



Fun & Friends Child Development Center

# ***SPRING 2010*** ***NEWSLETTER***

## Spring Time

In spring, the world wakes up again. Plants grow, trees develop new leaves, and flowers bloom. The weather becomes warmer and spring is in the air. We will soon be enjoying the beautiful weather by spending as much time as possible outdoors! WELCOME TO SPRING.



### Special Days to Celebrate

**March 17.....St. Patrick's Day**  
**March 20.....First day of Spring**

**April 1.....April Fool's Day**  
**April 4.....Easter**  
**April 22.....Earth day**

**May 3-7.....Teacher Appreciation  
Week**

**May 9.....Mother's Day**  
**May 31.....Memorial Day  
(Center Closed)**

## Directors' Message

Teaching children to read begins in infancy and continues throughout their lives. During a recent training, we learned the importance of reading to the children as early as 6 weeks. Playing rhyming games and making up silly songs are also ways to help your child become a reader.

Your child's first exposure to reading should be at home. Having magazines, books and newspapers around the house give the children the sense that reading is a worthwhile activity. Your child will enjoy "reading" the cereal box, the milk carton and anything else with words.

A child will start learning about sounds from the moment of birth. Learning that sounds are representations of words comes from the conversations you have with your child.

Teaching a child to read is the responsibility of everyone who comes in contact with the child.

Think of learning to read like baking a cake. Certain ingredients must be mixed together and baked a specific length of time. With reading, there are pre-requisite skills the child needs to master and when they are ready, they will read.

Happy Reading with your child!

### Here's what's coming!

- ◆ In March the GOL Enrichment program started with YOGA-the children are really enjoying this activity. The instructor is awesome with them.
- ◆ Our annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Senior Center will take place at 10:30am on Monday April 5th.
- ◆ Westgate Child Center will have their annual book fair in April this year. Fun and Friends participates and receive lots of book donations, the exact date will be posted soon.
- ◆ Butterflies' (Pre-K) "graduation" cap & gown pictures are on April 1st.

During the month of May, we honor several important groups of people. Our mothers are the most important. Mother's day is on May 9th this year, we will celebrate with a Mother's Day Breakfast on May 7th from 7—9:30am. More information



will be posted about this event as the time nears. Please join us for some special treats.

Our teachers help children grow in so many ways. They provide numerous opportunities for the children to learn in their daily activities. To thank staff for all they do we will recognize Teacher Appreciation Week from May 3-7. Please try to recognize your child's teachers in some way. A card is a great way to express your thanks.

Memorial Day will be on May 31st. The center is closed for this national holiday. In addition to having a fun day, try to remember our soldiers in harms way.

**Good News:** Recently we had a licensing inspection. Our inspector found our records complete, observed children engaged in age appropriate activities and was very impressed with the way we evacuated the building during a fire drill that occurred during her visit. We are happy to report our license was recommended for renewal.



## STAFF HAPPENINGS



Professional Development: Our staff have been attending training all throughout the year satisfying state licensing requirements as well as the center's. Most recently staff attended workshops at George Mason University, Appelbaum Training Institute and Foundations for Families. New topics included:

- ◆ Team Building
- ◆ Managing Stress and Fears
- ◆ Welcoming Families to the Center
- ◆ Infant/Toddler Curriculum

On March 31st our Center Director's Elizabeth & Inell will attend "The Ultimate Child-care Management Conference" in Fairfax, VA.

CPR & First Aid training is scheduled for April. All staff will be receiving this training for recertification. In addition several staff will join Westgate Child Center in taking the Medication Administration

Training (MAT). As a reminder, the center does not administer prescription or over-the-counter medications. However, we do administer emergency medications (such as albuterol and epipens). In order for these emergency medications to be dispensed staff have to receive the MAT training. We currently have four staff with this training.

Ten of our staff have begun course work toward receiving a Child Development Associates Credential (CDA). We congratulate Rosalia Cardoza, Nelly Rosales, Luisa Cruces, Jacqueline Linares, Rosa Gonzales, Jessy Gonzales, Vanessa Gutierrez, Evelyn Vasquez, Samia Toema and Lourdes Camacho on taking the step forward towards achieving this important educational goal.

The ESOL classes have continued this



Winter. Nine of our staff are enrolled in this class. They have successfully completed the fall session and received certificates for their participation.

### Welcome!

We welcomed Elvia Rodriquez (Infants) and Gena Garcia (Butterflies) to Fun & Friends. Both have expressed much enjoyment working with the children and their co-workers. Ms. Elvia is a “songbird” and sings with and to the children all day long—the children love it and we love it too! Ms. Gena has a “creative” side and got right to work creating, cutting and decorating the classroom, it looks great! We are very happy to have both a part of our team.

You may have noticed a few staff members have been reassigned to other classes. We are giving the staff opportunities for professional growth and development in other areas of our center.



### News from our Learning Stations

**Infants:** As spring approaches we are looking forward to spending more time outdoors. Both the Dreamers and Lambs will start working on the 1.2.3 Read curriculum again this spring. For our new families the curriculum involves a wide range of activities that focus on all concepts of developmental learning. For more information about the curriculum check their website at [www.cdr.org](http://www.cdr.org).

