

Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn

2007 2nd Quarter Newsletter



Volume 4

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Has Your Child Been Screened For Lead Poisoning?

Last Quarter we added a short blurb in our Newsletter about the importance of having your child screened for Lead Poisoning. It seems that our article was quite timely, as the New York State Department of Health, along with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services recently contacted all child care providers in New York State to stress the importance of blood lead testing for all children. One of the regulations of the NYSOCFS is that child care providers promote lead testing and try to obtain a copy of a lead screening certificate for each child under the age of six.

If a certificate is not obtained, the provider may not exclude the child, but are required to give parents information on lead poisoning and prevention and refer the parent to the child's health care provider or the local health department for a blood lead screening test. The following information was included in their letter to us, dated April 2007:

"Lead has long been recognized as the leading preventable environmental health hazard for young children. Despite significant reductions in new cases of childhood lead poisoning, thousands of children are identified with elevated blood lead levels each year in New York State. The primary way in which most young children in the United States are exposed to harmful levels of lead is through contact with chipped and peeling lead paint and lead-contaminated dust in their home environments (pre-1978 housing). This means if your house was built prior to 1978, chances are pretty good that lead paint was used in your home at some point. So if you are remodeling (tearing down walls, sanding walls) you are probably exposing yourself to lead dust and paint chips. Knowing this, it is important to use proper precautions to avoid any unnecessary health risk. Sometimes there can be other sources such as water contaminated by its flow through lead pipes or brass fixtures, soil contaminated by lead dust and certain imported consumer products that contain lead."

"Young children are most at risk of lead poisoning because their bodies are still developing, making early detection of lead exposure critical to a child's healthy development. Lead poisoning often occurs with no obvious symptoms, so it frequently

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Quarter 2 Babies

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

Sea Stars

4/18 Isabelle D.

Sea Horses

4/5 Peyton G.

Clown Fish I

4/2 Jordan F.

4/25 Evan W.

4/26 Aiden L.

6/7 Max F.

Clown Fish II

6/13 Thomas M.

Harp Seals I

5/2 Dylan W.

5/4 Jeffrey B.

6/14 Sofia B.

Harp Seals II

5/6 Julian W.

5/26 Rebecca K.

6/8 Sarah W.

6/18 Rachel A.

Manatees I

6/2 Billy G.

6/2 Zachary Z.

6/9 Anthony R.

6/15 Madeline G.

Manatees II

5/16 Wesley R.

5/17 Makinlee M.

6/6 Cedrick B.

6/11 Logan F.



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Director's Corner cont.

goes unrecognized. Exposure to even small amounts of lead may contribute to behavior problems, learning disabilities, and lowered intelligence scores, highlighting the importance of conducting lead screening for all children. In NYS, all health care providers are required to screen with a blood lead test all children at or around age one year and again at age two years and up to age 6 if a risk of exposure is identified."

Lead can be found in many aspects of our everyday lives, paint, peeling paint or broken plaster, dust, soil and water. Lead poisoning can lower IQ, cause kidney damage, hearing loss, growth problems, anemia and behavior problems. Symptoms of lead poisoning may include fatigue, crankiness and stomach ache, but a blood lead screening is the only sure way lead poisoning can be identified.

We have ordered Lead Fact Sheets and Lead pamphlets from the Department of Health and will distribute them as soon as they are received. For more information on childhood lead poisoning, please visit the Department of Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention website at: www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/lead/index.htm.

Yours in Fun & Learning,

Alissa

Tuesday, 4/24
Teacher
Appreciation Day

Thurs, 4/26
Special Persons
Breakfast



Wed, 4/25
MDA
Hop-A-Thon

Fri, 4/27
Class
Pictures
Family Fun
Night

**Camp
Adventure**

A KIDDIE ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

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, 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!

Birthday Babies cont.

Dolphins I

4/16 Madison S.
4/25 Andrew G.
4/26 Ryder H.
5/15 Juliana T.
5/23 Larry C.
6/14 Alex K.

