



KID'S TRIBUNE

March 2014

**Bright Beginnings
Child Development
Center**

Notable Dates:

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Party

3pm

March 31 - April 4

NC Pre-K Closed

NC Pre-K Spring Break

April 18 - April 21

School Closed

Easter Break

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,

Spring is nearly here and I don't think there's a person around who isn't excited about that! After one of the coldest winters we've experienced in years, most of us are ready for the warmer weather! Here, at Bright Beginnings, we have not allowed the cold weather these past few months to slow us down. As listed in the "Classroom Update" section on page 2 of this newsletter, all of our teachers are busy with activities and projects that bring their lessons to life for our students.

If you don't already, please engage your child about what they've learned everyday . . . you may be surprised at their newly-acquired knowledge. Plus, another added benefit is that the more your children share with you, the more expansive their vocabulary will become. Now that's a win-win for everyone!

Summer Camp

This year, we have decided to alter our school-age camp to appeal to a broader group of young people. Beginning in June, once traditional school has ended, we will be offering our Summer Camp at Discover Arts Academy. The camp will run from June 9th through August 22nd and it promises to keep even the most energetic elementary student intrigued and active all summer

long! Each week will focus on a different theme from "Robotics" to "Rainforest Adventures", and will include guest speakers and field trips to places like the movies, Jordan Lake and the Triangle Aquatic Center!

If you have a school-age child in need of a fun summer experience, or if you know someone who is looking for a summer camp for their child, please do not hesitate to give us a call at 919-367-0009.

Borrowed Clothing

It's no surprise to anyone that small children will have a potty accident every now and then. We fully expect those accidents and we often remind parents to make sure they leave an extra set of clothing in their child's cubby just for those situations. From time to time, we find that clothes have not been left in cubbies or children have multiple accidents in the same day. In those instances, we have to dress children in extra clothes from our "Extra Clothing Bin".

If your child goes home on one of these occasions in unfamiliar clothing, we ask that you return the clothing at your earliest convenience.

SEED

Last month, we told you about our involvement in the SEED (Social & Emotional Early Development) program. We mentioned that the program assists teachers in developing and sustaining policies and procedures that support healthy social and emotional development of pre-school children. Fortunately, SEED recognizes that Social & Emotional challenges do not only occur at school, rather they occur in the home, as well. Consequently, SEED will also offer training specifically for our parents here at Bright Beginnings. The date for the training has not yet been determined, but we will inform you of the particulars once available.

Billing

As most of you are aware, we provide our parents with a monthly invoice either the last day of the previous month or the first or second day of the current month. The invoice reflects our record of payments received and due for each family. To ensure our records are accurate, please review the invoice carefully every month and make us aware of any discrepancies.

Classroom/Themes: Infant / “Friends”, “Spring”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Relationships with Friends	Playing with friends	Social	None	Taylor
Signs of Spring	Talk about the outside	Social		
Classroom/Theme: Toddler / “In and Out”, “St. Patrick’s Day”, “Changing Season”, “Easter”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Discuss In and Out	Listens and understands English	Language	Chloe Shaun	None
Matching and Sorting Colors	Uses Classification Skills	Cognitive		
Throw balls while sitting and standing	Demonstrates gross motor manipulative skills	Physical		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 1 / “Dinosaurs”, “Community Helpers”, “Transportation”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Sorting Toy Dinosaurs	Use Classification Skills	Cognitive	None	None
Build a cardboard fire truck	Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations	Social Emotional		
Pedaling trikes	Demonstrates gross motor manipulative skills	Physical		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 2 / “Balls”, “St. Patrick’s Day”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Ball Graphing	Compare and Measure numbers	Mathematics	Nicholas	None
Balloon Catch	Demonstrates gross motor manipulative skills	Physical		
Poem: “Come Play With Me”	Demonstrates phonological awareness	Literacy/Language		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 1/ “Clothes”, “Community Helpers”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Clothing design for body tracing	Exploring and appreciating visual arts	Art	None	None
Create clothing store using various props	Using symbolic thinking and representation	Drama		
Uniform/Costume Day	Basic understanding of how people live	Social Studies		

Classrooms (cont'd)

Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 2 / "Clothing"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Sewing pillows	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	Physical	None	None
Weaving paper	Demonstrates knowledge of patterns	Mathematics		
Rhyming riddles	Demonstrates phonological awareness	Literacy		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 3 / "Clothing", "St. Patrick's Day"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Introduce plastic needles and fabric	Demonstrates positive approaches to learning	Cognitive	None	None
Clothing from around the world	Demonstrates simple geographic knowledge	Social Studies		
Signs of Spring	Use scientific inquiry skills	Science and Technology		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 4 / "Clothes"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Patterns on Clothing	Demonstrates knowledge of patterns	Mathematics	R. Lygnia	None
Playdough weaving	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	Physical		
Same sound sort	Demonstrates phonological awareness	Literacy		

Feature Article

Are children really learning anything when they play in sand? Well, believe it or not, they actually are! This month, we're focusing on the role sand and water play in the education of our young ones.

Although you're probably used to seeing your children splash in the bathtub and dig in a playground sandbox, you may be surprised to know that the Sand and Water area is an important part of our school program. Both sand and water are natural materials for learning.

When children pour water into measuring cups, they are exploring math concepts. When they drop corks, stones, feathers, and marbles into a tub of water, they are scientists who are exploring whether objects sink or float. When they comb sand into patterns, they learn about both math and art.

We encourage children to experiment with these materials. As they do, we ask questions to focus their thinking on their

discoveries. Here are some examples:

“Now that we’ve turned the water blue, what should we do with it?”

“How did the water change when we added the soap flakes?”

“What can wet sand do that dry sand can’t? What can dry sand do that wet sand can’t?”

“How many of these measuring cups of water do you suppose it will take to fill this quart pitcher?”

What You Can Do at Home

If your child particularly enjoys playing with water and sand, you may want to set up some play areas for these activities at home. Water play can be set up at the bathroom or kitchen sink. Lay a towel on the floor, and if the sink is too high for the child, provide a stool or stepladder. Outdoors, you can use a small wading pool, tub, or old baby bathtub. Give your child a baster, plastic measuring spoons and cups, a funnel, and plastic or rubber animals and boats. For a novel experience, add soap flakes or food coloring to the water. Don’t forget about blowing bubbles with your child! Try using different kinds of bubble-blowing frames. Plastic six-pack rings, empty berry containers, and an eyeglass frame without the lenses make interesting bubble wands.

If a sandbox is not available outdoors, you might use a small dishpan as a miniature sandbox. All you need is a few inches of fine white sand. Collect small items such as shells, rubber animals, a very small rake, coffee scoops, measuring cups and spoons, sieves, and funnels and offer them to your child, a few at a time. These props will lead to many hours of enjoyment.

The opportunity to play with sand and water on a regular basis helps children develop their minds and bodies in relaxing and thoroughly enjoyable ways.



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