

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com

Volume 4, Issue 8

****Dates To Remember****

March — Wed., March 19 at 6:30 p.m. ~ Building Blocks Family Easter Egg Hunt

April - Friday April 11 ~ BUILDING BLOCKS CLOSED for Professional Development Day



Emily's Corner Message From The Director



March is here and what a busy month it will be! National Reading Month, an early Easter, and hopefully a slight change in temperature will lift our spirits this month!

As we honor National Reading Month I encourage you to take a closer look at the role books play in life of your young child. I've been able to rediscover the joy and the amazing power of books with my own daughter. I now truly understand the important role I have not only as a parent but an early childhood educator in supporting and promoting literacy development in young children. Remember to read to your child each and every day, even if it's only

for a few minutes.

If you have a change in your personal, home, or work life that is or could possibly affect your child please feel free to communicate this with us. When you and your family have a change, whether it's good or bad, it's a good idea to talk about it with the individuals who care for your child. We view ourselves as a partner in caring for your child. Our teachers need to understand your situation so we can respond appropriately to your child. If you or your family is going through some tough times, we can play an important role by providing stability for your child. Remember that open communication between yourself and our teaching staff can benefit everyone especially your

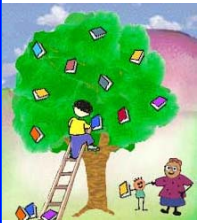
child.

Recently we've welcomed several new families to Building Blocks! This slight increase in enrollment will hopefully generate a continued interest in our program as we continue to provide outstanding early care and education to the families we serve.

I hope to see all of you at our annual Building Blocks Family Easter Egg Hunt! It was a little tricky picking a date this year but whatever the weather we'll be hunting for eggs inside or outside. As always if you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to contact me anytime!

Ms. Emily

Early Literacy



Research points to the strong link between children's experiences with books and

the development of their skills and enthusiasm—so vital to success with reading and writing.

The adults in a child's life help build a solid foundation for their child's later success in school and life. Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, other family members, and caregivers need to make a commitment to support children's literacy development and the important role they each play.

The following are some

ways to help children, "get ready to read"

- Starting at birth speak clearly so infants hear all the sounds.
- Show infants picture books and allow them to play with books—opening the pages, turning them around, and pointing to pictures.
- Talk to children throughout the day about things your doing and things that are happening around you.
- Listen when a child "pretends" to read a book.
- Be patient when a child wants to read the same book over and over again .
- Give children paper and crayons so they can scribble, make pictures, and pretend to write.
- Help children hear and say the first sound in words and notice when different words start with the same sound.
- Talk with children about the letters of the alphabet and notice them in books.
- Point out signs and labels that have letters, like street signs and foods in the grocery store.
- Ask "what", "where", and "how" questions to help children understand and follow along.
- Encourage children to find the joy and fun in reading

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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.

Checking In and Out

Please remember to check your child in and out everyday for attendance purposes. Also, the messages posted on the system are a great way for us to communicate important information to families.

Shoe Covers

Please continue to wear the blue shoe covers as you enter the center from the porch or remove your shoes. A basket of shoe covers is hung on the sign in and out computer screen cabinet.

Outdoor Play Wear

As the snow melts and temperatures increase this month (hopefully) please continue to pack snow pants, boots, warm coats, hats, and mittens each day for your child.

Helping Hands

Posted on the Parent Communication Board will be a flyer titled, "Helping Hands." After speaking with parents at the Parent Advisory Council meeting there are items we're looking for that someone may have or know

where to get them. We greatly appreciate your help and remember, one person's trash in another persons treasure!

Monthly Snacks

Please make sure you bring in a healthy snack and juice or milk for your child's class for your assigned date of the month. Here are some great healthy suggestions for snack: animal crackers, apples, bananas, cheese and crackers, carrots and dip. Please make sure to bring enough snacks for two servings. The monthly snack fee of \$10.00 will be applied to your account at the end of the month if you do not provide snack during the month.



