

Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn

2007 1st Quarter Newsletter



Volume 4

Number 1

January 12, 2007

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Parent Teacher Conferences

Did you know that each year in January and June, you have the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss where your child is developmentally? Many of our parents already feel well informed of their child's progress at school; they feel confident that their child is learning and feel a parent teacher conference is not necessary.

Although we do strive to have open communication on a daily basis with parents, this forum allows both parents and teachers to share important information or concerns regarding the child's development. It's a chance to sit together, undisturbed to discuss the child's progress and to share plans on how we will attain the next set of goals and how you can support their efforts at home.

It's also a good time to find out how you can volunteer in your child's classroom and actively participate in your child's education. Each classroom has their monthly theme and curriculum objectives posted so you can plan in advance. Sharing your family traditions, hobbies, information about your job, or simply joining us for breakfast or lunch is a good way to get involved!

Our Early Childhood Professionals have been working hard to compile information on your child. As they observe your child in their natural play, they take anecdotes and collect writing/artwork samples to share with you.

Kiddie Academy has a Developmental Checklist which is used by the classroom staff each month as a tool to assess how each individual child has progressed. The teachers respond to each criteria by using a Number Key; which is as follows:

- 1) Not Yet Developed
- 2) Occasionally
- 3) Regularly
- 4) N = Not Applicable
- 5) P = Progressing, if necessary

The teachers are then able to plan lessons around a child's current ability level to be sure that they are meeting the needs of each individual child in their group.

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Quarter 1 Babies

Let's all wish our October, November & December Babies a very Happy Birthday!

Sea Stars

3/8 Carly N.

Clown Fish I

1/22 Paige T.

1/23 Brooklynn P.

3/30 Melanie S.

Harp Seals I

1/30 Charlie K.

3/7 Michael Z.

3/29 Grayson F.

Harp Seals II

3/7 Ava C.

3/16 Nicholas S.

Manatees I

1/21 Abigail M.

1/30 Paul R.

2/5 Kelly W.

2/25 Emma G.

2/26 Steven C.

2/27 Hannah P.

3/29 Julianna B.

Manatees II

1/7 RC P.

2/2 Olivia M.

2/7 Rohan D.

3/3 Matthew F.

Dolphins I

1/13 Jeremy T.

1/26 Nicholas H.

2/25 Austin B.



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Director's Corner cont.

For Infant and Toddlers (6 Weeks-18 Months) the criteria is based on:

- Physical Development (Gross and Fine Motor; Eye-Hand Coordination)
- Self Concept
- Emotional Awareness
- Awareness of Others
- Communication
- Cognitive Development
- Self Help Skills (19-36 Months)



For the Three and Four Year Olds the criteria is based on:

- Gross Motor Development
- Fine Motor Development
- Development of Senses
- Socio-Emotional Development (Self Esteem; Attitude; Pro-Social Behavior)
- Cognitive Development
- Problem Solving Skills and Learning
- Logical Thinking Skills
- Concepts and Information
- Dramatic Play
- Creative Arts
- Recognition
- Emerging Literacy Skills/Language
- Math (Counting; Classifying; Size Difference; Shapes; Sets)
- Science (Concepts; Colors)

Language (Five Year Olds and Kindergarten) also includes:

- Sentence Structure
- Listening
- Self
- Labeling

Social Studies

- Interpersonal
- Concepts

It is important to us that we share all that we have learned about your child and all that he/she has accomplished during our time together.

Parent Teacher Conferences will begin on January 22, 2007.

Appointments will be offered in the morning, evening and at times during the day. Each classroom will be assigned a week for conference sign up, which is posted in each classroom. Please understand that we must run the conference schedule this way to ensure that classroom coverage is provided for each classroom teacher. If you are not able to meet, we can do a conference call, send home a copy of the evaluation for you to read/sign or email you! Please let your classroom teacher know if you are not able to meet during the designated week so that we can accommodate your needs.

Yours in Fun & Learning,

Alissa



Has Your Child Been Screened for Lead?

Lead poisoning is a serious problem for children. It can harm the brain, hearing and other parts of the body. It can make it hard for them to learn in school.

CHECK YOU HOME

Lead was used in house paint up until 1978! If your home was built before then, it probably has lead in it, so please discuss this with your child's doctor at their next visit.

