a

Christmas Tree with gift tags on it stating the age, item, and or size for an individual gift. Choose a gift tag, purchase the gift, return the wrapped gift with the gift tag to Building Blocks. If you have any questions please speak with Ms. Emily.

## 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.

### 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 to be updated yearly. If your child is in need of a current physical or shot record please submit them as soon as

possible.

### Holiday Vacations

Please provide in writing any days your child will be absent this month and indicate if this time will be used as your vacation provided by Building Blocks.

Building Blocks is closed on December 24, 25 and 26 for the Christmas holiday.

We plan to close in the early afternoon on Monday, December 31 and be closed on January 1, 2008 for the New Year. If you have any questions please see Ms. Emily.

### Outdoor Play-Winter

We do play outdoors in the winter at Building Blocks! Please remember to bring coats, snow pants, mitten, gloves, hats, and boots labeled with your child's name everyday. State Child Care Licensing rules state that we shall provide daily outdoor play when children are in atten-

dance for more than 5 continuous hours a day, unless prevented by inclement weather.

Preschool-age children will not go outdoors if the wind-chill factor temperature is at or below 20° F.

Infants and Toddlers will stay indoors when it is under 30° F.

Against popular belief, cold weather does not make children ill. Studies have indicated that children, who are taken outdoors, even during cold weather for short periods of time, have fewer incidences of respiratory illness. Open spaces in outdoor areas encourage children to develop gross motor skills in ways that may be difficult to duplicate indoors.



Well, I can't believe it's already December. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! The winter holidays are my favorite time of year and I love sharing them with your children. This past month we have done many thanksgiving crafts and we had so much fun with them. My favorite was the turkey handprints which are on the wall under the daily activity board in the infant/toddler room. I am amazed at how much each of the children are growing and learning each day.



**Amelia** is almost 23 months old! She went on vacation for Thanksgiving break and came back with a much stronger vocabulary, and she also grew about an inch taller. She is starting to form more sentences for her words and is using new words like: hot, pizza, have it (let me have it), dinner, water, soup, and many more. She loves to go to the play kitchen and then bring me back a bowl or cup and tell me it's hot and then blows on it to cool it down. Very cute!

**Madelyn** is 19 months old! She is understanding so much more. She usually shakes her head yes or no when I ask her a question. I

have noticed her and Amelia playing together more. She loves to sit down and read books to herself and also loves having books read to her which is great for her vocabulary.

### **Evangeline** is 20



months old! She is really starting to warm up to us and has so much fun playing with the other kids. Her vocabulary is growing and she does like the word "no"! She really enjoys art and dressing up with the dress up clothes.

**Lucas** is 15 months old! He is growing so fast (vocabulary and physically). He now shakes his head yes or no and is using new words like: thank you, more, cracker, and many more. I love my many hugs from him during the day. He likes it when I read books to him and he even sits down and listens for most of the story.

**Conner** is 27 months old! He is now one of the group and enjoys following our daily routines. One of his favorite times of the day is nap! Conner has started to use some sign language. At snack when he wants more he holds up one finger then signs

## Ms. Laura's Young Toddlers



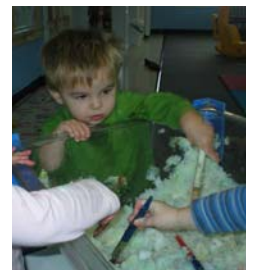
"more." Conner also enjoys pretending to be a kitten!

I am really looking forward to December and going outside to play in the snow. Please make sure your child has winter wear here everyday incase the weather is nice enough to go outside. Thanks!

Ms. Laura



Madelyn enjoys Thanksgiving Lunch!



Lucas paints snow in the sensory table!



Connor lines up colored lacing beads!

## Ms. Wendy's Older Toddlers

*Because words are essential in building the thought connections in the brain the more language a child experiences - through books and through conversation with others, not passively from television - the more advantaged socially, educationally, and in every way that child will be for the rest of his or her life. Conversely, the fewer words a child experiences, learns, and uses before school the more stunted that child brain will be.*

I Love this paragraph out of a book I am currently reading titled Reading Magic by Mem Fox. This is why we read to your child every day.

The toddlers and I have a special reading time every day during nap time. We pick out three or more stories and we all snuggle in on the floor. We have been reading Rolie Polie Olie, by William Joyce every day. We read the story in a slow rhythmic style. (Read no faster than the heart beat of a child this gives a child time to process the information and enjoy the story.) The children now can finish the sentences of the story.

The girls enjoy Say Please by Virginia Austin. This is a short story about a little boy and farm animals.

Megan, Madison, Kitty and Kennedy now all take turns trying to read the story to me and the class. We also enjoy What Mom-mies Do Best and What Daddies Do Best, by Laura Numeroff.

