

Finger Prints

March 2013

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Supervision, Safety and Security

The Three S's, as I like to call them!! They are the most important part of our day. I hope you have noticed, in February, the installation of security cameras near the front door as well as viewing monitors. Prior to allowing someone to come in the building, we are able to view and confirm who it is requesting to enter before deactivating the door system. There are three monitors, each located near central points so that they may be easily viewed at any time during the day. Our building is very safe— when parents shut the door behind them! Too often the door is left slightly ajar, which does compromise the security of the building. Please take that extra moment to be certain the door is shut. I would appreciate if you could be mindful of parking in the driveway. If you will be spending more time picking up, perhaps parking on the street or on Southampton might be better. We have lots of parents coming in and out that want to park and vehicles that seem to “stay” make it hard for everyone to share the limited spaces.

I wanted to briefly talk about the arrival and pick up procedures. It is important for safety and supervision reasons that you limit your conversations with the teachers, especially at morning drop off. This will allow your child's teacher to focus solely on the children in attendance and your child's adjustment to starting their day. It is very difficult for staff to safely supervise the children and have a lengthy conversation. We would also rather not discuss important concerns during class time. All teachers are available for lengthy phone conversations and are also able to schedule conferences.

With springtime arriving shortly, we will be outside later in the afternoon. Please be mindful of picking up your child in the backyard on time and exiting the playground. When a child remains to play, legally they must still be counted in our ratio, hence when staff start to leave to head home, it creates a ratio nightmare as well as a difficult supervising situation. I appreciate all your support in ensuring we provide the safest environment possible!

Holiday Closing

Please keep in mind the Child Care Center will be closed on March 29th in celebration of Good Friday. The Center will be open again on Monday, April 1st

Warmer Weather And Mud

Each day we go in the backyard in the morning and afternoon. April and May are wet months and we hate to avoid the yard or driveway just because it might be a bit damp or muddy. If you have not already done so, please bring in an extra pair of old shoes or boots that your child may wear outside, that you may leave here. They will change into the boots prior to heading outside. This includes our babies, they will be out in the yard and that can generate some grass and dirt stains, be sure to dress them in play clothes! Now is a good time to check for spare clothes also, as the teachers will change your child if they get overly dirty while playing.



Importantly, please limit lingering in the yard upon signing your child out. While it is enjoyable for your child to continue to play, we must still count them in our ratio and with our staff leaving at the end of the day, this will create a supervision nightmare. Additionally, if you head over to the playground across the street or to run some errands in town, please remove your car from the parking lot, so that parents arriving to get their child will have a place to park.



Have you had the chance to meet the young lady with long black hair? If not, meet Ms. Denna! Denna began with us last month to fill our VIP staffing position. Denna has some of the most important roles in our Center and without her, we could not do many of the things that are so important!

First, she is available each day to cover staffing shortages. This allows for me to consistently have someone available that knows the children and the class routine and is able to jump right in! This makes for a non disrupted day for both teacher and children when a staff member is absent. Denna also offers each lead teacher time out of the classroom each week to get their prep work done for their lesson planning as well as pre-prepare activities in advance. In turn, this then allows each teacher to be ready in advance and fully present in the learning moment. There is still more— Denna also acts as the lead teacher in the school age program! Each afternoon, after her lunch, she heads up to the Big Room and sets up and gets ready to pick up 20-22 children from Jenks. Each week she plans organized activities, oversees homework, and supervises the children. As you can see, Denna wears many hats throughout the day and I am most grateful for her positive attitude and flexibility.

Be A Rainbow!

March is National Nutrition Month and we are going to celebrate by being a rainbow! Every Friday for the next 5 weeks our Toddler and Preschool classes will celebrate eating a different part of the rainbow. Simple building blocks for good nutrition start by eating all the colors in the rainbow, such an easy concept for the children to understand and grasp. **We need your help, as each Friday you will need to pack a fruit or veggie in that color, as well as dress your child in that color. I will be sure to send out an email reminder!** Please see your classes' lesson plans for individual activities.



A super great way to support this at home is to purchase the rainbow magnet kit, which helps reward your child for eating fruits and vegetables each day. There is also lots of great information you may find helpful— just head over to: www.todayiatearainbow.com

Have a good month,

Melissa Delaney, Director

“Our Valentine’s Day Party”

We had a wonderful time at the Valentine’s Day Party, it was an exciting event. Everyone looked adorable; the dancing and listening to music was fun along with posing for the camera, eating special treats and receiving lovely cards. We also focused on “Being Loved.” There were lots of hugs, pats, little kisses, and cuddle time that we all shared together shared.

