



Breezy Knoll Child Care Center  
 311 Stillwater Road  
 Smithfield, RI 02917  
 (401) 232-7177



MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

- \* If you have not yet done so, please register with Jeannette for your child's summer/fall schedule. 
- \* Remember to wash all quiet time items weekly.
- \* Please be reminded that Breezy Knoll's driveway is a one-way. Enter with the building on your left. Thanks!
- \* Thank you for participating in American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. They should arrive week of 3/14.

FAMILY REFERENCES

We are asking if any of our families would be willing to become a reference for Breezy Knoll. Often, when a prospective family visits, they ask if we could provide them with references from our families. If you agree to be a reference, we would give your name and telephone number to a family who asks. If you are willing to do so, please see Jeannette. We thank you in advance.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

March is here, and that means spring is just a few short weeks away. We look forward to its arrival and warmer weather! We wish all of our families a Happy Spring!

This month, some of the goals we will focus on are: increasing the capacity for self-control, understanding an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary, associating a number of objects with names and symbols for numbers, investigating changes in materials and cause-effect relationships, and seeking help from another when appropriate. Some activities planned are:

Creativity

- Rainbow spirals
- Color Book
- Create a paper kite
- Double Bubble Prints

Math

- Number Bingo
- Diamond Lion
- Marble Towers
- Perfect Pairs

Science/Discovery

- Wind Bottles
- Floating bubbles 
- What is wind?
- Will it blow away?
- Squishy Bags

Literacy

- My Crayon Talks
- The Hungry Thing
- Green Eggs and Ham
- Who Has Seen the Wind?



PARENT TIP OF THE MONTH

Dynamic Classrooms Are Not Quiet!

from National Association for the Education of Young Children

Quiet classrooms do not mean that young children are learning. In fact, since oral language is very important during the early years, quiet classrooms may indicate that young children are not learning all they could be. Talking gives a child the opportunity to experiment with new words. It provides the vehicle for expressing ideas and current knowledge.



Using words and talking about how things work, making comparisons, and retelling experiences lead to increased intellectual development. When children reconstruct experiences, sequence events, and point out similarities or differences, they are clearly engaging in higher-level thinking skills. And when kids are encouraged to ask questions, they not only gain information from adults' responses, but also build their competence and confidence as active seekers of knowledge and understanding.

The vocabularies children use in reading and writing are based on the words they are familiar with from listening and speaking. Expanded vocabularies and other aspects of language growth occur through using language. Talking in the classroom may be a little noisy, but positive results are easily heard!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 1, Tues. National Smile Day  
Have a smile-off—Who can smile the longest?
- March 15, Tues. Blood Drive
- March 17, Thur. Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- March 20, Sun. Spring arrives

SPRING PICTURES

Gene Hutnak Photography will return to Breezy Knoll on Tuesday, March 21 at 9:00AM to photograph the children, using a springtime background. Pictures taken at this time will arrive in time for Easter. No money is required in advance. You will be able to see the images before you place an order. Please note: No class pictures will be available.



LEARN THROUGH PLAY

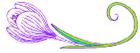
From Fun Family -Science Activities How Flowers Drink:  
 Place a white carnation or daisy in a vase or container that has about a cup of water on the bottom. Mix 10-20 drops of food coloring into the water. Red and blue food coloring works best. Ask your child to describe the color of the flower when you first put it in the water. Leave the flower in the colored water overnight. Watch how your flower changes color. The longer you keep it in the water, the darker it becomes. Ask you child to look closely at the flower to see how the colored water travels from the bottom of the vase to the tip of the petal.



## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

### Science

Rabbits  
Eggs  
Weather  
Wind  
Spring



### Math

Telling time   
Coins  
Charting weather  
Addition/Subtraction  
Sorting  
Greater than  
Less than >

### Reading/Language Arts

Authors/Dr. Seuss, Eric Carle  
Guided reading  
Rhyming words/Poetry  
Sight words  
Question of the Week  
Story sequence/Descriptive words



### Art

Green clover  
Handprint rainbow  
Kites  
Leprechauns  
Wind stalks  
Dr. Seuss hats/Eric Carle paintings  
Blow painting



## TODDLER NEWS



This month, we will continue working on age-appropriate skills. The children will roll playdough, explore in the sand table, dress-up in the dramatic play center, paint on easels, and have fun, fun, fun! Hopefully we will be able to spend more time outside! This has been a very difficult winter, and we miss our outdoor time!

Please note a few reminders: Kindly wash all quiet time items weekly to help prevent the spread of germs. Also, please remember to fill out a medication form for any medication to be administered at school. Kindly remember that only prescription medication can be given to your child. The forms are located in the front hall on the Parent Board and also in the Toddler Room. If you have any questions, please ask Julia, Alyssa, or Alaina. Our project needs are posted on the parent board. We thank you for your donations.



