

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com

Volume 4, Issue 2

****Dates To Remember****

September 13 ~ Great Start Collaborative Parent Forum 6:30-8:30 PM

September 13 ~ Ice Cream Bus Visit 3:00 PM

October 26 ~ Fall Festival 6:30-8:00 PM

October 29 ~ Lifetouch Portraits

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| General House Keeping Items | 2 |
| Baby Einstein Debunked | 2 |
| Upcoming Events | 2 |
| Ms. Laura's Infants | 2 |
| Ms. Wendy's Toddlers | 3 |
| Mrs. Janet's Barely 3's | 3 |
| Ms. Lesley's Young Preschoolers | 3 |
| September Birthday's | 4 |
| Song of the Month | 4 |
| Tell Your Friends | 4 |
| Summer Memories | 4 |
| Curriculum Corner | 4 |

Emily's Corner Message From The Director



It's that time of the year again, the traditional start of the school year!

This is guaranteed to be a school year of many wonderful and exciting experiences here at Building Blocks!

This month our new Multi-Age Preschool Program of children ages 2.5 to 5 will begin. Ms. Lesley and Ms. Kelly will be co-lead teachers and Ms. Samantha will be the assistant teacher. Ms. Kelly and Ms. Samantha are also the two newest staff members to join Building Blocks. Please join me in welcoming them by taking a minute to say hello and introduce yourself.

An updated parent handbook, new program information, and emergency cards were distributed to each of our families last month. Our website has also been updated and looks great! Please take some time to review these materials and feel free to speak with me about any questions you might have. Be sure to check out our updated website as well.

On August 1st, Mattel recalled 967,000 plastic preschool toys because their paint contains excessive amounts of lead. I myself have viewed the list of re-

called toys and was very relieved that none of the toys listed were used here at Building Blocks. This seems to be disturbing trend and it makes me wonder, what toy will we hear about next? Please take the time to recent the most recent list of recalled toys. I've posted a list of Mattel products at the Parent Communication Center and a visual of some on the file folder box. Visit www.service.mattel.com for a complete listing.

Recent headlines also talk about videos and computer usage and the effects on young children. The Alliance for Childhood has recently announced the following warning: **Computers May Be Hazardous to a Child's Health.** This warning emphasizes that computers in childhood may expose children to the risk of a broad range of developmental setbacks. Every interaction with people and objects literally helps wire and physically change the brains of young children. One reason that television and computer monitors are harmful to children is because of the two dimensional aspect and back-lighting of these displays. These screens literally wire the brain incorrectly.

During the first years of life, children learn to walk

SEPTEMBER 2007

and talk. These are amazing milestones, yet no adult can "teach" these things to children. The most important things children learn in the first few years of life are things that they learn without adult help. This does not mean that children don't need adults. Children need strong, lasting, committed relationships with adults. They need for the adults in their life to be non-judgmental and loving. Children need for adults to set up a challenging environment where they can take risks and still be safe. Right now is the perfect time to evaluate just how much time your child is watching television and using a computer and make adjustments accordingly.

Building Block is committed to educating ourselves with the most recent information and up to date research in the early childhood education field.

As always please feel free to speak with me at anytime about any questions or concern you may have. You can now contact me by email at emily@buildingblocksschool.com

Ms. Emily

Extra, Extra Read All About It



The *Milford Times* published an article on September 6 titled, "**Give Your Youngster a Great Start.**" The article was informing the community on the Great-Start Collaborative-Oakland Community Forum to be hosted here at Building Blocks on Thursday, September 13. Ms. Emily was quoted in the article! A copy of the article is posted on the Parent Communication Board.

www.buildingblocksschool.com

General House Keeping Items

Parent Handbooks

Revisions have been made to the current version of our Parent Handbook. Revised editions have been distributed. If you have any questions speak with Ms. Emily.

Emergency Cards

Each family will need to update their child/children's **Child Emergency Card**. This is a State Licensing Requirement and it will ensure that we have the most current and up to date information on your child.

Yearly Fees

The yearly re-registration /program/materials fee of \$45.00 per child was due by September 1, 2007. Accounts have been charged the \$45.00 fee. Please make the

payment as soon as possible if you have not done so already.

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 Checking Out

Please remember to use your four digit code to check-in and check-out your child each and everyday.

Monthly Snacks

Just a friendly reminder that the

\$10.00 snack fee will be applied to your account after the 1st of the month.

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.

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

Baby Einstein Debunked



An [important new study](#) found that for infants, every hour spent watching baby videos is associated with slower language

development - six to eight words less on a standardized vocabulary test than babies who don't watch.