“The Monthly Curriculum”

The theme this month will be Baby Animals. We will be talking about all types of baby animals their colors, textures, how they move and the sounds that they make. The shape of the month that we will focus on will be diamond, the color will be yellow and our featured snack of the month program which will begin this month will be bananas for snack. We are going to have fun with the color yellow by making different shades of yellow paint to making a food chart of yellow foods and possibly tasting them. After tasting we will then record who likes or dislikes what.



Week 1: Kittens and puppies

Week 2: St. Patrick’s Day

Week 3: Things that are soft

Week 4: Things that are rough

“Green Day Celebration!”

On Friday March 15, 2013 we will have a green day celebration. Please dress your child in the color green to help us celebrate. That day will be all about the color green. We will be making a green art project, playing with only green toys, green stuffed animals and tasting green Gerber bananas.

“We’re really growing”

Our class is really growing up and doing big things.

- ❖ Henry is working on saying “mama, dada, and bye’ bye.” He also is working on and doing well with drinking from his sippy cup and self feeding.
- ❖ William is working on and doing well with drinking from his sippy cup, self feeding and rolling the ball to each of his friends while sitting in a circle.
- ❖ Graham is working on and doing well with playing the xylophone, giving hi-fives, self feeding, and doing finger plays like “Twinkle, Twinkle little star”.
- ❖ Leilani is working on and doing well with drinking from her sippy cup and getting where she wants to go by scooting backwards. She also works really hard to get in the crawling position to go forward.
- ❖ Toby is working on and doing well with holding his own bottle, sitting up and rolling over from his back onto his stomach.
- ❖ Max is working on and doing well with tummy time, singing and rolling over onto his tummy while in his pack and play and holding his bottle.

Sweet Peas continued...

“Introducing a.m. and p.m. snack”

Please send in if you have not already snack foods for your child to eat for a.m. snack time. You may send in enough snacks for the week that we can store in the cabinet in your child’s food bin or you may send it in daily. For those children who are beginning to pick up and eat finger foods we encourage you to send in foods that your little one can begin or continue practicing self feeding with. You may send a container of puffs, cheerios, yogurt melts, toast, bitter biscuits, or whatever you feel would be a good a.m. finger food snack for your child to enjoy.

Our younger infants whose little teeth haven’t broken through yet or are just beginning to break through might enjoy

frozen food placed in a mesh bag that they can pick up and hold themselves. These mesh bags can be purchased at stores such as Target, or Wal-Mart or online at www.amazon.com/Munchkin-Fresh-Food-Feeder and remember that if your child doesn’t show an interest right away to keep offering. **Don’t give up!**



GRADUATES® Snacks

GRADUATES® snacks provide a range of products that are appropriate for the Crawler, Toddler and Preschooler stage of your baby’s development. Read the package for the developmental cues that indicate your child is ready for each product.

Twice a month, each month starting in March we will have a featured a.m. snack supplied by the center that might either go along with that month’s theme or just something the children would enjoy. We will let you know in advance what our featured snack of the month will be. We will begin having an a.m. snack around 9:30 a.m. each morning and a p.m. snack around 2:30 each afternoon. Offering a morning snack will help us in preparation for beginning a later lunch schedule.

Have a good month,

Ms. Virginia and Ms. Carmen

Busy Bees

The Busy Bees are busier than ever, saying new words, counting on their fingers, singing new songs, and saying the names of their friends. February was so much fun, the children really enjoyed the Valentine Day party and all of the delicious food that was served. Thank you all for making that day special for the children. The children learned patience through simple activities we did right in the classroom, such as taking turns putting in puzzle pieces, rolling a ball to a friend, and taking turns putting away their cups in the refrigerator. The children did a wonderful job pointing out our heart shapes in the classroom and finding the color white.

One of our February science projects was to sprinkle grass seeds on a sponge in a tray and fill the tray with water; the children had fun putting the grass seeds on the sponge and pouring in the water with a cup. It took a couple of weeks before we could see our first blade of grass. The children got to touch the grass blades and of course stick their fingers in the water. Richie kept saying that the seeds that fell into the water were bugs, we said no Richie that it was grass seeds, but he kept saying bugs! Finally Ms. Sherry looked into the tray and said you know Richie the seeds do look like little bugs, Richie smiled with that look on his face like I told them so!