DolphinsII

4/16 Cameron R.
5/5 Kiana M.
5/5 Kyle M.
5/17 Sage V.
5/28 Jourdan E.
5/19 Robert S.
Beluga Whales
4/16 Jessica Z.
5/24 Roy F.

Sharks

4/20 Jessica G.
5/11 Tyler L.
5/13 Skylar E.
5/25 Nico S.
6/3 Brian K.
6/13 Nicholas M.
6/20 Nicholas K.

Staff

4/28 Miss Danielle Babcock
5/3 Miss Michelle Torres
5/4 Mr. Enrique Hernandez
5/5 Miss Susan McCann
5/18 Miss Marina Diakakis
5/28 Miss Mary Dritto
5/25 Miss Pathra Choladda
5/31 Miss Shanna Stokkers
6/10 Miss Julia Bladykas
6/15 Miss Lisa Kubernack
6/22 Miss Wanda Hernandez



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 Information Forms, Physical Forms, Written Medication Consent 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.

Getting Your Children to Wear Bike Helmets

Wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of brain injury by as much as 88%. More than 75% of children ages 8 to 12 surveyed by the National Safe Kids Campaign said that they realized a brain injury could occur as a result of a bike crash and 65% of kids understood that brain injury could last a lifetime. However, less than 50% said they wore bike helmets on every bike ride and less than 33% wore them while riding scooters, skateboards and inline skates. So... if kids understand the risks, why are they so reluctant to wear helmets?

- ♦ 50% of the kids surveyed said they only ride near home, so they don't feel the need to wear a helmet.
- ♦ 43% said helmets are uncomfortable.
- ♦ 29% said they have control when they ride, so they don't need a helmet.
- ♦ 28% said they don't feel cool wearing a helmet.
- ♦ 27% said their parents don't make them wear one.

Here's the good news.... More than half of children admitted they would wear their helmet if their parents made them. Further, 49% said they would wear helmets if it was a law, and 47% would wear them if they were more comfortable.

If the majority of parents require their kids to wear helmets, it will be cool again, and the only issue will be choosing the coolest helmet around!



Literacy and Children

This is Part 1 of a 2 Part Series -

Literacy is more than just being able to read.

Understanding that speech sounds, letters of the alphabet and words are all connected is really what literacy is all about. We all have a natural ability to speak and learn language from birth. You can't teach a child to speak. But, from birth, you can support your child's abilities to speak and eventually read by making sure he or she is hearing speech sounds and seeing words and print every day.



The more children see and hear, the more connections they will make between words and print, and eventually, they'll have the skills to read and write well.

Providing opportunities for your child to use language and learn how it connects to reading and writing is one of the most important things you'll ever do for your child. Remember that all children learn and

Curriculum Corner

Our Curriculum in April is "Spring Into Nature". The classes will be introducing many scientific concepts about nature in hopes of sharing the meaning and importance of the natural world around us with children. They will be learning how plants grow, what Earth Day is about and how important recycling is. In addition to this, we will be incorporating "The Week of the Young Child" into our curriculum, with many fun activities for children, parents and staff.

May is all about "My Imagination". This theme is designed to bring out the children's imagination. They will be exploring many ways to allow creativity to flourish. They will be using their imaginations to pretend play, create an adventure and practice their Spanish words.

In June the curriculum is about the "Ways We Travel". The children will learn to identify different types of travel and the concepts behind them. The children will be sorting, classifying, matching and graphing many different things.

Our Center Value for April will be "Appreciation". The children will be reminded of how to appreciate their friends, family and the environment. Our May Center Value is "Humor". Humor can brighten our daily lives as we smile at amusing occurrences and laugh at silly situations. We will learn the ability to perceive and appreciate comedy in our world and ourselves and the importance of humor in our daily lives. In June, our Center Value is "Honesty". Honesty is something we all struggle with on a day-to-day basis. Teaching children honesty can be a real challenge, especially given the examples of dishonesty that they will encounter every day in the world around them. We will begin by explaining the basic definition of honesty. The children will feel good about being honest. We will give the student great praises for being honest in such a way that it outweighs the consequence of an inappropriate act. Please make sure to take a look at our Center Value presentation, headed up by the Sharks classroom!

develop differently and may not all be at the same level when it comes to reading and writing. Try not to compare your child to others, unless you notice a great difference in their reading abilities. If your child is progressing, that's the most important thing.