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES OF EARLY LITERACY

MOTOR:

COGNITIVE:

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO:

6-12 months

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|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaches for book • Book to mouth • Sits in lap, head steady • Turns pages with adult | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks at pictures • Vocalizes, pats pictures • Prefers pictures of faces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold child comfortably • Follow baby's cues for "more" and "stop" • Point and name pictures |
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12-18 months

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sits without support • May carry book • Holds book with help • Turns board book pages, several at a time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No longer mouths books right away • Points at pictures with one finger • May make same sound for particular pictures (labels) • Points when asked, "where's...?" • Gives book to adult to read | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to child's prompting to read • Let the child control the book • Be comfortable with toddler's short attention span • Ask "where's the...?" and let child point |
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18-24 months

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|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turns board book pages easily,, one at a time • Carries book around the house • May use book as transitional object | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names familiar pictures • Fills in words in familiar stories • "Reads" to dolls or stuffed animals • Recites parts of well-known stories • Attention span highly variable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate to child's experiences • Use books in routines, bedtimes • Ask "what's that?" and give child time to answer • Pause and let child complete sentence |
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24-36 months

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|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learns to handle paper pages • Goes back and forth in books to find favorite pictures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recites whole phrases, sometimes whole stories • Coordinates text with pictures • Protests when adult gets a word wrong in familiar story • Reads familiar books to self | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep using books in routine • Read at bedtime • Be willing to read the same story over and over • Relate books to child's experiences • Provide crayons and paper |
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3 years and up

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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competent book handling • Turns paper pages on at a time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens to longer stories • Can retell familiar stories • Understands what text is • Moves finger along text • Moves toward letter recognition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask "what's happening?" • Encourage writing and drawing • Let the child tell the story |
|---|--|--|

YOUNG TODDLERS

We would like to welcome **Isaac** to the group! We really enjoy his smiles.

Connor is having a great time when he visits the older toddlers and has been doing a great job on the potty!

Jayden loves doing puzzles! He will sometimes do the same one over and over again.

Lucas enjoys being read to. He likes to

point at certain things in the pictures and hearing us repeat the words over and over again.

Madelyn gets excited when its time of art and will be the first one at the table and the last one to leave.

Amelia is amazing us with all the words she can say how well she can repeat a word after hearing it for the first time.

We're signing some words to the younger toddlers. We hope everyone received the sign language sheets in your folders last month. If you have any questions about signing see

Ms. Jill.

Last month our theme was weather. We tried to assure them that there is more than just ice and snow :)

This months theme is Authors and Illustrators. We will start off with books written and illustrated by Eric Carle. We will also work on some of our favorite books then we will end the month with Dr. Seuss books!

Ms. Janet Ms. Jill Ms. Laura

Older Toddlers

Whoa! February flew by!!! We have had a lot of changes to our toddler group. We have two new friends that have joined our group, Cathy Rising who has just turned 3 Welcome and Happy Birthday! We are so glad you are here. We want to also welcome back, Alex Brelin who left in September and has been greatly missed by all, has returned! Kennedy, Megan and Alex were the three original toddlers of the group. I always wondered how Megan and Kennedy felt about Alex leaving, if they felt a loss and missed their friend and would remember Alex. Well they did, and if the hand holding, the "I love you Alex's", and the "sit by me", and all the laughing and giggling are any indication. Old friends have been reunited and all is well in the world again.

Also, our group has grown, our ratio for Children under 2 ½ (30 months) is 1 to 4 (one teacher to four students). All our

little friends are 2 ½ (30 months) or older. So this group could grow to eight 1 to 8 (one teacher to eight students) right now I am at 6 sometimes 7 students daily. Before, I was busy now I am really, really busy. We are having a lot of fun learning about each other and adjusting our daily schedule.

This reminds me, thank you for all your help. Having your child in easy on and off clothes during potty time is making such a difference in the time we are spending in the bathroom especially now that our group has grown. It does help with your child's success and confidence. Thank you so much. Many friends are at different stages in their potty training development.

A few tips when a child might be ready for potty training.

1. Can stay dry during rest time.
2. Can verbally tell you when their wet.
3. Can remove own pants and pull ups.
4. Is hiding in a corner when eliminating

As a reminder, we need at least 2 (two) changes of clothing (Shirt, pants, socks). Blankets and clothes will go into your child's bin in the teachers' bathroom.

I want to share with you some of the very cute things our students are doing... I over heard Megan skipping and singing "Were off to see the Lizard".

Mia's mom was sharing a cute story Mia's family drinks Gator-aide and Mia will ask for "Alligator Juice" when she wants a drink. Madison has completed the most puzzles in an hour at least 10! Kitty is doing a great job as a big helper.