The Theme for March is Let's Build. The color is yellow and our shape is Diamonds. The Character Education is being responsible and our Learning Concepts are building, construction, the bulldozer, dump trucks, big and little and St. Patrick's Day. To help our toddlers learn about responsibility, we will start off with small tasks, such as helping to clear the table at lunch time, putting toys away, helping to put away their lunch in the mornings, is a wonderful way of introducing responsibility to toddlers. A Healthy treat or stickers are a nice reward for the children when a simple task is accomplished. Singing songs and playing games are also a fun way of making chores seem easier for little ones.

We will open up a Big and Little Learning Space in our room. In this learning space toddlers will gain experience with math concepts, such as big and little, long and short, and high and low. We are introducing the ideas with real materials and providing opportunities for them to play with the objects. We will incorporate big and little concepts into fun games such as Hide and Seek, the Limbo, and a Rock Hunt. These experiences help toddlers understand how materials are organized in their environment.

Here are just a few things the toddlers enjoy doing- point to body parts, unwrapping packages with a little starter help, enjoy water play, listen to a short story, repeat words we say, attempt to jump in place, place pegs in hole, point to a familiar object, use a spoon to scoop, play simple pretend games.

The Busy Bee pizza day is every Friday and the cost will be 2.00, I will ask each week for a parent to bring in a vegetable for all of the children to have with their pizza.

Have a good month,

Ms. Sheree, Ms. Peanut, & Ms. Sherry

Caterpillars

What a mild winter we had and spring is almost here! February was super busy for the Caterpillars! The children explored the color pink, recognizing the heart shapes around the room, using our imaginations and practicing patience. The children also enjoyed making the bird seed treat for the birds. They had fun making Pink Lemonade, mixing, stirring and pouring they also then enjoyed drinking it as well. Making heart shapes big and small with cookie cutters. Let's not forget their Valentine Party. Everyone loves a party. We used our imaginations to turn hula-hoops into swimming pools, a cardboard box into a house and chairs into a Thomas the Tank Engine Train! Each day we practiced patience during lunch as we learn to say, "Milk Please" and wait for Ms. Donna or Ms. Angie to hand it to us. **Thank you for all your support and kindness and for making Valentine's Day so special**

Some of the things we are up to these days:

Dahlia: has fun running with Erica in the big room. They play catch me if you can.

Erica: is having fun playing in the big yard now. Enjoys going down the big slide.

Ian: is now a big brother and adjusting well. Ian enjoys the riding toys outside.

Jackson: Likes to play basketball and soccer every chance he gets.

Laura: Likes to sing Rock-A-Bye Baby all by herself. Great job Laura!

Naomi: Likes to Sing Bingo and spells Bingo She also puts her own socks on.

Sam F.: Is really, really enjoying circle time he likes to answer Ms. Donna's questions.

Sam Noel: Sam is talking up a storm and loves to do art.

Our theme for the month of March is "**Town and Country**" We will be exploring different places with our let's talk about different places poster. We will discover mountains, farms and farm animals. This will teach the children the difference between town and country life. There are new songs to be learned, and a new color of the month **Yellow and our new shape the Diamond.** **Happy Birthday Wishes for Laura who will turn 2 on March 8th and Sam Noel will turn two on March 12th Happy Birthday!**

Ms. Angie and I have been working with the children helping them to drink from a regular cup independently. A few are already doing this. Please encourage this at home if you haven't already started.

Just a little information for those who are wondering: **Feeding the picky Eater.** Here are some tips!

- Offer a **nibble tray:** Ice-cube tray, a muffin tin. Put bite-size portions of nutritious foods in each section.
- **Dip it.** Children like to dip. Dip into cottage cheese, cream cheese, guacamole and more.
- **Spread it:** Toddlers like to spread, or smear. (spread cheese, cream cheese)
- **Top It:** Letting them put toppings on favorite foods. Yogurt, tomato sauce, applesauce.
- **Veggies:** For vegetables toddlers need to only have a tablespoon for each year of age only. Be creative with them. (Broccoli can be trees)
- **Turn meals upside down.** Toddlers can't distinguish the difference between breakfast, lunch, and dinner. If your child wants pizza in the morning or cereal in the evening go with it- better than him/her not eating at all.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: The Center is closed Friday March 29th

Thank You,
Ms. Donna,
Ms. Angie

Butterflies

Wow! What a month it has been, and where has it gone? We had an Arctic blast fall down upon us leaving us with some cold Burr weather! We also got a little snow in which we all bundled up and went outside to play in it, in the backyard. We also had fun sliding down the hill in Ms. Mary's blue sleds. This was a nice little treat and all of the kids enjoyed it so much that they forget how cold the weather was. The month was filled with the cheery colors of Pink and Red as we celebrated the spirit of Valentine's Day. The children enjoyed all of the delicious treats sent in by the parents and the children nuggets and fruit salad for lunch was an added delight. They also enjoyed passing out Valentine treats and cards to their friends and teachers. Nice job Butterflies!!!