Many children also have reading or language disabilities that have nothing to do with "how much" they are exposed to speech or are read to at home. But there are many resources and strategies to help your child if he or she is struggling with reading. If you think your child may be having difficulties, always ask your physician and follow-up by getting an evaluation.

Reading is key to succeeding at school. Studies show that young children who are read to every day start school with a better chance at succeeding in reading and literacy. The foundation for reading and writing and understanding language starts at birth. Parents are the only ones who have the ability to start that foundation from day one.

Announcements

Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn welcomes the following new students who started with us in Q1:

Sea Stars

Shannon G.
Sarah T.

Sea Horses

Cebastian B.

Clown Fish I

Max. F.

Clown Fish II

Oliver H.

Harp Seals I

Gabriela V.

Jeffrey B.

Beluga Whales

Roy F.

Jessica Z.



New Staff Members who started with us in Q1.

Welcome Aboard!

Miss Oneika Barnett

Miss Julia Bladykas

Miss Rebecca Bodo

Miss Marina Diakakis

Miss Emily Hintze

Miss Rita Kaileh

Miss Chelsea Perfall

Mr. Victor Salinas

Miss Kristina Sarni

Staff Service

Anniversaries that occurred in Q1:

2 Years

Miss Luz Cruz

Miss Alicia Owens

1 Year

Miss Jennifer Novatt



The following staff members had perfect attendance:



January:

Miss Maria Caracciolo

Miss Jennifer Novatt

Miss Irene Simonelli

Mr. Joe Slianski

February:

Miss Irene Simonelli

March:

Miss Oneika Barnett

Miss Maria Caracciolo

Miss Karen Chapman

Mr. Joe Slianski

WOW!



We have been nominated for "Outstanding Parent Communications" by our Franchise Business Consultant, Mr. Tim, for our Newsletter and the amount of Parent Teacher Conferences that were conducted in January! What a wonderful achievement we've achieved together! Our next round of Parent Teacher Conferences will be starting in June. This is a good time to sit down with your child's teacher one on one to discuss your child's progress. We did 58 conferences in January, let's try to beat that number!

Please do not sign up for June Conferences if your child was enrolled after 4/1/07. You will catch the next conference in January. Sign up sheets will be in the Sign In/Out Book come May.

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!



Spotlight on Staff



Maria Carraciolo

Asst. Teacher Sea Stars (6wks - 12 mos)

How long have you been working here?

Almost 2 1/2 years

Why did you choose early childhood education as your career?

I love children, especially the babies

How many years have you been working in this career?

2 years, I worked at a school for 3 years prior, but not with infants and before that I worked at raising my children at home.

What is your favorite activity to do with the children?

I like to paint with them and get messy

What is your symbol and why did you choose it?

I chose a sun because I love when the sun is out and it's warm

What is your favorite children's book?

"Row, row, row your Boat"

What is your favorite children's song?

"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Why did you choose to work with this age group?

I love babies, watching them grow and become more independent.

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 them get ready to crawl, walk and sit up

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

The children go and hide behind things and play "Peek-a-Boo"

What do you like to do on your free time?

I like to go shopping and spend time with my family

Anything else interesting you would like to add?

I am married and have two children in college. I was born in Italy and immigrated to the United States 22 years ago. I visited the US when I was young and new that I wanted to live here and raise my children here.

A reminder to all that we are closed on Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day and Wednesday, July 4th, Independence Day!



Parents! Please remember, we cannot administer any medication to your child, whether it be prescription or over the counter, unless it is accompanied by a Written Medication Consent Form. If you are going to your child's pediatrician, bring a blank copy of the form with you just in case you need it. The form is available at the front desk or on the Parent Resource Page of our website, www.kiddieacademyofgreenlawn.com. We absolutely want to give your child any medication they need, but we are bound by the state regs. Please ensure you do your part!