



Breezy Knoll Child Care Center  
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## April 2010 Newsletter

### PRESCHOOL NEWS

After a long, cold winter, we are happy to be spending more time outside and observing signs of spring!

This month, some of the goals we will focus on are: demonstrating a growing awareness of the beginning sounds of words, using language to understand the order and position of objects, beginning to understand that events take place in the past, present, or future, using scientific tools as props in play, exploring the natural processes of growing, changing and adapting to the environment, appreciating and respecting the work of others, and exploring and learning to tolerate a wide variety of sensory input. Some activities planned are:

#### Math

- Patterning with shapes
- Jelly bean count (and eat!)
- Mosaic mat



#### Creativity

- Paper plate rabbit
- Spring baskets
- Earth painting
- Litter bags



#### Science

- What does a seed need?
- Planting grass
- Recording growth of grass



#### Reading

- The Chick and the Duckling
- Squirrels
- Children of the Earth



### CONFIRMATION SUMMER AND FALL

If you need to change your child's schedule for summer or fall, kindly let Jeannette know as soon as possible. Now is the time to reserve the days you need in all programs. Thank you!

### BLOOD DRIVE

Breezy Knoll will be sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, April 12 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The van will be parked in our back parking lot during that time. We are hoping many of you will choose to donate blood before picking up your child on that day.

Donating blood is an easy and comfortable process. Most people say it is gratifying. The process of donating consists of four segments: the registration, interview, phlebotomy, and refreshment. The entire donation process can be completed in 45 minutes to an hour.

To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years of age; there is no upper age limit, weigh at least 110 lbs., and be in overall good health.



### HEALTH TIP OF THE MONTH



From The Moms' Guide to Meal Makeovers  
 Janice Newell Bissex and Liz Weiss

From sandwiches to salads, iceberg lettuce is often the only leafy green kids are accustomed to eating. Romaine lettuce is equally mild, a little more crunchy, and a lot more nutritious. Compared to iceberg, it has four times more vitamin K (for strong bones) and ten times more vitamin A (good for eyes and a healthy immune system).

### EMAILING NEWSLETTER

Thank you all for giving us your email addresses. We have recorded them. We are now planning to send the monthly newsletter to you by email. It is much more efficient and will save a lot of paper! Many of you have given us your email address at work. Please let us know if you DO NOT want the newsletter sent to that address. If you do not have email, or prefer to have a paper copy, please see Jeannette or April. We will have one available for you. If you have not provided your email address and would like to, please drop a note to either April or Jeannette.

### WAYS TO FILL YOUR HOME WITH MUSIC

From Wondertime Magazine written by Rani Arbo

1. Cut Loose. Ditch your inhibitions by starting music play with a wild kitchen dance or some loosey-goosey movement.
2. Sing Out. Anywhere, anyhow, anytime. Kids learn by repetition, so incorporate songs into your daily routine.
3. Feel the Rhythm. To help pre-walkers (and even older kids) catch the beat, gently bounce or tap your child's body while you sing or listen to music.
4. Shake, Rattle, and Roll. Keep a basket of shakers, whistles, bells, tambourines, drums, harmonicas, and xylophones on hand. And take them out of the basket — often.
5. Give Them an Earful. Expose kids to the sounds you love.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| Mar 29 - Apr 3 | National Friendship Week                  |   |
| April 2        | BK closed for staff development           |  |
| April 11-17    | Week of the Young Child                   |   |
|                | National TV turn-off week                 |   |
| April 19-23    | Spring vacation                           |   |
|                | No Kindergarten class / Breezy Knoll OPEN |   |
| April 21       | Kindergarten founded in 1837              |   |
| April 22       | Earth Day                                 |   |
| April 25       | Hug a Friend Day!                         |   |
| April 28       | Arbor Day                                 |  |

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Spring vacation is April 13-17. Kindergarten is not in session, but BK will remain open.



### Math

#### Language Arts/Reading

Vowel search  
Poetry  
Word families  
Guided reading

Question of the week  
Shared reading  
Classroom books



#### Science/Social Studies

Larvae to Butterfly  
Recycling/Reusing  
Reptiles/Amphibians  
Rain  
Planting



Fractions  
Money values  
Subtraction/addition  
Graphing  
Sequencing



### EARTH DAY

April 22 is Earth Day. As we discuss the importance of caring for the world we live in, we are passing along some ideas which require little effort, but provide big payoffs to the environment:

- Use coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveways.
- Replace regular light bulbs with energy-saving fluorescent bulbs.
- Install water-saving faucets and showerheads.
- Turn off water in between rinses when shaving or brushing teeth.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine with a full load only.
- Live each day as if it were Earth Day!

Check the DEM website [www.den.ri.gov/earthday](http://www.den.ri.gov/earthday) for celebrations around the state.

### MAKING THE MOST OF FAMILY MEALTIME

Adapted from [www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org).

Children learn important lessons and skills during dinner, including viewing food as nourishment for active and healthy bodies. Establishing positive eating habits in childhood years help children build skills that can last a lifetime. Also, when each family member takes a turn to speak and listen, it reinforces the importance of polite conversation.

Dinner is one of the best times for families to reconnect, share daily events, and continue to deepen relationships. According to a recent national survey, the average household prepares and eats dinner at home five nights a week. Despite the busy schedules of today's families, making time for dinner is not only important, but also easier than you think.

