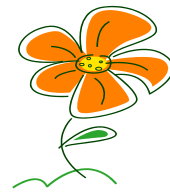


## CHILD CARE CHRONICLE May/June 2012



### A few reminders...

Muffins With Moms and Other Special Ladies will be held on Wednesday, May 9 from 7-8:30 a.m. Donuts With Dads and Other Special Men will be held on Wednesday, June 13 from 7-8:30. Join us for a light breakfast to celebrate. You must RSVP to these events. Look for sign up information in your child's basket soon.

ECCC will be closed on Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.

The Annual Outgrown Sale & Chicken Barbeque will be held on June 2. May 11 is the deadline to sign up to be a consigner.

Be sure to visit us at Arts in the Park on Saturday, May 12 from 9 – 4 at the E-town Community Park. We'll be selling flowers... just in time for Mother's Day!

Please apply sunscreen to your children before bringing them to the center in the morning. If you supply a bottle of it, we will reapply it in the afternoons and other times when necessary. Please label the bottle with your child's first and last name. The sunscreen may not contain insect repellent.

Sneakers are the most appropriate shoes to wear for active play. Sandals, jellies and shoes with elevated heels may be dangerous. Flip flops are not permitted to be worn daily. They may only be worn during splash days this summer. Just remember, the children will be playing outdoors and they need to be able to run and climb safely in their shoes.

Remember to check your child's extra clothes and make sure that they still fit and are season appropriate.

Your next newsletter will cover the first half of our summer session which begins on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Conferences** will be available for infants, toddlers, preschool, and kindergarten children this month. Your child's teachers want your input about your child's development. This is a valuable time to discover all of the amazing things he or she has been learning. Come prepared to not only learn about your child's many accomplishments at ECCC, but to share what you've seen your child do at home. Also, come with any questions you might have about your child's development. If the teachers can't answer at the conference, they'll find an answer and respond in a timely manner. Working together, we can all provide an amazing early childhood experience and a strong foundation for your child's future learning.

**Mother's Day is celebrated in different ways around the world.** Every year as May approaches, sons and daughters around the world plan on celebrating their mothers. In France a family dinner is the norm, and traditionally the mother being honored is presented with a cake that looks like a bouquet of flowers. England was the first country in the world to dedicate a day for mothers as early as the 1600s. They called this day for mothers Mothering Sunday. There is a tradition of making a rich almond cake for mothers called Mothering Cake or Simnel Cake. Mother's Day in Mexico is celebrated in a colorful fashion. Children honor their mothers and thank them, and according to a Mexican custom, sons and daughters make themselves visit the house on the eve of Mother's Day on May 9. The day is celebrated with gusto as churches in Mexico organize a special mass. The highpoint of the event is the orchestra which plays "las mañanitas", and the distribution of 'tamales' and 'atole', the traditional early-morning meal to all local mothers. No matter how you celebrate, have a wonderful Mother's Day!

MAY 2012

# Inchworms

*Aubree, Sonja, Katie, Ayden, Sydney, Shauntel*

## April Recap

In view of the beautiful weather and early arrival of spring, the children were very interested in the surrounding flowers that were blooming. Their interest led to a flower study. Our study included painting with silk flowers, planting flowers, drying flowers, picking flowers and tearing them apart to inspect them, and reading flower books. We also focused on the color yellow as we continue to learn the colors of the rainbow. We enjoyed hunting for eggs and playing with bunny ear headbands as well.

## Springing ahead...

When we head outside for walks, one of the big highlights for the children is seeing all the vehicles around us. With that interest in mind, in May we will enjoy studying "Things That Go", including dump trucks, cars, airplanes, and other vehicles.

May is conference time. There will be a sign up sheet for any parents who wish to discuss their child's progress.

Although April showers have been falling recently, the sunshine is getting stronger. If you haven't yet done this, please bring in sunscreen and a summer hat for your child.

The daily sheets are a helpful communication tool for you as parents and us as your child's teachers. Please remember to fill out your child's sheet as completely as possible when you are dropping off, so that we can better care for his or her needs throughout the day.



## Forward Motion

There are so many new experiences in the lives of young children! Here are a few of our babies' latest milestones:

**Katie** loves to make a break for it whenever the classroom door is open.

**Ayden** stands up and claps for himself whenever he performs this new trick.

**Sonja** enjoys playing with our Firefly friends in the afternoons.

**Sydney** is crawling forward and pulling herself up to stand.

**Aubree** has begun to assert her autonomy with her new words, "mine" and "no".

**Shauntel** got her first tooth.

## Goodbyes and Hellos

*We were sad to say "goodbye" to Courtney in April, but we wish her well in her new job. We are happy to welcome Sharon to our room, and we look forward to learning and growing with her.*

## Firefly May News

Spring is finally here. We were able to enjoy some of the bright sunshine and warm weather. With the warmer weather here we will be spending more time outside. Please be sure to dress for the weather. Sunscreen should be applied before you bring your child to the center, and if you bring in sunscreen we will reapply it in the afternoon.

