

Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn

April/May Newsletter



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Car Seat Safety

Most parents understand the importance of putting their children in car seats, especially their younger kids, but reports still show that 80% of kids aren't secured correctly in a car seat.

Among the easiest mistakes to avoid is to just make sure that your child is in the correct car seat for his age and that he is facing the right direction.

- Infants should be in a rear facing infant only seat or convertible seat until they are 1 year old **AND** twenty pounds. Children who reach twenty pounds before their first birthday still need to face backwards and can be moved into a rear facing convertible seat. Smaller infants who don't reach 20 pounds until after their first birthday should also continue to face backwards. This is more a minimum though. Many people advocate continuing to sit toddlers rear facing in a convertible seat until they outgrow it for added safety.

- After they are twenty pounds and have passed their first birthday, toddlers can use a forward facing car seat (either a convertible, combination or forward facing seat) until they are about 40 pounds.

- Children over forty pounds should be placed into a belt positioning booster seat (either a combination seat or booster seat) and they will usually stay in it until they are at least 8 years old.

- You should not use your car's regular seat belts until they fit correctly when your child is about 80 pounds and is 4ft 9 inches tall. Remember that your child will not be ready to use regular seat belts until the shoulder strap fits across his shoulder and not his neck, and the lap belt fits across his hips and not his stomach.

- All children under 12 years of age should be placed in the back seat of the car, especially if you have passenger side air bags.

Once you have the right seat, it is easy to make mistakes by not securing the seat correctly in your car or not securing your child correctly in the seat. **Common mistakes** when using a car seat include:

- having harness straps too loose or in the wrong position
- having a harness chest clip in the wrong position
- not locking the seat belt properly with a locking clip, seat belt retractor or locking latchplate. Keep in mind that newer seat belt systems have a built-in locking mechanism.
- not securing the car seat correctly, by either using the wrong seat belt path or not making the seat belts tight enough
- placing an infant seat in the path of an air bag.

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April & May Babies

Let's all wish our April & May Babies a very Happy Birthday!

Sea Stars

5/27 Haily G.

Sea Horses

4/4 Nicholas M.

Clown Fish I

4/27 Matthew S.

5/17 Jennie D.

5/21 Rachel M.

Harp Seals I

4/26 Ryder H.

4/9 Isabella M.

4/16 Cameron R.

5/17 Makinlee M.

5/19 June P.

5/17 Sage Antonia V.

Harp Seals II

5/23 Larry C.

Manatees I

5/24 Bruce C.

5/3 Aristeed D.

5/25 Nico S.

5/29 Robert S.

Dolphins I

4/27 Brianna S.

5/29 Christian P.

4/5 Miss Toniann

4/28 Miss Danielle

4/6 Miss Ana

5/14 Miss Therese



A reminder to all that we are closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day!

Other mistakes to avoid depend on what type of seat you are using. In addition to following these tips, you should also read your car seat's instructions. A recent study showed that many of these instructions are difficult to understand by many parents, so if you don't understand what you are doing, either call the manufacturer or go to a car seat inspection station to see if you are using your seat correctly.

Alissa



Things To Do

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, an original children's musical. A tale of honesty and self-esteem as Snow White learns the meaning of true friendship. May 26 - June 11 at Theatre Three in Port Jefferson. Contact the theatre at 928-9100 for show times and directions.

Curriculum Corner

The Month of April was very busy for us! We celebrated our 1st Annual "Week of The Young Child". The National Association For The Education Of Young Children (NAEYC) designates the first week in April as a time to celebrate the children and the caring staff who work with them each day! We really had fun celebrating together, with the children!

We got off to a "hopping" start by raising \$620.00 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association by participating in their "Hop-A-Thon" on Friday, April 1st. The MDA provided a curriculum that taught us that some children have difficulty with their muscles and aren't able to jump, run and some even have trouble walking and need braces or wheelchairs to help them get around. Most importantly, the unit focused on the differences in each of us and the importance of caring, respecting and helping those who are different from you!

On Monday, April 4th we did activities that promoted an "All About Me" theme. We measured ourselves, made hand or foot prints and recorded what we liked best along with our symbols. The older children did self portraits and graphed the differences in their eye and hair color.

Tuesday, April 5th was "Teddy Bear Picnic" day. The children brought their favorite teddy bears to school and participated in "Show and Tell". Some classes graphed the differences in the visiting bears. The children and their teddy bears enjoyed grilled cheese sandwiches for lunch—picnic style!

We also surprised the teachers that day by presenting them with corsages, chocolate lollipops and a huge "Happy Teacher Appreciation Day" cake—it was YUMMY! Most of all, they appreciated your kind words and letters, flowers and thoughtful notions. It was a wonderful surprise for them! Thank you for letting each of them know that they are making a difference!

Wednesday, April 6th was our "Special Person's Breakfast" where the children had an opportunity to eat breakfast with their parent or loved one, before they headed off to work. Many of the classes made centerpieces, table cloths and baked goodies to share! The children were most impressed with the buffet and getting to choose what they wanted for breakfast!

Class Picture Day was Thursday, April 7th. We had lots of smiles and laughs—it turns out that many of our children are little hams. But, we also had a few tears by some who weren't interested in participating. John Sica did a wonderful job capturing the children "in the moment" as noted in the class picture displays!

And finally, on Friday, April 8th we opened our collective Art Show featuring pieces by both individual children and group projects from each class. Our theme "April Showers bring May Flowers" was inspired by the Sea Horses who created a huge umbrella. We had large puffy rain clouds by the Harp Seals I class with big drops of rain made by the Sea Horses and Sea Stars. The Dolphins made a huge puffy sun and the Clown Fish made many flowers that grew in the "field" created by the Harp Seals II. Beautiful "butterflies" flew in the blue sky, thanks to the Sea Horses! The Manatees created a "Flowers For Sale" cart with a beautiful array of flowers! We also had wind socks, a flower basket, rain sticks, potted "plants" and a two sided robot! By popular demand, we extended the Art Show for over a week!

Birthday Snacks

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. Under no circumstances should any items containing nuts be brought into the center, we are a "Nut Free" school. Please be aware of products that are manufactured on machines which also manufacture nut products. A nice and very easy alternative is Ice Cream or Italian Ices.



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!