The Lambs will be working on the Growing Vegetable Soup module which will allow them to learn about the process of planting, growing, and harvesting vegetables. They will plant their own green bean plant and watch it grow. At the end we will enjoy our very own vegetable soup! We are awaiting the warm weather to enjoy some outdoor learning!

**BBB's:** Since spring is just around the corner, we are ready to celebrate the following activities; St. Patrick's, Easter & Mother's Day. The spring season is the reason to enjoy ourselves with the pleasant weather. We are happy that we have been able to take the children outside after the thawing of the snow. They have really been enjoying themselves. Having contact with Mother Nature, watching the birds sing, the flowers blooming and having plenty of sun helps us explain both spring and nature to the children and will tie into our wonderful activities.

We are proud to announce that Daniel Lee has completed his potty training and is now a member of the “Dry Kids Club”.

Birthday wishes go out to birthdays in March, April and May: Tyler, Reid, Kyle, Eric, Audrey, Kaylin, and Quinn.

**Cubs:** Green, green everywhere! Shamrocks and leprechauns will be decorating our room to get ready for our day of green. We are very excited to enter into this spring season. Winter is just about over but through all the cold, windy and record snow days Cubs survived. It has been wonderful to get back outside on the playground.

We enjoyed all the winter activities from celebrating all the different holidays in December to Valentines in February. As we look ahead the Cubs will be involved in lots of sensory and movement activities as we leap into spring. Themes will focus on the senses, flowers, community helper and animals. All will be explored through books, songs and arts & crafts.



**Butterflies:** Those who enjoy cold weather have had a winter of their dreams. Some of us welcome the sound of birds at first light, longer days and warm sunshine.

We welcomed Miss Gena who works full time and Miss Elizabeth to the afternoon hours. We have also added Elizabeth Glace, Aidan Carey and Kevin Campbell, all from the Cubs.

Miss Pam has watched the weekly Dance classes and has seen much improvement in large motor strength and coordination. Miss Brittany’s music selections delighted the class. We are now practicing yoga and will soon move on to soccer.

The cold and snow limited us to indoor play for the majority of the winter, but the class adjusted very well. The children are playing with more friends, sharing more easily and taking turns. We have also managed to lower the noise level in the room most of the time! The children were delighted with pajama day, we may have to do it again!

We have enjoyed books and projects about winter weather, animals in winter, numbers, clothing and fairy tales. In the coming months we will look at the New Beginnings in Spring, Farm Animals, Insects and of course we will be getting ready for graduation in June for those going to Kindergarten.



## FAMILY CORNER



### Sung to Mulberry Bush

Carrots growing orange and long,  
orange and long  
Carrots growing orange and long,  
growing in my garden!

*Repeat with:*

*Corn stalks growing tall and thick  
Pumpkins growing fat and round  
Pea pods growing on a vine  
Tomatoes growing green and red*

Try these Spring activities with your child:

- ◆ Take a walk in the sunshine
- ◆ Blow bubbles outside
- ◆ Plant a flower garden
- ◆ Read a book outside
- ◆ Ride bikes
- ◆ Have a picnic
- ◆ Decorate Easter eggs
- ◆ Eat strawberry shortcake

### Suggested reading...

- Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
- When Will It Be Spring? By Catherine Walters
- St. Patrick’s Day Countdown by Salina Yoon
- Pizza at Sally’s by Monica Wellington

**Congratulations on your new bundles of joy:** The Robyak family, The Leo family (girl), The Thomas family (boy), The Simone family (girl), The Briceno family (boy) and the Cole family (boy).

Parents should dress children appropriately for play. The children will be on the floor, doing art projects, playing outside, and may incur the occasional spill during snack or lunch. They also need to have the appropriate shoes for the playground.





“A person’s a person, no matter how small”,  
Theodore Geisel, a.k.a Dr Seuss, would say. “Children want  
the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be  
entertained and delighted.”

Brilliant, playful, and always respectful of children, Dr. Seuss  
charmed his way into the consciousness of four generations of  
youngsters and parents. In the process, he helped millions of  
children learn to read.

In May of 1954, Life published a report on illiteracy among  
school children, suggesting that children were having trouble  
reading because their books were boring. This problem in-  
spired Geisel’s publisher, prompting him to send Geisel a list  
of 400 words he felt were important for children to learn. The  
publisher asked Geisel to cut the list to 250 words and use  
them to write an entertaining children’s book. Nine months  
later, Geisel, using 220 of the words given to him, published  
**The Cat in the Hat**, which brought instant success.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS!**

Who is Roy G Biv?  
His name represents the letters in the colors of the  
rainbow:

**Red Orange Yellow Green Blue Indigo Violet**

**Gentle Reminder**

**Tuition is due on or before the 1st of the month or the 1st & 15th of the  
month. Late fees apply after these dates. If you are turning in your tuition  
after either of these dates please include the 5% late fee. Thank you!**

