

Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn

March Newsletter



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



The Value of Play

"The word 'toy' is derived from the root of the word 'to toil or to work'. Early toys were imitations of adult tools made in a child's size. Today, toys are still the tools children use to learn how the world works. Play is children's work. Toys are their tools"
—a wall sign in a Victorian playroom

Children learn best from observing the world around them. They often role play to help them understand the roles they see the adults in their life portraying. When we see a young toddler walking around with a play telephone under their chin, saying "Hello, Hello!" they are mimicking our actions as adults. We often see preschoolers writing lists or taking "orders" when they play restaurant. And how many times have we seen young "mommies" and "daddies" try to comfort their baby dolls by rocking them and patting their backs while saying, "Shhh, Shhh"?

Many believe children are just playing—but they are actually busy at work. Whether in the House Area "cooking dinner" or constructing a "bridge" for the cars to drive over in Block Area, children are forming ideas and building on them. It happens in Art/Science Area when they are finger painting with red and yellow paint and discover that they have created orange! And, as they "read" books by looking at the pictures and create their own version of the story in Library Area. These discoveries, these explorations are occurring everyday in each of our classrooms! Children are becoming independent by making choices about their play and the materials they will be using!

Children are imagining, creating, role-playing, problem-solving, encountering challenges and working individually or within groups. They are manipulating materials, trying on new roles, and mastering new skills! Play enhances their physical, social/emotional and intellectual growth and stimulates their language development and expansion.

Our curriculum and classroom centers provide opportunities that encourage child initiated play. The materials we have in each classroom support the age group to ensure that developmentally appropriate exploration is possible. The teachers work side by side with the children and join their play. They sneak in the academics: "Can you show me the cow? What does the cow say? He is white with black spots—look at the leopard, what color spots does he have?" "If we're going to the supermarket, we should write a grocery list—what letter do you think Milk starts with?" "How many blocks did you use for your tower? What if we added three more—how many blocks would we have then?"

March Babies

Let's all wish our March Babies a very Happy Birthday!

Sea Horses

3/16 Nicholas S.

Manatees I

3/2 Patrick B.

Dolphins I

3/2 Alexander P.

3/8 Trisha S.

Afternoon Staff

3/25 Miss Lisa



If you would like to bring in a snack for your child's birthday, it must be purchased from a store.

Unfortunately, due to Health Code Restrictions, we cannot allow home baked items. Please check with your child's teachers for any diet restrictions within their room.

Did you know that you can download many needed forms from our website like Infant/Toddler Updates and Medication Order Forms to name a few from our Parent Resource Page. You can also find archived newsletters. The October Newsletter may be helpful to many of our new parents as the Director's Corner article is about "Separation Anxiety.". The web address is: www.kiddieacademyofgreenlawn.com

Congratulations

Miss Kristine! We hope you have many happy years ahead of you!



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Curriculum Corner

Sea Stars

Hello everyone! We have been very busy learning new things such as pulling ourselves up, crawling and clapping our hands. This month we will be doing finger plays while singing "Where is Thumbkin". We will continue to play games like "Peek a Boo" and learning to dance to the songs we sing!

Sea Horses

This month the Sea Horses will be seeing green and all the other colors of the rainbow. We will talk about the wind. On a windy day we will go outside to learn how to fly a kite! Also, during one of our trips outside we will check for rainbows and hopefully find a pot of gold. March will be filled with fun colored sensory projects. Keep an eye out for some green silly fun with the coming of St. Patrick's Day. And, let's not forget that it's Dr. Seuss' Birthday this month. We will celebrate with silly hats and silly rhymes, so come on by and catch some fun!

Clown Fish I

Welcome to March! This month we will focus on primary colors; red, yellow and blue. Then, we will mix colors to create secondary colors, like green! In our science area, we will explore colored water at the water table. We will also add different objects (blue water, blue boat). We are making a rainbow mural for our wall. Each color will be a different color and texture. For Dr. Seuss' Birthday, we will be making red and white hats, then we will have a parade at school. In the Library area, there will be various Dr. Seuss books to explore. Each week we will be making

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We hope to enhance each of the classrooms by adding "Real Materials" to each of the centers! We are hoping that parents and staff can clean out their closets and cabinets and come up with some interesting props—we promise to make use of everything (we're a creative bunch)! All donated materials need to be clean, safe and in good repair. We are hoping to create "Prop Boxes" so that a classroom teacher can pull a box from storage and have everything they need to create a new center. Here are a few ideas:

Restaurant: Menus, Table Clothes, Aprons, Order Pads, CLEAN--UNUSED empty Pizza Boxes and Food Take Out cartons, plastic plates, trays, placemats

Florist: Artificial Flowers, Ribbons, Bows, Floral Picks, Styrofoam Blocks, little greeting cards

Animal Hospital/Pets/Doctor: Pet Bowls, Leashes, Ace Bandages, Clip Board, Small Travel Cages, Empty/Clean Treat Boxes, Stuffed animals: Dog-Cat-Bird-Fish-etc