A few highlights for the month were our paint and shine paintings in which we mixed regular paint with glitter paint and then shined our flashlights on it to see which paint shines more. What a mess since all of the children were a little heavy handed on adding the glitter paint to the mix. Paint was everywhere! Next we moved on to some Art, which was colorful and not as messy. We used the watercolors to paint on the coffee filters. The children were like busy bees working hard on creating their very own design. Good job toddlers!!! Dramatic play was also a big treat this month with all of the children enjoying to take a walk with each other under their umbrellas. Ms. Debbie donated her umbrella so that all of the children had a chance to participate in the fun activity. They are now very comfortable with Coach Liz and can't wait to greet her with a big smile. It really is such a joy to see them in action! You Go Butterflies!! Science continues to be a blast too with all of the children enjoying going upstairs to observe Ms. Melissa's computer screen in the office and the television screen in the big room to see if they light up and learn the difference between ON and OFF! Now this learning experience was really cool!

During the month of March our Happy/Sad face puppet will help introduce your child to March's theme, "What Happens When?" Children are natural scientist!! They are constantly investigating and interacting with people and things to find out. Children experiment with this idea in so many ways. Children discover cause and affect relationships through science investigations as they experiment with Art processes, explore ways to relate to other people, and practice new physical skills. They may make "cakes" with water and sand or figure out a new way to ask someone to play. Look for the many ways your child's curiosity and wonder may unfold throughout this topic's fun investigations.

Together we're better! Help us provide lots of hands-on experiences by assisting us in collecting some of the following things that might get thrown away or are easy to find. If you happen to have any of the items, please bring them in before March 8th. Dress up clothes and other objects with zippers and some colorful gift bags.

The color of the month is Yellow! Yellow dress-up day will be on Thursday, March 28th. Please dress your child in Yellow on that day or bring in an object or Toy that is yellow. The shape of the month is a diamond and the number is "7". The opposites are Day/Night. The songs for the month are "Pull the zipper", and "Mix It up". The rhymes for the month are "Simple Simon," and "Say your Name". They will be included in with the storybook and family poster and cuddle and connect displays. On Friday, March 15th we will be discussing and celebrating St. Patrick's Day. This is a great day to wear green, and we will be eating some green treats, so please be on the lookout for our St. Patrick's day sign-up sheet. Party over Here!!! The butterflies love to party! And on Thursday, March 28th we will have a spring celebration. Again, please be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet which will be posted right next to the attendance sheet, on the parent's board. We don't want anyone to be left out. No lunch will be needed for this day. We will order pizza from Fiesta's restaurant. The Butterfly teachers would like to send out a special thank you to all of the parents who participate in our healthy snack club each month. Reminder-the center will be closed on Friday March 29th in observance of Good Friday.

Happy Birthday to Norah who will be three on March 10th, and Cate who will be three on March 17th.

Happy Spring!!!

Ms. Debbie, Ms. Mary and Mr. Tim

Adventurers



Looking back... February was a great month full of many fun activities! In celebration of the Chinese New Year we were able to trip to Cin Cin for a wonderful lunch. The children were able to try various foods and learn about the Year of the Snake. They did a wonderful job following directions and sitting nicely! We also celebrated Valentines Day with our Sweetheart Lunch; the children really enjoyed sitting next to their valentines as well as handing out their valentines day cards to their friends. We focused on the theme “Light and Dark”; throughout this theme we discussed many topics, created with light and dark and have continued to learn and grow together. The children are doing a wonderful job identifying various letters we are learning; even while out for walks they will call out the letters they see or count the number of dogs that walk by. Every day is a new learning experience.

Looking forward... In March our theme is “What Happens When...” Our themes for the month are as follows:

- Week 1: Mixing Liquids and Solids
- Week 2: Exploring Solids
- Week 3: I Use Tools
- Week 4: I Make Things Happen
- Letters: M, O & V
- Number: 10
- Shape: Rectangle
- Color: Yellow



Throughout this theme we will be focusing on letter/sound recognition, mixing various liquids, what happens when you add oil to water? Vinegar? Etc. This month will be full of experiments and the children have the opportunity to make various predictions. All of the children are doing a great job transitioning to writing with pencils opposed to markers and are excelling at writing their names! As the month continues they will be encouraged to write their names on their own work using both capital and lower case letters.

