

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



Emily's Corner Message from the

It's hard to believe that June is here already. May was another very exciting month at Building Blocks! My first Mother's Day Tea and Preschool Graduation were both such wonderful experiences shared with staff, children, and families. We've said goodbye to a few of our school year only children and will say the rest of our goodbyes in up coming weeks. A special thank you to all the wonderful parents who celebrated Provider Appreciation Day with us!!! On May 5, Suzanne, Mary, and myself attended a Provider Appreciation Brunch sponsored by the Oakland

County Child Care Council. We enjoyed the food, a storyteller presentation, and prizes. A staff meeting was held this month where staff members talked about collaboration and created a "visual board" for our center. We each cut out a variety of pictures, phrases, and items from magazines and collaged them on a large poster board. This visual board represents our vision for the future here at Building Blocks. The poster is hung on the wall above the art sink in the kitchen. Check it out! June is off to a busy start with our first Father's Day

Celebration on Thursday, June 14th at a 4:30 p.m. It's a Wild Wild West Hoedown!!! I encourage all of our Dads, Grandpas, Uncles, or any other special men in the lives of your child to join us!!! Our Creative Arts Summer Camp will begin on June 18! Openings are still available. Spread the word. On Saturday, June 23 is your first yard sale at Building Blocks!!! As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments feel free to speak with me! Ms. Emily

June 2007

www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com

Volume 3, Issue 10

****Dates To Remember****

- June 14 ~ Father's Day Hoedown
- June 18 ~ Summer Camp Starts
- June 23 ~ Yard Sale



July 4 ~ Center Closed
****Dates To Remember****



We all need some sun exposure; it's our primary source of vitamin D, which helps us absorb calcium for stronger, healthier bones. But it doesn't take much time in the sun for children to get the vitamin D they need, and unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays can cause skin damage, eye damage, immune system suppression, and even cancer. Skin cancer is by far the most common type of cancer in the United States, but it can be prevented. Most children rack up between 50% and 80% of their lifetime sun exposure before age 18. Just one or two blistering sunburns in childhood may double the risk of developing melanoma. Children who prevent their skin from becoming sun damaged will have much less risk of developing skin cancer later in life. **How to protect your children**

Sun Safety

from the Sun: Avoid the Strongest Rays of the Day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. **Cover Up** and shield skin from UV rays. Ensure that clothes will screen out harmful UV rays and encourage your child to wear a hat. **Use Sunscreen Consistently** The American Academy of Dermatology recommends that all children - regardless of their skin tone - wear sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher. **Purchase Protective Eyewear** Sun exposure damages the eyes as well as the skin. Not all sunglasses provide the same level of ultraviolet protection; darkened plastic or glass lenses without special UV filters just trick the eyes into a false sense of safety. Purchase sunglasses with labels ensuring that they provide

100% UV protection. **Be Sun Safe Yourself** Being a good role model by wearing sunscreen and limiting your time in the sun not only reduces your risk of becoming sunburned; it reduces your child's risk, too. All staff members at Building Blocks are committed to the importance of sun safety for all the children in our care. If you have not done so already please provide us with a sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher labeled with your child's name along with a signed permission form. If you have any questions feel free to speak with a staff member. Remember, sun safety is just as important at home, on weekends, and on vacations as it is at school.



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General House Keeping Items

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 you're unable to make a payment on time please notify us. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sunscreen

It's that time of year again to start applying sunscreen for outside time. Please supply us with a sunscreen product of SPF 15 or higher. Write your child's name on the bottle, and fill out a sunscreen permission form.

Summer Shoes

Just another friendly reminder to send your child with athletic type shoes and socks for outdoors.

Changes in Schedules and Vacations

Remember to request in writing any changes in schedules or vacations this summer. Please give us two-weeks notice when making requests in schedule changes to accommodate staffing. Full-time families receive two-week's vacation a year. If you have any questions about time used see Ms. Emily.

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 1st of the month. Fresh fruits are a great summer time snack!!!

Food and Drinks

Please write your child's name and date on any foods or beverages brought to the center from home.

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.