Please keep watching the sign-in binder for a sign up sheet for conferences. They will take place around the middle of the month. Now is a good time to start thinking about questions you may have for me about your child's development and experience at ECCC.

### Things we did last month

- Sophie, Felix, and Joseph spent a lot of time working on puzzles. They are interested in completing the harder floor puzzles, and they're really good at it.
- Gwen and Ethan W. enjoyed going around the room and saying names of the different children. They are just learning to say them and have been working really hard on using their friends' names.
- Ethan M., E.J., and Garrett were very interested in looking at the construction books, and they have been able to name many different types of construction equipment.
- The tools and tool bench were a big hit with Emerson and Barrett. They fixed everything in the room.
- Maddy, Elysia, and Mia had fun playing in the dirt. They loved planting the flowers and watching them grow. (We only had a few sprout so they are waiting patiently for the rest!)
- Rylan and Bella had a lot of fun using the different construction trucks we had in the room. They loved trying to pick things up with the "diggers".

### Things we will be learning about this month...

- ✓ Women in the family
- ✓ Babies
- ✓ Bugs: This is a favorite subject of the children so it will be spread out over several weeks!

### Our monthly song is "I Love Mommy" (sung to "Frere Jacques")

I love Mommy, I love Mommy  
Yes I do, yes I do  
And my mommy loves me  
Yes my mommy loves me  
Loves me too, loves me too.



Here's a great activity to do with your child: Look for a construction site where you can safely watch them using the different vehicles. You can find out what your child learned last month about the different vehicles. They really enjoy just watching sometimes, and it would be a great opportunity for you to see what they know and teach them some things you know. They may even sing a construction song for you!

Happy birthday to... Felix (May 22), Ethan W. (May 28) and Sophie (June 3)!

Don't forget to come to Muffins with Moms (May 9) and Donuts with Dads (June 13).

# Chipmunk Chatter

May 2012

All of the Chipmunk children have been having a lot of fun this spring. Here are just a few of the activities they've been enjoying:

- Matching numerals up to 12 on egg halves
- Learning the words and tune to the song "Kookaburra"... which they wanted to sing over and over again!
- Watching the daffodils grow
- Reading and rereading I'm a Can-Do Kid... it's their new favorite book!
- Playing with the fish game, creating with the moon sand, and painting with cotton balls and other fun tools

Children learn best through play and by exploring their environment. All throughout the year, we've been guiding your child as he or she is learning various concepts. We provide different activities and learning materials to stimulate your child's curiosity and to meet your child's individual learning needs. We use the Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood as a guideline for instruction. Ask one of us if you'd like to see a copy of the learning standards.

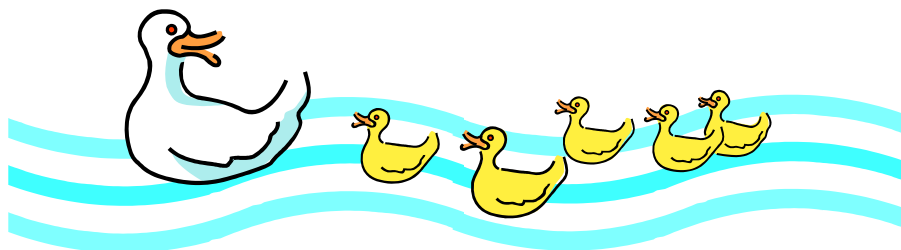
We have a lot of fun activities planned for May and the beginning of June. Be sure to ask your child what we are learning.

## Important Dates

Muffins with Mom and other special ladies - May 9

ECCC Closed - May 28

Donuts with Dad and other special men - June 13



# Bluebird Newsletter

May 2012



The sunshine and warm weather have finally come and we are enjoying going outside to play with jackets instead of coats, hats, and mittens. We will be planting a Spaghetti and Salad Garden in a few weeks. The children will be able to dig in the soil and learn what plants need to grow. The nicer weather also means we can take walks and explore the duck pond. We may even be able to see ducklings. *Ohhh, the wonders of springtime fun!!!*

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be available in May. This is a time for parents to see and learn about their child's growth while they were in the Bluebird Room. Watch for signup sheets to be posted soon.

## Dates to Remember

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo  
May 9 - Muffins with Mom  
May 13 - Mother's Day  
May 18 - PALS Program  
May 28 - Center Closed  
June 13 - Donuts with Dad

## Themes

April 30-May 25 Farm Unit  
May 28-June 8 Dinosaurs  
June 11-June 15 Summer Fun

## Sunscreen

Bluebirds will be spending more time outside during the next few months on the playground and also exploring the world around us. **Please apply sunscreen on your child in the morning before they come to preschool** to help protect them from the sun. If you would like us to reapply it in the afternoon, please bring sunscreen (labeled with your child's name) in to the classroom. We need to keep all sunscreen in a locked cabinet. Questions - ask Cindy or Elaine.