I have a few goals this quarter that I wanted to tackle, one is to introduce Clay and the second is to work on Ages & Stages. So, I am hopeful to keep you updated on our outcomes!

Thank You!

Ms. Wendy



With sixteen preschoolers ranging in ages from 2 ½ to 5

and even 6 years old, we are frequently asked, "How does the mind of a preschool age child work?" and more importantly, "How do their minds learn?"

Early childhood educators create positive learning environments for children based on a mix of theories learned in teacher education, trial and error, craft knowledge, and gut instinct. Over the next several months we are going to share with you some of the "secrets" to our classroom.

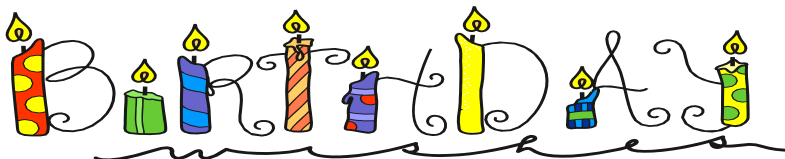
Children need love, attention and a stable learning environment. Setting expectations and teaching social problem solving skills gives children a sense of security. The purpose of

discipline for young children is to teach coping skills and discourage inappropriate behaviors. We focus on the role we play in building up a child's self concept, self esteem, and self worth that will give the tools to make changes in their behavior.

At Building Blocks, we know that the early years are a time for children to develop confidence and self-control. We promote positive behavior by balancing acceptance, acknowledgment, praise, and positive discipline. We are able to define misbehavior as acceptable or unacceptable by determining what behaviors are age appropriate for each specific child. Through acknowledgment, we reflect back to the children what they are doing, and what we perceive that they are feeling, thus reinforcing their sense of themselves in such a way that they feel strengthened and validated as potent, competent

worthwhile human beings. Sincere praise can motivate and guide children. The content of the praise should express congratulations rather than an express a wish of something else the child should do. Positive discipline is simply stating the behavior you're looking for not criticizing the misbehavior. We create an environment that respect each individual child, we send a message that the world is a warm, friendly learning place. Positive discipline techniques that combine caring and direction are a part of this healthy environment.

If you ever have any questions about our approaches please feel free to speak with us. Parent teacher conferences can always be set up at anytime to address specific issues or questions!
Ms. Lesley and Ms. Kelly



March Birthday's

Dr. Seuss ~ March 2

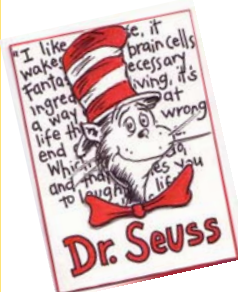
Karissa ~ March 3

Ms. Laura ~ March 12

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

By Dr. Seuss

You'll get mixed up, of course,
As you already know.
You'll get mixed up
with many strange birds as you go.
So be sure when you strep.
Step with care and great tact
and remember the **Life's
a Great Balancing Act.**
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.
And never mix up your right foot from your left.
And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)
So...
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
you're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting
So...*get on your way!*



During the month of March we'll be creating a display to honor Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Reading Month. Throughout the month, read books to your child as often as you can. Available at the Parent Communication Center will be red and white construction paper strips. Write the title and author of the books you read at home on the strips of paper. Label the strip with your child's name and return them to the center. We will use the strips to make a "Cat in the Hat" hat! Our center wide goal is read 200 books during the month of March. There will be a special celebration pizza party if we can reach our goal!

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 \$50.00 off one weeks tuition for every referral that signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days. This is a special offer for March.

Please tell your friends about us!!!!

Thank You Building Blocks Families for your **HELPING HANDS**

Grubb and Borst Families for donating Shredded Paper

Borst Family for an Overhead Projector

Borst and McCoullough Families for your time, energy, supplies, and support with painting the staff bathroom and teachers lounge



Toddler's Shredded Paper Pool Party and



Still in the set-up process but freshly painted!

Curriculum Corner

3/3 — 3/14	Authors and Illustrators
3/17 — 3/28	Dr. Seuss
3/31 — 4/11	Our Earth

* **Spring Portraits** *
* Lifetouch Spring and Graduation portraits *
* will be on Thursday, April 10th! *