HAVE YOU CHILD TESTED FOR LEAD POISONING

Most children don't show symptoms, and the only way you can tell if a child has lead poisoning is by a blood test. New York state requires that all children be tested once at age 1 and then again at age 2. Remember, even if your child does have lead poisoning, it can be treated, early detection is the key!

Birthday Babies cont.

Dolphins II	1/16	Michael P.	2/13	Miss Irene S.
1/3	Caroline P.	3/14	Joey B.	2/15
1/14	Nilsen A.	3/25	Hannah M.	3/1
1/30	Lila T.	Staff		3/20
3/2	Patrick B.	1/1	Miss JoAnn	3/25
3/31	Destiny C.	2/9	Miss Danielle F.	
Sharks		2/13	Miss Jessica	
1/6	Priyanka D.			



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 Ice cups and the children love them!

www.kiddieacademyofgreenlawn.com



Please visit our Parent Resource Center page on our website for any forms that you may need to update now and then, such as Infant Toddler Reports, Emergency Forms, Physical Forms, Medication Administration Forms, etc. We also have copies of our archived newsletters in pdf format for your review. There are some helpful articles for newly enrolled parents.



Life in the Pond...A Look at Transitions

Spring brings many new changes. The weather becomes pleasant, flowers begin to bloom and there is a sense of energy in the air. Many of our children have birthdays in the spring, and you know what that means...it's time to transition your child to the next age group. Transitions are necessary from a business standpoint, as we need to continually evolve with the children and make room for more families in need of child care. But the most important reason for transitions is for the benefit of the children themselves, to help them evolve into their own.

As with all components of development, each individual child attains developmental milestones at their own pace. For example; some infants walk independently as early as 10 months, while others don't take their first steps until after their first birthday.

Our curriculum goals are developmentally appropriate for the children in each division of our program (Infants, Toddlers, Preschool and School Aged) They include assessing where each individual child is each month on our Developmental Checklist, as discussed in the Director's Corner in this issue. We share our findings with you twice a year at the Parent Teacher Conferences, so we can share concerns together, make you aware of our goals and offer some insight as to what you can do at home to support your child. Together, we can determine what is best for your child as their birthday approaches and make the decision to transition.

The support continues, when your child enters the new classroom. It doesn't matter if your child is not: walking, verbally expressing him/herself, potty trained or able to share. Your child's new teachers will work with the teachers from the old classroom to find out exactly where your child is developmentally and which objectives have been met for your child. All the things your child is "not" doing simply become the goals for the new classroom!

Transitions occur quite frequently at our center. The state allows us a little leeway with the cut off dates: we are able to move a child three months before their birthday or within three months of their birthday. In most cases, we choose to move children early, as they achieve the goals of the current curriculum and out grow the classroom.

At that point, the child becomes the "Big Fish in the Little Pond". The child has utilized all their current classroom has to offer. The materials in the room have been explored and mastered and little is left to challenge the child's cognitive development. When children are left in an environment that is not stimulating, they often regress, become aggressive towards their peers, or make their own fun by using the materials inappropriately.

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Transitions cont.

We have heard parent concerns over the years and have worked them into our transition plan for each age group. We allow children two weeks for visiting their new classroom, sometimes more if we feel the child would benefit from an extended transition, or in the case of a part time student, who did not have the opportunity to visit or "transition" five days per week. In many cases, transitions are cut short, because once the child has spent a day or two in the new classroom, they do not want to go back.

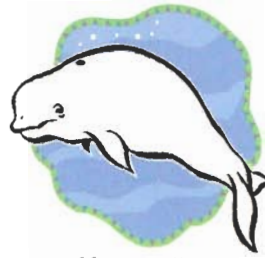
Very often, parents are concerned for their child's safety, as the children in the next class are physically larger than their child. Keep in mind that we maintain state ratios, plan appropriate activities and provide adequate supervision in every classroom, regardless of the age group. We also hear that parents do not want their children to transition because of changes at home or the child has "settled" into the routine of the current classroom.

It is common for parents to request a specific classroom because their child's friends are enrolled, or parents show concern because their child is leaving all of their friends behind. Starting a new classroom is about making new friends and exploring new territory -- all of which are a part of social development and part of the goals for the new classroom.