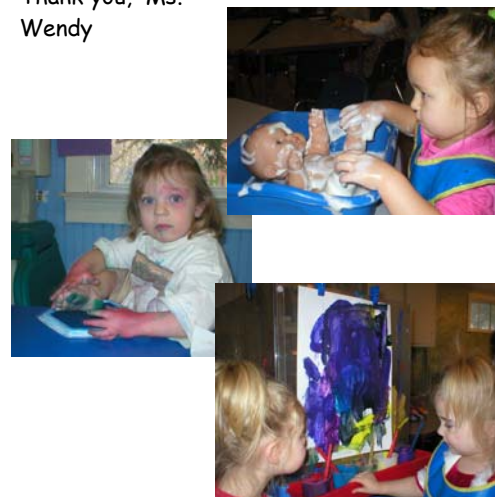
We are reading Have You Seen my Cat? by Eric Carle and Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?, by Bill Martin Jr./ Eric Carle. We talk about authors and illustrators. We are always adding new stories to the mix.

This month several Building Blocks staff and I had the opportunity to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> **Annual Community Sharing For Healthy Caring Regional Early Childhood Conference**- in Howell on Saturday November 17. We spent the day taking class, visiting vendors, and listening to lectures. My classes were The Brain for Beginners and Observation and Assessment. On Wednesday November 28, Ms. Jill and I took a workshop sponsored by Early On titled, Lets Talk. I hope to utilize and implement all the useful information I received on brain development and on speech and language. We are currently working on Ages and stages Assessments which should be finished the end of this month. During drop off and pick up I will be handing out your child's assessments. One of my very favorite things to do is observing your child at play. I am usually running for a note pad to record the all

the funny wonderful things your child says and does. My new favorites is a conversation I had with Kennedy, Kitty, Madison and Megan while we were reading "Rolie Polie Olie", the girls had noticed a small picture on the wall of the book and asked what it was. I explained it was a wedding day photo of Olie's parents, this was something grown ups do. Kennedy then said, "I not get married when I get big." Kitty said "I married." Madison said, "I will get married." And Megan said, "I get married." Then Kennedy said "Maybe, I'll get married after nap." This chatter went on for several minutes with much animation!

If you have any question, concerns, suggestions please ask.

Thank you, Ms. Wendy



## Ms. Lesley and Ms. Kelly's Preschoolers



What a whirlwind these last few months have been! Since we have started teaching together in the early fall, we have seen so much improvement in all our students. Like we told many of you in the Parent/Teacher conferences, we feel that the group is starting to get along better on a daily basis. When they can start handling their own problems, we as the teachers have more time to devote to individualized teaching. We have also seen some of our younger students start to get better at focusing and working hard on projects. It's been a hard transition for some of them to come up into a large group of kids, but they have grown so much and are making great progress.

As part of our new daily schedule, the children have a job board and every day we assign differ-

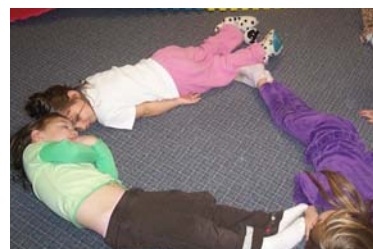
ent "occupations" to the students. The mail carrier and the tour guide are the favorites because one gets to help Ms. Emily go outside and get the real mail and the other is the line leader. Nevertheless, all the students take pride in whatever job they have. We have a vision of eventually "paying" the students in pennies for their completed job. Our goal would be to have the kids take value in their jobs and learn how to save and make choices with their money. There is also the benefit of teaching the value of money and coins. We are excited to see how that all will work out.

With the weather turning colder, we are still getting the children outside as much as possible. As long as the temperature and wind chill does not get to low, we will spend some time outside each day. Please make sure that your child comes with all that is necessary to

keep them warm including snow pants and appropriate mittens/gloves.

Thank you for the chance to spend time with your child to watch them grow! I will continue to keep you updated on our weekly activities. Have a fun time planning for the Holiday season!

Kelly & Lesley



Kailee, Karissa, and Skylar use their bodies during "Music and Movement Monday" to create a triangle.

# Song of the Month

## S-A-N-T-A

(sung to B-I-N-G-O)

I know a man with a long white beard  
And **Santa** is his name-o  
**S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A**  
And **Santa** is his name-o

He slides down the chimney  
With a pack on his back  
And **Santa** is his name-o  
**S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A**  
And **Santa** is his name-o

8 Little reindeer pull his sleigh  
And **Santa** is his name-o  
**S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A**  
And **Santa** is his name-o

## Parent Night

## & Magic



November 15, 2007



### 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 off one weeks tuition for every referral that signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days. This is a special offer for December.

Please tell your friends about us!!!!



I am thankful for...

Thank You to the families that donated food for our Thanksgiving Lunch!

### Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, January 10

6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

*FREE Child Care Available*

Join us for our first **Parent Advisory Council Meeting** of 2008! Everyone is welcome to attend . We're still in the early stages developing the Parent Advisory Council's goals and objectives and will be putting together our 2008 yearly plan. We have a lot of exciting things planned for the upcoming year beginning with our *Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fund-raiser* in January!

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 child's early educational experiences here at Building Blocks. Your participation, ideas, and concerns are always encouraged and welcome. Research indicates 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 this parent group we will increase the awareness and need for high-quality child care and early childhood education in our community. Speak with Ms. Emily if you have questions!

## DECEMBER

### Curriculum Corner

11/26 - 12/7 Families and Homes

12/10 - 12/21 Winter Celebrations

12/24 - 1/4 Sensible Senses