Building Blocks Parent Advisory Council

On Wednesday, May 16 the Building Blocks Parent Advisory Council met for the second time. Two of our four committees now have parent representatives heading them. We're looking for more parents to join or head committees. Our four committees are Fundraising, Staff Appreciation, Special Events and Activities, and Commu-

nity Involvement and Awareness. If you're interested in more information see Ms. Emily.

The Building Blocks Exchange Yard Sale will be our first fundraiser and the Father's Day Hoedown will be the first event for the Special Events and Activities Committee.

We want to provide as many opportunities as possible for parents to

partake in their child's early educational experience here at Building Blocks. Your participation, ideas, and concerns are always encouraged and welcome. Hope to see you at our next meeting in July!!!

A Building Blocks Family Picnic is in the works for late August.

Building Blocks Exchange ~ Family Yard Sale

On Saturday, June 23 Building Blocks will hold its first annual Building Blocks Exchange Family Yard Sale. This will be a fundraising effort with all proceeds going toward playground improvements. The sale will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be cleaning out the center and selling a lot of our duplicate, un-used, and out of date

toys, furniture, and materials. Families are welcome to donate items for the yard sale. We'll also be looking for volunteers to help throughout the day. There will be a bake sale, lemonade stand, and activities for the children. Items for the bake sale will be needed. Tables will be rented for the day by several different local home-based businesses like Mary Kay and

Creative Memories. Flyers will be available for you to distribute in the community. If you have any questions or would like to donate items see Ms. Emily.



Ms. Laura's Mobile Movers and Shakers



Happy Summer!!! This past month was great. We've been spending a lot of time outside and the kids love it. On May 30, we welcomed Lucas to our infant program and on June 5, we welcomed Landon!

Thank you to the Skavang Family for bringing in tadpoles. We have enjoyed observing them and look forward to them becoming frogs.

Amelia is taking so much and learning new words everyday. She calls everything "doggie." She runs to the door to tell me she wants to go outside. She runs around the room so fast it's hard to catch her!

Ethan is climbing on everything. He loves to climb up the ladder to the big yellow slide outside and on top of the picnic table. He is getting very strong.

He is exercising his local talents and talking very much!

Madelyn is growing so fast. She is almost walking on her own. She is talking/mumbling a lot more now. When we go outside, she likes to play in the dirt!

Starting June 18, my summer hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing all of you at pick up!

Ms. Laura



Ms. Wendy's Young Toddler Busy Bee's



We have tadpoles! Many, many, many tadpoles. Amelia and her family brought them in for us. YEAH! We're onto our second batch. This time we're keeping them outside in a green turtle sandbox next to the playground. Kennedy, Alex, and Megan love to watch them swim around. When we first got the tadpoles I asked

the children what they thought tadpoles would grow up to be and Abbigayle said, "A bucket." (I was holding them in a bucket) Genna said, "A bug." We will have lots of fun observing the tadpoles throughout their transformation. Stop and take a peek with your child at drop off or pick up. As usual we are busy little bees. Busy singing, reading, washing

hands, playing with friends, crying, sharing, exploring play dough, water play, making messes, laughing, etc. Alex will celebrate his 2nd birthday on June 13! Any questions as always - we are available. Ms. Wendy



We are now officially called the Barley 3's. Genna, Alivia, Faith and Abbi are going on the potty all the time now! Good going girls. They all love the new climber and vehicles on the playground. Mason and Alex S. just

Ms. Janet's Terrific Toddlers



love playing with the truck together, taking turns driving and being the passenger in the back. They've been singing their hearts out. Look for the June Song of the Month, Baby Bumblebee. The kids had fun having their

pictures taken to help demonstrate the motions of the song. This month we will focus a lot on water play as well as other fun outdoor activities. Ms. Janet

Ms. Lesley's Young Preschool



Over the last month we have been working on the concept of cal-

endars and time. The children are learning the names of the month and days of the week. They are also counting the days of the month too. We are learning about time and how to share space with other classrooms and age groups. I do understand they concept of time is on a continuum and will be learned and adjusted thought adolescent and into preteen years.