- Turn off the television and radio so everyone can focus on conversation without distraction.
- Let the answering machine pick up calls or turn off the phone ringer to avoid dinner interruptions. A phone call can always be returned after dinner.
- Discuss positive events of the day or upcoming family events.
- Remember that kids often take more time to eat than adults do. Take your time through dinner and enjoy the extra few minutes sitting at the table before cleaning up.

Offer a variety of food choices. If you label foods as bad, healthy foods or junk foods, you can set up a situation where your children may feel deprived of some foods and may find other ways to sneak them in. If you offer all types of foods with a trusting atmosphere, your children will likely choose a nutritious variety.

### TODDLER NEWS



Spring has arrived, and we are looking forward to warmer days, and seeing green grass.

Our plans this month will introduce the children to the welcoming signs of spring. We will do some planting, and then enjoy watching our plants/flowers grow!

Please take note of our project needs. A list will be posted on the Parent Board in the Toddler Room. We greatly appreciate any donations.

Reminders: All quiet time items must be washed weekly. Please be sure that there is an extra set of clothes at BK for your child.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



This month, we wish a Happy Birthday to:  
Conor M. (4/5), Patrick M. (4/9), "RJ" R. (4/10),  
Max H. (4/19), Adam L. (4/22), Mia H. (4/23),  
and Wyatt K. (4/25)

### OPTIONAL LUNCH MILK/JUICE MONEY

If you would like Breezy Knoll to serve milk/juice to your child at lunchtime, please enclose 25cents for each day of the month your child will receive milk/juice. Please place money in an envelope and drop in tuition mailbox.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Milk/juice money enclosed for month (please circle):

Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Dec



# SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS

## Here Comes the Rain

(tune: Green Grass Grows All Around)

Here comes the rain. (Echo)

The wettest rain. (Echo)

The heaviest rain (Echo)

That you ever did see. (Echo)

And the water keeps going all around,  
all around.

And the water keeps going all around.



## A Fat Bunny

A little fat bunny with  
ears so tall

And two pink eyes about this small

Went hop, hop, hopping

To get some lunch.

He found a carrot.

Yum, yum! Crunch! Crunch!

## I'm a Caterpillar

(tune: I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a caterpillar, cute and green

I'm inside a chrysalis and can't be  
seen.

Wait a little while and you'll see why.



## April Rains

April rains come falling down.

Splishing, splashing, all around.

We stay inside, but we all know

The rain helps make the garden grow.

## The Clean Up Song

(tune: Twinkle Little Star)

If you're near or if you're far

It's time to clean up where you are.

Put everything back in its place.

Keep a smile upon your face.

If you're near or if you're far

It's time to clean up where you are!



## Down at the Dump

(tune: Down By the Station)

Down at the dump early in the morning

See the dump trucks standing in a row.

See them dump the garbage

In a great big pile.

Dump, dump, dump, dump. Watch them go.

Pretty soon our dumps will all be full.

We had better figure out something to do.

We could all recycle some of our garbage.

Recycle, recycle; watch us go!



## This Land

(tune: This Land is Your Land)

This land is your land. This land is my land.

Let's work together to make it better.

From tall green forest to clear blue waters.

This land depends on you and me!



## Birds Sing

(tune: Do Your Ears Hang Low?)

Do you hear birds sing?

They're so happy that it's spring.

Hear them cheep, cheep, cheep.

Hear them twitter; hear them peep.

Hear them at sunrise when you open up your  
eyes.

Do you hear birds sing?



## Walking in the Rain

(tune: Farmer in the Dell)

We're walking in the rain.

We're walking in the rain.

We'll carry our umbrellas

As we're walking in the



## PARENT TIP



### SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

*From Parenting Magazine's Reading Supplement*

The stronger a child's speaking skills, the more likely he is to be a successful reader. In fact, studies show that lively discussion at home boosts a child's vocabulary and reading ability. How to nurture your building conversationalist?

Take advantage of mealtimes: Try to sit down and eat with your child at least once a day. As well as being the traditional place to share the day's events, the family table is a great place to expand vocabulary (is the soup delightful or delectable?).

Ask the right questions: Pose questions that invite more than yes-or-no answers. "What did you like best at the museum?" leads to a longer, more interesting conversation than "Was the museum fun?" Also be wary of questions that begin with "Don't you think that...?" or "Isn't it true that...?" which pressure your child to agree. with you.

### APRIL IS NATIONAL HUMOR MONTH

The average five-year-old laughs 400 times a day, while the average adult laughs just 15 times a day. Try to laugh a little more this month!

Q: What did the sea say to the sand?

A: Nothing. It just waved!

Q: What has four wheels and flies?

A: A garbage truck.



## MURALS

In the next few weeks, Anna will be busy painting the rest of her mural in the main room. She is planning to add many more little critters to brighten the walls. Another creative pursuit she is planning is to repaint the walls of the children's bathroom. She has a vision, and we are anxious to see the finished product! So, get ready to see some new little colorful characters at Breezy in the coming weeks.



## LEARN THROUGH PLAY

From Fun Family Activities LITERACY/WRITING

Provide your child with opportunities to explore early writing and develop literacy skills.



- Create a writing box. Fill the box with writing supplies that your child can use, such as, crayons, markers, pencils, pens, and different kinds of paper.
- Encourage scribbling and pretend writing and provide support and encouragement for writing letters. Once your child learns to write a few letters, you can expect to see pretend spelling.
- Let your child sit side-by-side with you when you are busy with paper work. Your child can be busy with their own work as well.
- As you write notes and letters to friends and relatives, give your child the opportunity to dictate a personal message to include in the note.
- Write stories together about things your child likes or experiences that you have shared together.