

Fun & Friends Child Development Center



Spring Newsletter 2011



Special Points of interests:

March 17th-	St. Patrick's Day
March 20th-	Spring Begins
April 1st-	April Fool's Day
April 1-8	Book Fair (w/Westgate Center)
April 1st-	Butterflies Cap & Gown pictures
April 22nd-	Earth Day
April 24th-	Easter
April 25th-	Easter Egg Hunt (w/Seniors)
May 2-6-	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6-	Mother's Day Breakfast
May 8th-	Mother's Day
May 30th-	Memorial Day (Center Closed)

Here Comes the Sunshine:

Spring is a time when flowers blossom. It denotes a new growth and a new beginning as well. Spring is a time when you can hear birds chirping softly as new buds cover the greens.

Happy Spring Season to everyone!

What Young Children Need to Succeed by Martha Farrell Erickson:

A Rich Language Environment: This means having adults who talk to the child long before he or she can talk back; engage the child with stories, songs and rhymes; ask "why" and "how" and "what if..." questions that stretch the child's mind and vocabulary; and introduce the child from the earliest months of life to the rich, expansive world of books. The child most likely to thrive and succeed has been engaged as an active, joyful learner, discovering the wonder and power of the spoken and written word.

Safe and Stimulating Opportunities to Play and Explore: Infants and young children are naturally curious and eager to explore. They learn and advance their own development through active exploration and mastery of the world around them. Especially with encouragement and sensitive guidance from adults who support the child's growing autonomy, an actively exploring infant or toddler builds motor skills, develops confidence and initiative, and learns important cognitive concepts, such as cause and effect or the properties of—and relationships among—different objects.

News from our Learning Environments



Infants— Dreamers & Lambs



The winter season is almost over and we are anxiously waiting for the Spring. We have managed to stay healthy as we all worked together keeping the classroom clean. Thank you parents for picking up sick children when called and for keeping them home, as Virginia Licensing requires. By keeping us updated as to your child's illness, we are able to post the appropriate exposure notices.



As it gets warm outside now is a good time to check your child's cubby to make sure they have appropriate changes of clothes. We will be taking the children out more often now so please leave a light jacket and a hat in their cubby.



The Lambs will be starting the unit "Growing Vegetable Soup" and will be planting and growing their own little plant during the spring.



Since our last newsletter we've had some major milestones. In Dreamers Emily, Audrey, Jorden and Louise are all now crawling; Cameron can roll from back to stomach (Cameron started in February and is the little brother of Elizabeth Glace in Butterflies). Ayla and Ella can crawl, pull up and cruise around. Dylan and Sabrina have transitioned to the Lambs group and doing well. Ayla and Ella will be transitioning soon. Six Lambs transitioned to the BBB's and have made a great adjustment.



Welcome to all our new families in Lambs and Dreamers and Happy Birthday to all our babies who turned one. Happy Spring!

Ms. Liza, Ms. Elsi, Ms. Jessy, Ms. Luisa, Ms. Zulma

Ms. Jackie, Ms. Nelly, Ms. Marleny, Ms. Soila, Ms. Edith, Ms. Jessica



BBB's



We have had a great winter season and now we are excited that spring is on it's way. BBB's were busy this winter working and enjoying some of the following indoor activities; books and projects about winter weather and animals; ground-hogs and Valentine's Day.



For the upcoming season we will be involved in lots of spring activities that will include nature walks, watching the birds sing, picking flowers, painting with bright colors, singing songs and much more. Congratulations to Jason Lee and Evan

News from our Learning Environments cont.



BBB's cont.

Roundy who have started potty training, and to Sofia Ward & Keeley Tiffit who have made a successful transition into underwear. David Bulford and Julie Seth are now Cubs and doing well with some old friends and making new friends. We welcomed into the BBB's Sarah Winston, Ian Everett, Evie Klett, Ava Olsavsky, Daniel Sullivan and Hugh McFalls.



Happy Birthday to all our BBB's who turned 2!

Spring is here!

Ms. Vanessa, Ms. Marina, Ms. Maria, Ms. Samia, Ms. LaTarsha



Cubs



Spring is almost here! With spring comes a lot of great new adventures in Cubs. We love the outdoors and will be doing many activities which reflect the natural world around us. We will take nature walks (aka bear hunts) and watch seeds grow into plants. The class will make discoveries about animals, insects, and the weather. We have 3 new friends in our class Naomi, David and Julie. Sadly Ms. Ana Velez left Cubs, but we will see her occasionally as a substitute teacher.