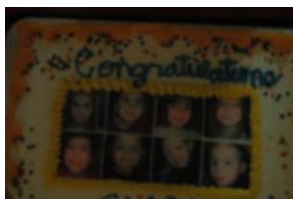
We have been working hard on mastering puzzles. Puzzles help children learn to solve problems as well as learn about shape, size, and color. It also gives them control and power over a situation. It helps the child with low tolerance and frustration level to stick with it and work it out.

All the children in this group have long since mastered the "peg puzzle" as well as the individualized piece puzzle. They have moved on to the 5-10 piece kind and I would say they have all mastered a 7-9 piece puzzle. This is not something we will learn and leave behind. We will continue to build on this until we reach the 12 then 25 piece level. After which we will move on to 25 piece build it yourself puzzle. Lofty goal? It may appear so but I have had much success with 3-4 year olds doing a complete build it yourself box puzzle. It just takes patience and time and we have a lot of both.

Another exciting thing that has come about during the last 31 days is the discovery of colors and the magic colors of red, blue, and yellow. The children have been working on discovering which colors can mix together and make new colors, orange, green, purple, and brown. I will venture out on a ledge and declare that all of these youngsters know the proper way to wash their hands. We have spent all month on getting our hands wet, using soap for at least 20

seconds, rinsing, and drying off consistently before and after meals as well as after the bathroom and art supplies. They have been working diligently at getting shoes and coats, on or off to go in or out doors. My only job is to tie, snap, button, or zip. Learning how to zip will be next on the chart of what to master. I would encourage parents to reconsider what shoes your child wears to school. Open toed sandals allow wood chips easy access to feet and much play time is lost in taking off, emptying, and refitting shoes. For June, we are adding the Pledge of Allegiance to our routine and will look forward to these young ones wowing us with their memorization skills. Thanks for your continued support. I do appreciate your kind words as I have settled into the routine here at Building Blocks. If you need to speak to me please feel free to drop me a note or contact me at your convenience. Thanks, Ms. Lesley

Ms. Mary's Pre-K Graduates



June is here! May has flow by. Last month was very

busy getting ready for graduation. Everyone is very excited about starting Kindergarten in Septem-

ber. Some friends will be back part-time in the fall, others will be moving on. Please let Ms. Emily know if you need care for your child in the fall. I would like to say goodbye to Caden, Peter, and Matthew for the summer. Also goodbye to Alex H. and Trevor who will be gone this summer and starting 1st Grade in the fall. Wow! Goodbye boys. I will really miss all of you.

Our new addition to the center is tadpoles! With any luck we will see them transform to frogs. I'm sure the kids will keep you up dated. We will be learning about frog in the beginning of June. Thank-you to all of the families that came to the graduation ceremony, the kids really had fun showing off for you! Thanks, Ms. Mary



Happy Birthday To You!

June Birthday's

London ~ June 6

Rowan ~ June 7

Ms. Emily ~ June 12

Alex B. ~ June 13

Alex G. ~ June 16

Alanna ~ June 26

Michael ~ June 17

Song of the Month

Baby Bumblebee



(Hands open)
BZZZZZZZZZ
Catch it!(Put hands together)



I'm bringin home a baby bumblebee
Won't my mommy be so proud of me
I'm bringin home a baby bumblebee



Ouch (pull hands apart)
He stung me



I'm smushin up my baby bumblebee (rub hands together)
Won't my mommy be so proud of me
I'm smushin up my baby bumblebee
Ew, Yuck what a mess (open up hands and look at them)



I'm wipin off my baby bumblebee (rub your hands on your legs)
Won't my mommy be so proud of me
I'm wipin off my baby bumblebee



All Gone (Put hands up to show nothing is there)

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 May and June. Please tell your friends about us. See Ms. Emily for more information.

Play is A Child's

Just a reminder that your child may get very dirty playing outside on the playground especially during the summer months. We do not encourage children to get dirty but we will not discourage it either. DIRT is almost like a badge of honor, it shows how hard your child played, and play is a child's work.



Play Clothes = Work Clothes

Curriculum Corner



- Week of 6/4 "Tadpoles and Frogs"
- Week of 6/11 "Father's Day"
- Week of 6/18 "Sun"
- Week of 6/25 "Ants"

Artist of the Month: David Hockney
Author of the Month: Jonathan London
Color of the Month: Rainbow
Shape of the Month: Heart
Number of the Month: Six