Post Office: Stationary, Envelopes, Stickers for Stamps, Labels, Rubber Stamps

Bank: Deposit/Withdraw Slips, Envelopes, Play Money, Stamps, Calculators, Money Trays, Adding Machines

Office: Old Computer Key Boards, Appointment Books, Calendars, Binders, Paper, Envelopes, Telephones, Briefcases

Bakery: Rolling Pins, Cookie Cutters, Cake Tins, Cupcake Tins, Pot Holders, Boxes, measuring spoons/cups, plastic bowls, spatulas, cookie sheets, aprons, wooden spoons


Beach Day: Beach Towels, Sunglasses, blue bed sheet (water), tan bed sheet (sand), rope, beach balls, clean empty bottles of sun block, picnic basket/small cooler

Travel/Air Plane: Travel Brochures, Ice Bucket/Pitcher/plastic glass set, toy serving cart, magazines, tickets, small luggage/travel bags/toiletry bags, maps, old cameras

Beauty Parlor: Appointment Books, CLEAN EMPTY shampoo, conditioner, shower gel containers, towels, wash clothes, "manicure" equipment: cotton balls, nail files, empty kid's nail polish containers or make up containers, hair magazines/posters, old curling irons, hair crimpers/flat irons, hair dryers—with cords (We'll remove)

Fix It Shop: Tool Box, Tool Tray, tool belts, nuts, bolts, Guts: clock parts, radio parts, flashlights, plastic tools, tape measures, rulers, repair books

The following materials are always wonderful additions to the classroom: telephones, cell phones, cookbooks, maps, repair books, small steering wheels, recipe cards, photo albums, phone books, address books, daily planners, stationary, envelopes, plastic house wares, pocket books, briefcases, pots and pans, placemats, baby blankets, infant diapers, diaper bag, baby bottle w/lid (no nipples), baby clothes and anything else you think would be useful! Please bring all donations to the reception area! Thank you!



jello to match the color of the week. Also, the children can wear clothes that match each color. On the first day of spring we will smell flowers, and easel paint with spring colors. Lastly, we will be doing activities that encourage children to share!

Harp Seals I

This month we will be doing a lot of fun things! On March 4th we will have "Orange Day", where we will all wear our favorite piece of orange clothing to school. On March 11th we will be going to a pretend Circus. Our themes for the month are "Outrageously Orange and Bouncing Balls", "Polka Dot Purple and the Circus", "Keen on Green Dinosaurs", and "Bodacious Blue Fish"! Something special will be coming to class on the week that we are talking about "Bodacious Blue Fish"!



Harp Seals II

I am extremely excited about the progress we have all made these past few months. The children have adjusted well to the classroom and have become ambitious and eager to learn. As we step into March, we have lots of wonderful experiences. The children will be introduced to lots of new colors during this month, as we examine the theme of "Under the Rainbow". We will also participate in many fun activities relating to bouncing balls, the circus, dinosaurs and fish. Mixing primary colors to make new colors and discussing Saint Patrick's Day will be two of our main focuses.



Manatees I

This month our theme is "You Are What You Eat"! We'll discover our senses, things that go crunch, the Irish heritage and well-balanced meals. We'll learn about the letters Pp, Qq and Rr, the number 7, the shape of an arch, "Little Miss Muffet" and our color of the month - Green! Creative activities include making sand art pictures, scratch and sniff paintings, rainbows, Irish flags and placemats. For Science we'll play guessing games using our senses, perform experiments such as coloring celery and making water disappear with pasta! Last but not least, we'll enjoy preparing recipes to make lemonade, "Ants on a Log" (celery, cream cheese and raisins) and Irish Soda Bread. It's going to be a fun month!



Dolphins I

Happy St. Patrick's Day Everybody! This month we are learning the letters Rr, Ii and Tt. Our theme is "You Are What You Eat"! We will learn about our 5 senses, personal hygiene, poisons from Mr. Yuk, St. Patrick's Day and Easter Language Arts Projects. We will read a 5 senses story by Dr. Suess, "Green Eggs and Ham" and about what keeps us healthy. In math we will make green eggs and egg boats and play "What's Missing?" Our Art projects will include Mr. Yuk Puppets, colored eggshell mosaics, food portraits and rainbow kits. We will go on a leprechaun hunt and sing "Boom Chica Boom" in Music. We also have many fun activities planned for Social Studies and Science as well!



Parent Referral Bonus

Don't forget about our Parent Referral Bonus! If you refer a friend who enrolls their child at the Center for Full Time Care, you will receive a FREE WEEK! Thank you to all who have already referred new clients!



The Kiddie Academy **SUMMER CAMP** Experience

Introducing Kamp Adventure! Summer Camp for children ages 5 - 12! Visit our website for more information on this exciting new program. It will be packed with themed weekly activities and field trips. Check our website for updated information on the summer camp program and daily activities! Please tell a friend!

New Staff Members!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Head Teacher, Mr. Mike and our new Assistant Teachers, Miss Ashley and Miss Katie. Welcome to our Team!