Library... We will be going to the library the last two Tuesdays of the month (19th and 26th) As always if the weather is not suitable for us to walk in then we will still order pizza for the day. If we can not make to the library or your child book is due back before we go back to the library then please return their books to school and I will personally return them to the library.

Head Start Sports... As sports continue on, we are seeing many future track stars, baseball, hockey and basketball players! Just a reminder to be sure that your child is wearing sneakers on Thursdays! Thank you!



Happy Birthday! Aimee & Lars - March 19th!!

Important Dates:

- March 20th – Spring Party (sign up sheet will be on the back of the door.
- March 27th- Easter Egg Hunt and dying eggs.
- March 29th- Center Closed

Adventurers continued....

Easter Egg Hunt and Dying Eggs... will take place on Wednesday March 27th. Please send your child to school with two hard boiled eggs to dye as well as an Easter basket to collect eggs in (plastic eggs for hunt will be provided by school)

Be A Rainbow... Over the next six weeks we will be focusing on healthy eating by focusing on fruits and vegetables that are the colors of the rainbow. Each Friday we will focus on this aspect and there will be a sign up sheet on the back of the door to bring in fruits and vegetables of that specific color.

Surprise Reader ... The surprise reader has been a huge success! The children LOVE guessing who is going to be coming in to read stories! It is always nice and greatly appreciated to have the parents involved in their child's school life. Below is a poem I found and wanted to share. Hope you enjoy!

WHOSE CHILD IS THIS?

Author Unknown

**"Whose child is this?" I asked one day
Seeing a little one out at play
"Mine", said the parent with a tender smile
"Mine to keep a little while
To bathe his hands and comb his hair
To tell him what he is to wear
To prepare him that he may always be good
And each day do the things he should"**

**"Whose child is this?" I asked again
As the door opened and someone came in
"Mine", said the teacher with the same tender smile
"Mine, to keep just for a little while
To teach him how to be gentle and kind
To train and direct his dear little mind
To help him live by every rule
And get the best he can from school"**

**"Whose child is this?" I ask once more
Just as the little one entered the door
"Ours" said the parent and the teacher as they smiled
And each took the hand of the little child
"Ours to love and train together
Ours this blessed task forever."**

As always if you have any questions, concerns or just simply want to check up on your child's progress, do not hesitate to call!

Ms. Kristy & Ms. Tanisha

The Explorers have been working so hard on their buttoning, and they have learned the very first step in tying their shoes! We call it “Making a tent & crawling under”. Please be sure your child has brought in a large old shoe with very long laces so that we can continue to practice.

We are having a wonderful time working on pre- reading skills and practicing reading sight words. You can encourage your child’s reading skills by reading to them daily, asking them to read signs on buildings of their favorite restaurants & markets, noticing stop signs, etc. Number concepts can also be reinforced by counting stairs, reading license plates, and noting numbers on houses.

Library will be held every 1st & 2nd Tuesday of the month. On these days, we will usually head over to Cosmos Pizza Parlor for pizza afterwards, but on some special weeks, we will reserve pizza for a day later on in the week. Please be sure check the lesson plan daily.

Please remember to send a backpack daily. They are especially important for library books, artwork, class work, and important notes from the teacher. We are so excited to be working with the Explorers! They are a wonderful group!

Reminders

- Sheets/Blankets & water bottles should be taken home every Friday for washing/laundry and returned on Monday. (NO PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS, PLEASE as the thin plastic presents a choking hazard.) Crib sized sheets fit best.
- **Children must arrive by 8:45am daily to fully benefit from the day’s learning activities.**
- Please remember to check your child’s cubby daily for clothes or to examine the weekly lesson plans to note if your child needs to bring in anything for Wednesday and Friday Show ’N Tell . Also, feel free to take a peek in your child’s composition book or Science Journal in the “Writing Book Basket”.
- Upon arrival each morning, please REMOVE your child’s “heat-up” from lunch bag, and place it in the designated bin in the refrigerator. Please be sure all “heat-ups” are labeled.
- Three thick coloring/activity books should be kept in cubbies at naptime for children who have not fallen asleep. Coloring books may also contain other enrichment activities such as mazes, dot-to-dot, etc. to keep children interested.

Once again, we are looking forward to a wonderful month with your child!

-Ms. Denise Nix & Ms. Krystina Wallace