## Water Bottles

Each child may bring a water bottle (labeled with their name) to take outside during our outside playtime. We will also take additional water outside so the children can have drinks during the hot summer days.

## Reminder

Children should wear closed-toed shoes with a back on them. This will help prevent accidents on the playground and when we take walks. Questions - ask the office staff.



### Earth Day

We celebrated Earth Day by making sculptures out of the recycled items that we brought from home. We had a lot of fun cooperating with our friends as we created two large sculptures. We learned about how to take care of our Earth by picking up litter and recycling.

### Rain and Worms

During the month of April we talked about rain and worms. We had the opportunity to dig for worms in our garden and also investigate worms in our sensory table. We then answered this question on our daily sign-in sheet:

**Did you hold a worm?**

Yes

Xavier

Landon

Makayla

Paige

Jacob

Kendyl

Sam

Alaina

Sage

No

Deven

Haylie

Annale



## May 2012 Newsletter

### The Cubs

#### Last month:

We had a busy month! The All About Me Bag and Home with Cubby Bag have gone to every home. These bags were so much fun for the children that we decided to keep the two bags going. They are a little different. One is the All About My Family Bag and the other is Home with Cubby 2 Bag. Your children really enjoy working on these bags with you, and it helps them practice speaking in front of a group. Thank you for your help with these. Also, be sure to look for the two books that we made to come home so you can read them together.

Insects, insects, insects! That is what our investigation was in April. Our caterpillars and hornworms arrived at the end of the month, so be sure to check out their growth in our room.

#### This month:

Rivers and ponds are going to be our focus this month. We will also talk about starting a garden with the Bluebirds. Here are some ideas we had about what we would like to grow:

Jacob - strawberry

Juliana - flower

Cody - flower

Kendall - melons

Brody - tomato

Jordan - flowers

Shane - mushrooms

Devin - green beans

Jacqui - flowers

Ben - apple

Katie - cucumbers

Declan - grapefruit

Brayden - apples

Emily - watermelons

Garrison - oranges

Angel - watermelon

Jonathan - bananas

Reagan - sugar peas

Calleigh - carrots

Sarai - oranges

Finn - grapes

Logan - banana

Gavin - corn

Khaliya - flower

Summer - flower

In June we will start investigating oceans, and we'll continue to work on our garden with the Bluebirds.

#### At home:

Talk about the three stages of butterflies and their body parts (we investigated these in class). If you have any questions, just ask Ms. Lynn, Ms. Amy, or Ms. Angela!

Happy Birthday to...

Gavin on May 1

Angel on May 8

Jonathan on May 31

Calleigh on June 3



## MAY 2012 FOX NEWS

I told you in a recent newsletter that I would tell you how the “play” of children is actually their work and how they learn. Take our Easter week for example. We focused mainly on eggs. In the PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood there is a key learning area called Social Studies Thinking: Connecting to Communities. Under that there is standard 6.2; Markets and the function of Government; Changes in Supply and Demand. The standard states children *should identify where some products originate*, and when we talked about eggs and where they come from the children learned that they come from chickens on poultry farms and not stores. When we talked about what an egg looked like, we were using Geometry: Standard 2.9. Under Mathematical Thinking and Technology; Definitions, Properties and Relations, the children are *to identify, name, and replicate simple three dimensional shapes*. When they used playdough or sculpty sand to make oval shaped eggs they were meeting that standard. This type of play and work is repeated all day when we as teachers plan activities and supply equipment and toys to meet these standards - the same standards that will follow the students through high school. Now when someone asks what your child does at the child care center all day, you can tell them that he is learning geometry and about supply and demand in marketing!

But don't worry, when you read the answers to the question, “*What's so great about being a kid?*” that I asked during Week of the Young Child, you will see that they are still kids!

- Ryan - Playing Legos with my friends.
- Emery - Going to Disney! (That's where Emery was when I wrote this!)
- Bailey - We can play with toys in the bathtub and slide down the slide.
- Christina - I like slugs and my mom doesn't.
- Liam - The best thing is lovin' your mommy and daddy.
- Macie - Kids can swing high on swings, play a lot, and they can sleep more.
- Hayden - We don't need to work at jobs and we can climb trees.
- Destiny - I can bend over and pick up stuff and my back doesn't hurt and my mom can't fit my clothes.
- Greyson - I like Harry Potter and my dad doesn't and I can jump in rain puddles
- Brendan - My parents can't play Wii and they can't run fast and they can barely jump.
- Dante - Kids can hide and fit in small places and it's a loooooong time till we die.