The study, by Frederick J. Zimmerman, Dimitri A. Christakis, and Anrew Met-

zoff, appears in *Journal of Pediatrics*. Previous research suggested that television is not a good medium for teaching language to babies. Now research shows that infants (ages 8-16 months) who watch baby videos have a slower rate of language acquisition than infants who do not. Not only is there no evidence that baby videos do any of the things the baby video industry claims they do, but these media may actually be undermining the development of the very skills

they claim to foster.

In 2006, the Campaign for a [Commercial-Free Childhood](#) filed a [Federal Trade Commission complaint](#) against Baby Einstein, Brainy Baby, and BabyFirstTV for false and deceptive marketing. That complaint is under review.

The number one reason parents allow babies to watch television and DVDs is the mistaken belief that the programming is educational and/or good for brain development.

Midwest Father's Conference

The Eighth Annual Midwest Fathers Conference will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at North Farmington High School in Farmington Hills. Lem Barney, Detroit Lions Legend and Hall of Fame Superstar, is the Keynote Speaker. Visit www.partnershipfordads.org for more information.



PARENT COALITION MEETING *Free Childcare*
 Wednesday, September 26 *Dinner*
 6:00-8:00 PM *Door Prizes*
 Oakland University

www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org

WHAT DO CHILDREN NEED FOR A GREAT START?

The Great Start Collaborative-Oakland is holding 12 community forums throughout Oakland County in August and September to discuss what children - age birth to 5 - need in order to have a Great Start. Parents, caregivers, child care providers, educators, stakeholders, and others who care about children are invited to attend any one of the forums. On **Thursday, September 13** a forum will be held here at **Building Blocks**. Free child care, dinner, and a \$10.00 gas card! The Great Start Collaborative-Oakland is committed to ensuring that all of Oakland County's youngest citizens and their families have knowledge of and access to the services they need.

Visit: www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org/communityforums for more information on how you can get involved!



Ms. Laura's Infants



Wow! I can't believe this summer is over! It went by so fast but it was so much fun. The infants have done so much growing.

We welcomed back Madelyn, who is now 16 months old!!! She has adjusted really well and is happy to be back. During the

summer break, Madelyn developed a language of her own and mastered her walking skills.

Amelia is now 20 months old!!! She has several new teeth and loves to show them off. Her vocabulary has grown and her speech is easier to understand. She loves to help out

bringing me my water bottles and then says "thank you" to me.

Lucas is now 1 as of August 21. He is really trying to walk but moves much quicker crawling. His favorite word is "ball."

I'm looking forward to a happy fall. Ms. Laura



I can only say, wow! It is truly amazing to me that we are now into the month of September, the traditional start to the school year. We here at Building Blocks also prepare and begin a fresh new program, especially for our toddlers. We all look forward to watching your child grow this new school year as we cultivate a love for learning, imaginative play, social skills, and a positive self image.

We would like to welcome two new friends to our toddler program, Katherine (Kitty) Taylor 2.5, and Madison Thompson, 2. We are so glad you're here! Amelia (Mia) Skavang, 20 months, will start transitioning into our class. Yeah, Mia! Megan Hotchkiss and Kennedy Russell will continue on with the toddler program. We love have you here at Building Blocks.

Potty, Potty, Potty! This is on our minds now that our young toddlers are two! This is a process that will

Ms. Wendy's Young Toddlers

naturally develop. We want this to be a positive, stress free, no pressure experience. Right now we are doing a lot of talking about our bodies. We read books about using the potty. A favorite is, "Everyone Poops" by Taro Gomi. We ask questions when changing diapers like, "Did you pee or poop?" Most times the children will ask to see their pee or poop, which is perfectly normal. Their curiosity is very natural and will help the whole potty training process. Right now we ask the children if they would like to us the potty then we march through with our diapers, help the children with their pants and diapers, read books, then help with hand washing.

This month's theme is "Getting to Know Me." This theme will help foster a healthy self esteem. The book, "100 Ways to Build Self-Esteem and Teach Values" by Diana Loomans and Julia Loomans, states that self-esteem is like good nutrition—the our children have it, the healthier and stronger they become.

There is a great chapter in this book tilted, One Minute Love Connections. As busy parents I think that you will find these ideas wonderfully simple but extremely effective and important. I will be sending home a separate sheet with all the great suggestions.

We had a suggestion from a parent that they would like to be kept more up to date on the daily activities and all the great and wonderful things we are learning about. We do have a Weekly Toddler Development Plan posted and will be sending out a copy to all the toddler families so you can see all the fun things we are doing. This is a great communication bridge and insight into your child's day.

Ms. Janet will be joining the toddler program again in the mornings from 6:45-11:30 am each day!

Thank You,
Ms. Wendy



Mrs. Janet's Barely 3's

Genna's last day is approaching and we will miss your smiling face and unique personality! Congratulations to Alivia and Jacob for doing such a great job on the potty. Dillon has been sharing the

items he brings from home each day, your learning to be a good friend.