As a reminder, warmer weather means more outdoor play so please dress children in comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting a little dirty. Also please make sure that your child has plenty of extra clothes in their bag. Even potty trained children have occasional accidents.



Congratulations to Ethan, Emma and Julien for reaching potty training milestones!

We can't wait for a great season in Cubs

Ms. Kim, Ms. Rossy, Ms. Ana A.



News from our Learning Environments cont.



Butterflies

We haven't had many days with playground time, but we have had fun indoors. Thanks to the Calpin family (Henry & Elizabeth) and the Mattis family (Brooke & George) for donating some great new toys for us to enjoy.



The baby boom seems to have ebbed. We love seeing the tiny new additions to the Butterflies families! We have also heard from James Barton in Australia, as he starts kindergarten there. He sent us several notes and beautiful pictures of him and Georgia (his sister) with kangaroos.



All staff had a workshop in February on safe, inviting classrooms and playgrounds. We received some great ideas. This has inspired us to begin working on putting together a science table. I'm pleased that "finds" from the great outdoors are coming for show and tell, maybe such things can be incorporated for the science table.

How great that the children come and share such interesting news as the space shuttle flight, unusual weather forecasts and a royal wedding this spring.



We welcome Miss Amber, our newest staff and also Joy He who is in transitioning from the Cubs class.

Enjoy the upcoming nice weather!

Butterflies



Staff & Center Happenings

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing professional growth and development is viewed as essential in order to keep up with the many advances being made in the field of early childhood education. Fun & Friends actively pursues such opportunities for the staff. Below are the training topics covered February and March:



- The Best Environment for Young Children
- Playground Fun and Safety
- Daily Health Screening



In addition to the above the staff attended George Mason University Child Development Center's Professional Development Day and received 6 hours of training.

Staff & Center Happenings



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK is a special week to recognize teachers, child care providers and other educators of young children everywhere. Throughout the year, Fun and Friends recognizes the efforts of our staff with teacher luncheons, small gifts of appreciation, and annual bonuses. We also provide center sponsored professional development to enhance their skills and meet the high standards set by many early childhood organizations. To thank staff for all they do we will recognize Teacher Appreciation Week from May 2-6. During this time, the staff will enjoy their annual teachers breakfast.



Three of our staff members who begun course work last year toward receiving a Child Development Associates Credential (CDA) have finished the first stage and are ready to complete the requirements from the Council for Professional Recognition. We congratulate Vanessa Gutierrez (BBB's), Samia Toema (BBB's) and Maria Raxon (BBB's) for this accomplishment.



Book Fair: Every spring Fun and Friends has the chance to participate with Westgate Child Center (program across the hall) and their book fair. This has been a great way to receive books for the classrooms. The teachers make a wish list and parents buy and donate the books to the classrooms. Through the years it has become a “friendly competition” between the centers to see who received the most books, so a tally of how many books are purchased for each center is kept. The children really enjoy all the new books. This year there will also be a “carnival nite” on April 7th, 5:00pm -6:30pm in room 103—play games! win prizes! and meet Clifford the Big Red Dog. It's always a big success so come browse and help support our classrooms with books.



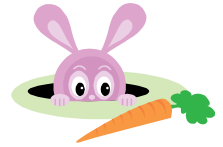
Easter Egg Hunt: The Lewinsville Senior Center will have an egg hunt on Monday April 25th (Easter Monday) beginning at 10:30am. The children will be participating and have a chance to shake paws with the Easter Bunny and find hidden goody filled eggs. If it's a nice day it will be held outside.



Moms come join us on Friday May 6th for breakfast in your honor. More information will be available about this special activity as the time nears.



Family Fun Activities for Spring



Emails:

Just a

reminder that
if your email
address or
status has
changed to be
sure to let us
know.

- Make an alphabet collage: cut letters from magazine and glue on paper.
- Talk about what happened at the beginning, middle and end of the day.
- Make green jello for St. Patrick's Day



Time for Spring Cleaning!

- Check your child's cubby for appropriate clothing
 - Update personal information
- Remove outdated information from child's folder

S is for **SUNSHINE** to brighten the spring, warming the water, the earth, everything!

P is for **POSIES** with colours so bright-reds, yellow, purples, Oh! What a sight!

R is for **RAINDROPS** that splash all about, wetting the earth so that new life can sprout.

I is for **INSECTS** that flit through the air, and grasshoppers, beetles, and ants everywhere.

N is for **NOISES** I hear when I wake, the chirping of birds and the laughs children make.

G is for **GROWTH** that I see around me. The plants and the animals-**SPRING** is lovely!

Unknown