Now, what shall we learn in May? It's time to celebrate Moms and all those other wonderful “girls” in our lives. Don't forget to sign up for Muffins for Moms. You will hear more about this soon. I promised several of the children that we would learn more about dinosaurs. Learning about our community workers will be another area we would like to explore. We would LOVE to see and hear about what **you do**. I will be sending home some information about how you can come in to show and tell your “job” or send in your “job in a bag” so that your child can share what you do while he or she is here all day. If you work within walking distance, we could even

come to **visit** your job! One last family project that we would like to ask you to help with is based on Memories. I will be sending home a poster board that I am asking each family to complete. Fill it with past photos and thoughts that your child remembers. It could be about loved ones no longer with you, pets that are gone, another home your child may have lived in, or a memorable event or a vacation you took. Also watch for parent conference sign-ups for both classes this month.

As many of you know our Fox room moves lock-stock and barrel to a larger Nursery School room in another part of the building to accommodate the larger amount of children we will have for the summer. We will be "moving" the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>, so some of our time will be spent in the "big" room. We may also be spending more time outside doing fun things like lemonade and animal cracker walks or going for slushies. Be sure to check by our door for our location if you do not find us in our room. You will receive another newsletter with our schedule and a calendar when we start our summer session on June 14<sup>th</sup>. I will be seeing most of you over the summer, but to those of you who will be leaving for the summer, be safe, have fun, and above all...make memories!!



Look what we found at the end of the rainbow 😊



## Explorers/Investigators Newsletter May 2012



We're a blooming good bunch!

**Carson** and **Isaiah** used to stack Legos, but now the two of them create towns with people and animals. Sometimes even the car mat is used to set the stage.

**Sami** and **Addyson** like to create stories together.

**Hailee** is busy discovering everything new. It can be something in the room or something she is able to do.

**Alexis**, **Catherine**, and **Mikaela** love to create books and read.

**Mia** is becoming an artist by using books from the library that give you step by step directions to draw. After snack you can find many children getting their library books out and starting to draw.

**Aidan** is busy connecting with everyone around him, and he still loves to make his friends laugh.

**Cameron** and **Wyatt** are quiet but they are always busy making a new creation.

**Matthew** loves to tell stories, and he is always ready to play a game that involves running.

**Conferences will be held May 8, 16, and 17. I'm looking forward to meeting with you.**

**Parents, please feel free to stop in and read to us anytime. We love when you participate in our program.**

Upcoming topics...

- We'll begin May learning about flowers. We will celebrate May Day with the Maypole dance.
- During the second week our focus will be on girls and mothers. The children will be bringing home an interview sheet with question for their mom. Please take a little time to help them fill this out and return it by May 10. On May 11, there is a half day of school so we will have a picnic.  
**Happy Mother's Day!**
- The third week of May we will go to the birds. We will study different kinds of birds and different homes that they make to live in.
- The fourth week of May is going to be all about monkeys.
- During the last week of May we will study ponds and the animals that live in and near them.
- June 4 – 8: June is Dairy Month so we will focus on building our bones and having a little ice cream to go with it.
- June 11 & 12: We will wrap up the end of the school year.
- June 13 will be a flip flop half day; this means the Explorers will go to school in the morning.

Unfortunately I will not be with the class to celebrate the end of kindergarten. My husband and I will be leaving on June 6 for Alaska; we are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The class is very interested in following my trip on the map. We are calling it "Where Is Mrs. Anderson?" I will return on June 20.

## LITTLE RASCALS' MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Even though we have had a pretty mild winter, you know spring has arrived by observing our Little Rascals in action! Baseball is the popular large motor activity they have chosen to participate in; the art area is bursting with bright pastel colors and creativity; the dramatic group is eager to present their plays or musical talents to their friends; and the science area is full of the fun concoction messiness the children produce in the sensory table!

Sensory activities are another way of providing children a different way of meaningful learning. Some children learn best by participating in hands-on activities. As the children are playing in the sensory table, we talk about the how's and why's of the interactions of combinations. For example, one of the sensory table experiences they have enjoyed recently is the combination of one box of cornstarch and one can of shaving cream. They described it as fluffy, soft, and moldable, and it smells good! The children (as well as some parents) enjoy and look forward to what crazy and odd activity will be in the sensory table for them to experiment with.

Throughout the months of May and June, watch for some dirt and perhaps some worms in the science area and other fun messiness; more colorful activities in the art area; and more ball activities in the large motor area. Spring is in the air and the children are ready for running and being loud and silly!

### Important dates:

- May 9: Muffins with Mom (and/or other special ladies)
- May 11: Early dismissal
- May 28: Happy Memorial Day (ECCC WILL BE CLOSED)
- June 13: Donuts with Dad (and/or other special men)
- June 13: Last day of school for E-town
- June 14: ECCC Summer Camp begins

