

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



Tracy's Corner Message from the Director

This is a special time of year at Building Blocks Preschool Daycare. We have 10 students that will be entering into kindergarten in the fall and we are so very proud of them. Congratulations to Alex Hubbard, Garrett Helm, Trevor Welsh, Olivia Tyrell, Buraq Oral, Jordan Glisan, Gage Wright, and Megan Delzesky, Rebecca Loncar and Michael Anne Hommell. I have had the rare opportunity to watch many of these students grow up with our program. In fact, most of the staff and myself have had the opportunity to see many of our students grow from being little ones. It is not very often in child care that students have the opportunity to grow within a program that prepares them for kindergarten. Each and every one of us at Building Blocks are very proud of all of our students and we are so glad to have been such an important part of their childhood. We have been able to help teach them the love of books, math, science, literacy, language, motor skills, and social skills. These skills are so important in a young child's life. We feel that we have been able to help teach them the building blocks of their life.

Speaking of special occasions, what a great time we all had at our Mother's Day Tea. It was such a wonderful afternoon and it was nice

to see such a huge turnout of all of our mom's, Grandma's, aunts, and other special people in our children's life. Please check the Building Block website for event pictures.

We have a whole summer of fun planned for all of our students. I am really excited about Camp Wahissa which means "Happy Place" in Cherokee and it truly fits for Building Blocks. Our center has become such a wonderful place to be for families and staff. During the summer our center will still continue to offer a structured program in which literacy, math concepts, science, art, and letter recognition will still be focused on. We will also continue to have fun cooking, playing in the drama area, and taking advantage of the great outdoors. We are very excited about our Wacky Wednesdays and Water Fun Thursdays. The summer also tends to be a time when we are a little bit more laid back and tend to go with the flow a bit more. We have been hard at work creating and implementing a new summer program.

I am happy to announce that Ms. Jena has returned to us for another summer. Ms. Jena is in her third year at Central MI studding physical education. We are so happy to have her back as a part of our Building Blocks team.

Did you know that over 70%

of our staff has been working for our center from 3 to 13 years? Our teachers are such a primary part of our program and the vast amount of experience our teachers have is incredible. Without our teachers Building Blocks would not be available to offer the high quality, individual program that we do today.

Recently we were acknowledged by one of our family's that stated. *"I was just thinking this morning after I dropped off the kids and saw your staff member hugging and kissing on the kids about how happy I am that we made the switch to your center. It is so nice and cozy and I really feel like the kids are loved and cared for there. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for that. That's something that can never be paid for. It's just something that is there or is not."*

Thank you to those families who took the time to acknowledge us on Friday, May 12, 2006 for "National Child Care Provider Day". It was greatly appreciated and sometimes a simple thank you can speak volumes.

Happy Fathers Day to all our Great Dad's! You are such an important figure in your Childs life. Enjoy your day!

Our Summer will officially be here on June 21 and let us hope for a summer filled of sunshine days and lots of fun. Warmest regards, Mrs. Tracy

www.buildingblocksschool.com

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Special Dates

To remember



***Graduation Ceremony**, all Pre Kindergarten Class Parents who's child starts Kindergarten this year Please Join Us Friday, June 2 from 4:30-5:30



Happy Fathers Day

June 18, 2006

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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 -See special note

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 can not have sick children at the center.. We understand this can be 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 pre-school/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. ease 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.

Important Health Policy

Dear Parents, I can not stress to you how important our Health Policy is. Please give us and all our families the RESPECT of keeping your child home when they are ill. Any student who shows signs of vomiting, diarrhea, fever, or rash like symptoms may not return to the center until they have been 24 hours free of symptoms. This means if you child is running a fever or has lose bowels on a Sunday, they may not return to the center until Tuesday. This will give the student their required 24

hours. If a student has 2 or more loose bowel movements within in an hour they will be sent home and they cannot return to for 24 hours. This is a policy required by the State and also the Michigan Health department. We do our best to provide a healthy environment, however we cannot do this if we do not have support from the parents. Please follow our health policies and do not put our staff into compromising positions. Also, please remember if your child is on antibiotics for colds, viruses, ear infections, etc. they may not return to

the center for 24 hours. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and expected. Children who have been under a doctor's care need to have a doctor's note to show that they can return to school.

We have a strong cleaning protocol that helps to prevent the spread of illness. As some illnesses are contagious even before symptoms appear, we always are observing caution.

We do appreciate our families that have been following our policy.

Thank you.

To being healthy! Mrs. Tracy



I want to send the warmest welcome to our new friend Makenzie Pearson (21 months). Hanna and Makenzie are transitioning well into the routine. You both have extraordinary personalities and we are so happy to have you here at our center. Kennedy and Tyler are both 1 year old now, yeah! Such big smiles they have been

Mrs. Nicole's Baby Dolls

sharing with us! Lindsey and Karissa are loving our new books. Olivia is beginning to transition into the toddler class and she is having more opportunities to play with the older toddlers which she has been enjoying very much. Abby and Genna have been doing wonderful with their vocabulary and using more words together, keep up the good

work girls! The biggest project we will be working on this month will be our Father's day projects the week of June 12...Shh don't say anything it is a secret! We will also be working on the following themes flowers, gardening, and bugs. If you haven't already, please make sure to bring in your student's sunscreen and permission form. Mrs. Nicole.





Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits



Danielle celebrated her birthday on May 29, hope your day was filled with fun. Hunter has been doing such a great job on the potty. I am so proud of you, keep up the great work! It has been fun to watch the toddler students outside playing a new pretend game they

made up by themselves. Whenever they swing on the tire swing they pretend they are on a train. We stop at 'Huntermville', 'Nathantown', 'Kailee park', and Kaylyn insisted on calling her town 'Princess City'. Now that it is getting warmer please make

sure your child has their sunscreen and is dressed appropriately for outside weather. We will also be getting ready for outside water play activities, we will keep you posted on when we will be starting. Mrs. Janet



Mrs. Mary's Marvels



The month of May has flown by! Our class has been spending a lot of time outside, learning how to make friends and how to play together as friends. Everyone loves Emma, because she is the best "swing pusher". Alex and Alexa love to search for bugs. Jordyn is doing a great job

'pumping on the swings'. David and Peter love climbing and playing with the trucks. Skylar and Elizabeth love to swing on the tire swing and Michael is always ready and willing to play anything and everything with everyone. We have started a new reward program in the young preschool class.

Who ever makes the best choices and is a good listener during morning meeting time gets to wear Ms. Mary's special sunglasses. Several of our friends have had a turn to wear my glasses; Skylar loves to wear my glasses. We are looking forward to many warm and fun days this summer. Mrs. Mary



Ms. Wendy's Newsbits



I am so proud to tell you that many of our preschool students are graduating from our preschool program and gearing up for Kindergarten in the fall. I am very happy to have played such an important role in your child's life. Though we will be having our special graduation ceremony on Friday, June 2, 2006 for our graduating students, we will continue to offer a great summer program filled with exciting themes which will continue the focus of literacy, math, science, motor skills, social, and enrichment. We will continue to work hard to make sure our Pre-kindergarten students will be ready this fall. One of my most enjoyable times with the children lately has been watching their imagination at play. We have been counting down from 10 to 1 and blasting off to Pluto to

rescue alien puppies. Or their total belief that when they sing 'rain, rain go away' the rain will truly go away. I love their interpretation of how things work. Recently I overheard a conversation at lunch and found great amusement with it, "Boys are from green beans- girls are from strawberries" says Alyssa, Alex H. claims "Boys are made of meat", and Trevor simply states "Were from our Moms tummies". This conversation was a great opportunity to ask the rest of the students "Where do we Come from?" Jordan G. says Michigan, Garrett says Earth, Devin says our mommies tummies, Mikayla agrees and also says our mommies tummies, Gage has the idea Police officer guys come from police officer cars, and Michael Anne thinks we come from trees. So funny some of these things kids say! The

early part of June will be an exciting time at Building Blocks! We have had the distinct opportunity to have a special costume loaned to us from the Michigan Transportation department. We will have a special visitor coming to the center "Click it" the cricket. We will be sharing the importance of transportation safety, booster seat and car seat safety, and the importance of wearing seat belts. Watch for upcoming information to be posted. We are very excited to be offering this program to our students and families. Also, a very special thank you to all of you who attended the Mother's day tea. The children worked very hard to show off for you and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Let's have a

CAMP Wahissa



Summer program- Once again we will be offering a jam packed action filled summer

program for our school age students. We will be focusing on hands on, interactive fun filled activities. Please let us know if your child will be attending our

program since space is limited. We will be more than happy to give you program information.



Students

Rowan June 6
 Megan June 7
 Alex G. June 16
 Michael June 17
 Alanna June 26

Staff

Ms. Jena June 27- Happy 21st!



Asset Building

The Search Institute, a nonprofit, independent research organization based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, has identified 40 concrete, positive experiences and qualities - developmental assets – that have a tremendous influence on young people’s lives and choices. Research shows that youth with the greatest number of assets are the most likely to grow up competent, caring and responsible. On the other hand, youth with the fewest assets struggle the most to succeed in life.

We have included a copy of the 40 developmental assets for Early Childhood Children. Enjoy!

THANK YOU!! Donations

A huge thank you goes out to all of our families that have brought in art items, coffee cans, egg cartons, and other art supplies. It is amazing the things we can do with odd and end supplies. Thank you so much. We are all set for these items, however we will keep you posted on any upcoming items that may be needed. We appreciate all donations big and small.

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.

Enrollment-Tell you friend’s

We have a few 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 your weekly tuition for every referral that signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days.



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

The more that you refer and sign up the greater the savings you will receive. If you could do this, please see Tracy.

- **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, lunch will be provided. 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.**