All of these factors are taken into account before we approach you with the possibility of transitioning your child. As our children grow, their needs change. As parents, it is hard to let go of our precious little children and the wonderful staff who have cared so diligently for them. It is important that the teachers, parents and members of administration support our children in their development. Sometimes that means letting them go from their current classroom...which is hard on the teachers too!

The opportunity to transition brings many wonderful life lessons, new friends and teachers, new territory, new challenges and most importantly new experiences. Change is part of the life process, and if our children are exposed to it in their early years, they will be well adjusted and have learned many life lessons by the time they go off to Kindergarten!

Beluga Whales Classroom Set to Open in February



Our center is growing and so are our children. In response to our growing population, we are opening our 12th classroom. The new Beluga Whales classroom will house our 5 year olds who did not make the Kindergarten cut-off, as well as our Camp Adventure Program. We will be using a Kindergarten curriculum in the class. Miss Mary will head up the class, materials will start to arrive in the next couple of weeks.



Now enrolling for Kamp Adventure! Summer Camp for children ages 5 - 12! We had a great time last year and we're looking forward to another great summer. It will be packed with themed weekly activities and field trips such as: Fun 4 All, Gingerbread University, Adventureland, Dinosaur Museum, White Post Farms and more!. Check our website in the upcoming weeks for updated information on the summer camp program and daily activities! Please tell a friend!

The Week of The Young Child

The Week of The Young Child is April 22 - April 28 this year. We have many exciting activities planned for the children and the parents. Things like our "Special Persons Breakfast", "Parent/Child Night", Staff Appreciation Day and the MDA Hop-A-Thon, which is so important in helping those children less fortunate than ours. More information on this important week's activities will follow in the coming months.

Class pictures will be taken on Friday April 27th!

Our Annual Scholastic Book Fair will take place March 26-30



Poisons in the Home

Many believe that a poisonous substance must be deadly, but that's not always the case. Every poisoning exposure is unique. Substances have various degrees of toxicity, depending on the amount, the length of time of the exposure and type of exposure-on the skin or ingested. The age, weight and health condition of the victim also must be considered. Reaction to poison exposure can range from mild to moderate to severe. A minor exposure may not produce any symptoms, while a severe exposure could be fatal.



Poisons are in 4 different forms:

- ♦ Solid Poisons - medicines, plants, etc.
- ♦ Liquid Poisons - lotions, soaps, lighter fluid, syrups, etc.
- ♦ Sprays - paints, cleaners, insecticides, flammables, etc.
- ♦ Invisibles - gases or vapors

Prevention is the key. According to the National Poison Prevention Council, established in 1961 (www.poisonprevention.org), many poisonings occur because adults are distracted for just a few moments. Unfortunately, it also only takes a few moments for a small child to swallow something that could be poisonous. When this occurs, call 911, then the Poison Control Center.

It's not just children though. Council statistics show adults age 25 through 44 also are an at-risk group. Many adults are poisoned unintentionally when they do not follow label directions on medication or household cleaners. You can keep yourself and your family members safer by being aware of potential hazards and observing these suggestions.

Bathroom:

- ♦ Child-proof cabinet locks
- ♦ Don't take medication in front of a child, it may look like candy
- ♦ Always follow dosages
- ♦ Some cleaners are more deadly than others, read the labels, buy smart

Bedroom:

- ♦ Be careful where you store your perfumes, colognes, etc.
- ♦ Mothballs and crystal should be hung up

Kitchen:

- ♦ Never store cleaning compounds and foods in the same area
- ♦ Keep all substances in their original containers

Spotlight on Staff



Patty Fordyce

Lead Teacher Sea Stars (6wks - 12 mos)

How long have you been working here?

2 years

Why did you choose early childhood education as your career?

I've always loved working with children

How many years have you been working in this career?

7 years

What is your favorite activity to do with the children?

Singing and reading books

What is your symbol and why did you choose it?

I chose a baseball, because I've always been a Yankee Fan!

What is your favorite children's book?

"If you Give a Mouse a Cookie"

What is your favorite children's song?

"I'm my Own Grandpa"

Why did you choose to work with this age group?

I love babies and watching them grow.

What are the most challenging things for you during the day?