We all had such a great time this summer during water fun days. We played in the pool, washed the toy cars, and explored the water tables.

All of the Barely 3's are moving up to the preschool program. Have fun learning and playing with your new friends.

Ms. Janet

Mrs. Lesley's and Mrs. Kelly's Preschoolers

Wow! Where did summer go?

The children and I spent August looking at things UNDER THE SEA. When asked what lives in the sea, the children responded with fish, crabs, turtles, shells, sand, alligators, and mermaids. They spent hours playing in the sand and making sand castles while finding, washing, and painting shells. We looked at a starfish, an alligator head, a silver dollar and a turtle shell up close too. I expanded upon what they knew about Finley and introduced whales, dolphins, and sharks...oh my!

We learned that Killer Whales, though having whale in its name is really a dolphin and measured on the floor how big they get. We measured a shark too and had to open our door and continue

across the floor until we were under the computer table. We took a close up look at a shark's mouth and saw how many rows of teeth they have. Danielle informed me that she doesn't have that many. All the children seemed to agree that they were very sharp. We took the children beyond the playground fence so that we could re-measured a dolphin (13 ft), a shark (39 feet), and then measured out a whale (100 ft). Once again the children were in agreement when they decided that a whale is much bigger than a shark. Hunter and I were very careful when walking towards the road with our string to get a visual on how big this creature of the sea is. The children enjoyed listening to the sounds of the ocean on CD and would pretend that they had a blow hole on the top of their head to breath through like our friend the dolphin and whale. We

talked about a lot of other things too, like flippers vs. fins, echolocation and vocalization from these creatures as well as what they like to eat. We also did a fresh water vs. salt water taste test. Only Kailee decided she could be either a salt water or fresh water fish. Everyone else would be a fresh water fish.

When we return after Labor Day we will have some time remaining with this topic before we begin a new theme about our amazing bodies. Our new topic will hopefully take us into the structure of the eye, brain, and heart while giving us the opportunity to look at our bones, muscles, pulmonary and endocrine system. I almost can't wait to go back to school. Have a great holiday weekend.

Ms. Lesley



Happy Birthday To You!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alexa ~ September 9

Peter ~ September 21

Bailey ~ September 22

Ms. Jill ~ August 25(belated)

Song of the Month

The wheels on the bus
Go round and round
Round and round
Round and round
The wheels on the bus
go round and round
All through the town

The Daddies on the bus
Say, It's too loud
It's too loud
It's too loud
The Daddies on the bus
Say, It's too loud
All through the town

The horn on the bus
Goes beep, beep, beep
Beep, beep, beep
Beep, beep, beep
The horn on the bus
Goes beep, beep, beep
All through the town

The driver on the bus
Says, Move on back
Move on back
Move on back
The driver on the bus
Says, Move on back
All through the town

The wipers on the bus
Go swish, swish, swish
Swish, swish, swish
Swish, swish, swish
The wipers on the bus
Go swish, swish, swish
All through the town

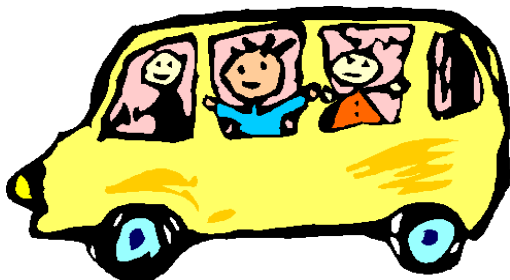
The money on the bus
Goes plink, plink, plink
Plink, plink, plink
Plink, plink, plink
The money on the bus
Goes plink, plink, plink
All through the town

The babies on the bus
Go wah, wah, wah
Wah, wah, wah
Wah, wah, wah
The babies on the bus
Go wah, wah, wah
All through the town

The door on the bus
Goes open and shut
Open and shut
Open and shut
The door on the bus
Goes open and shut
All through the town

The Mommies on the bus
Go shh, shh, shh
Shh, shh, shh
Shh, shh, shh
The Mommies on the bus
Go shh, shh, shh
All through the town

The people on the bus
Go up and down
Up and down
Up and down
The people on the bus
Go up and down
All through the town



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 children are experiencing here and we are looking for friends to share it with.



the

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 September. Please tell your friends about us.

See Ms. Emily for more information.



Summer Camp

SUMMER MEMORIES



Water Fun Day's



Caterpillars In Cocoons



Ice Cream Social



Ice Cream Bus



Un-Birthday Party

Curriculum Corner

September

| Date | Unit | Letter of the Week | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----|
| 9/4 - 9/14 | Getting to Know Me | Aa | Bb |
| 9/17 - 9/28 | Shapes and Lines All around Us | Cc | Dd |