When they are all crying at the same time.

What accomplishments are you most proud of in your classroom?

Helping the children to reach their milestones such as crawling and walking

What are some of the funny things that the children in your class have done/said?

They like to throw their shoes in the garbage pail. One of the children thought they could hide in the bookshelf so they curled up and thought we couldn't see them, it was very funny.

What is your educational background?

I am currently attending Dowling College for my Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education.

What do you like to do on your free time?

I love to spend time with my fiance and watch the Yankees and Grey's Anatomy.

Anything else interesting you would like to add?

I'm getting married on September 28th to my boyfriend of 6 years and I can't wait!

Poisons cont.

- ♦ Keep hazardous cleaning compounds capped
- ♦ Be careful with the products you purchase, read the labels

Additional Precautions:

- ♦ Keep the number of the Poison Control Center handy and the family doctor posted near the phone
- ♦ Install a CO2 detector and check the batteries often
- ♦ Don't let a child see how you open the safety latches or combination locks

Courtesy of First Aid Depot

Announcements

Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn welcomes the following new students who started with us in Q4:

Sea Stars

Mclaine M.
Catherine G.
Gregory K.
Dahlia S.

Sea Horses

Lindsay P.

Clown Fish I

Brooklynn P.

Clown Fish II

Drea Y.

Harp Seals II

Sloan A.

Dolphins II

Benjamin D.
Thalia H.
Sarah T.

Sharks

Amber R.
Brian K.



New Staff Members who started with us in Q4.

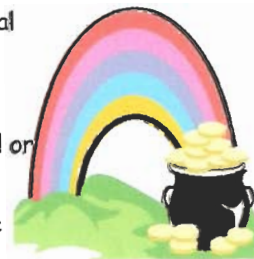
Welcome Aboard!

Miss Pathra	Miss Christine
Miss Cassie	Mr. Enrique
Miss Mary	Miss Wanda
Miss Carolyn	Miss Samantha
Miss Jessica	Miss Irene S.
Miss Jenn G.	

Parents and staff, we would love to post family news in our newsletter, such as arrivals of new babys, weddings, etc. If you have some news you would like to share in our next issue, please give all the particulars to Karen, in writing, and we will include it!

Parent Referral Bonus

Don't forget about our Parent Referral Bonus! If you refer a child to our center, you will receive a **FREE WEEK after 90 days** of their enrollment, full or part time, equivalent to that child's tuition rate. Thank you to all who have already referred new clients!



Re-Enrollment

We will be sending out re-enrollment information, for any parents whose child will not be attending our summer program, but would like to return in September. Please be on the look out for these forms!



Curriculum Corner

January's Theme is "Winter Wonderland". The children will be learning about what is associated with winter, such as snow, warm clothes and igloos. They will also be learning about what animals do during the winter time, such as put on heavier coats or in some cases hibernating. They will also be talking about some animals who spend the entire year in cold weather. Children will be learning about the importance of dressing warm in winter, so make sure they bring their hats and mittens.

February's Theme is "All About Safety". The children will learn about tools, measurements and safe practices, while exploring building structures. They will also learn about how to be safe at home. We will celebrate Valentine's Day, President's Day and Dental Health month. We will be talking to the children about why and how we keep our teeth and bodies healthy.

March's Theme is "You Are What You Eat". This month we will be discussing our senses, St. Patrick's Day, good habits and nutrition. We will be eating great food, exploring how it affects our senses and practicing good habits. We will use our senses to learn about the environment. We will learn what types of foods are good for our body and what kinds of foods we should eat.

Our Character Education Themes for these three months are "Patience, Respect/Tolerance and Responsibility. Please check out our Shark's display of these Character Education topics in the Reception area.

Staff Service Anniversaries that occurred in Q4:

2 Years
Miss Maria
Miss Michelle H.



The following staff members had perfect attendance:

October:	Miss Maria Miss JoAnn Miss Mary Miss Patty Miss Michelle H. Miss Jenn N. Mr. Joe Miss Shanna Miss Irene V.
November:	Miss Maria Miss JoAnn Miss Mary Miss Danielle F. Miss Michelle H. Mr. Enrique Miss Irene S. Mr. Joe
December:	Miss Maria Miss JoAnn Miss Michelle H. Miss Irene S.