## WELCOME

We welcome two new staff members! Donna Colucci is our new Early Childhood Education Coordinator. Donna is overseeing the center's curriculum and instruction. She is leading us in our continued efforts to provide an exceptional educational program.

We welcome Meghan Brown, a graduate of Rhode Island College, as the new teacher in the Dolphins group. Gina and Meghan will be co-teaching for the rest of the school year. The children have really welcomed her, as well as the staff!

## REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN / FIRST GRADE

If your child will be entering Kindergarten or first grade in September of 2011, we remind you to call the administrative office of your school department for information about registration. March is typically the month for registering your child for the fall school session.

## FREE READING WEBSITES FOR FAMILIES

- \* Reading Is Fundamental [www.rif.org/](http://www.rif.org/)  
Children will love the RIF website because it has games, interactive stories, contests, e-cards, and more! Parents can download booklists, information guides, and learn more about Reading Is Fundamental.
- \* Reading Rockets [www.rif.org/](http://www.rif.org/)  
Reading Rockets is a website for parents who want more information about how to help struggling readers. 
- \* PBS [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)  
Kids can play educational games with their favorite characters and shows like Reading Rainbow, Sesame Street. Between the Lions, and more.
- \* Scholastic [www.scholastic.com/kids/](http://www.scholastic.com/kids/)  
The leading children's publisher has games, book recommendations, author reviews, and more for kids 5-12.

## PARENT TIP



From Sue Wondolowski, Behavior Specialist

It's the simplest thing in the world, but taking a deep breath can help calm a child (and adult too) when he's frustrated, angry, or even when he's hurt. It's impossible to reason with a child who isn't calm, as we all know! Teaching him how to take a deep breath at some relaxed time and practicing that skill with them will allow you to say "Take a deep breath" (and do it with him) before you try to help him fix any kind of problem he's upset about. Trust me! It really, can help calm your child and give you both that five second break before you go on to deal with the problem.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This month, we wish Happy Birthday to:

Gracie M. (3/1), Vivienne G. (3/4),  
Liam M. and Mia M. (3/17),

William M. (3/20), Natalie C. and Lucas S.  
and Jack S. (3/21), Sophia L. (3/22),

James S. and Gabriel S. (3/28), Logan B. and  
Daniel M. and Aiden M. and Alyssa G.

(3/29), Jack R. and Emily V. (3/30).

## HEALTH TIP

From Eating Right From the Start—Redleaf Magazine

In our fight to prevent childhood obesity, we need to encourage children to be physically active. We can do this by providing a place for them to run, jump, and play. Most children if given encouragement, time, and space, won't have any problems accumulating thirty to sixty minutes of daily active play. However, sixty minutes to several hours of daily physical activity at various levels is best for optimal health. This physical activity can include free play, organized games or sports, helping with house—or yard work, or just walking or running from place to place. throughout the day.

## SNOW CANCELLATIONS

For center closings due to inclement weather, tune to WJAR TV 10, WPRI TV 12, WLNE TV 6, PBS 36 or the Fox stations, or check the websites.

# SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS

## The Leprechaun

Patrick is a leprechaun.  
He has a sack of gold.  
He hides it in a special place.  
Between two stumps, I'm told.



I think I once saw Patrick  
Out in the woods at play.  
He smiled and laughed  
and winked his eye.  
And then he ran away.



Don't try to follow Patrick  
To find his treasure sack.  
He'll twist and jump  
And run away.  
And never will come back!

## Who Has Seen the Wind?

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither I nor you.  
But when the leaves  
hang trembling  
The wind is passing through.  
Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow  
down their heads  
The wind is passing by.



## Rainbow Song

(tune: Pop Goes the Weasel)  
Let's all name our colors right now.  
Red and orange and yellow.  
Green and blue and purple, too.



## Here is My Kite

Here is my kite  
With a long, long tail.  
I hold it and run  
'Til I make it sail!  
High up in the sky  
The wind blows it  
around  
Then I pull on the  
string  
And my kite dips  
to the ground.



## Jelly Bean Countdown

Five little jellybeans  
I wish I had more.  
I'll eat the red one,  
And then I'll have four.  
Four little jellybeans  
Tasty as can be  
I'll eat the green one  
And then I'll have three.  
Three little jellybeans  
Only a few  
I'll eat the yellow one  
And then I'll have two.  
Two little jellybeans  
Eating them is fun  
I'll eat the orange one  
Now there is one.  
One little jellybean  
The last one for me  
I'll eat the black one  
I'm happy as can be!

## Windy Weather

(tune: I'm a Little Teapot)  
Hold onto your hat and don't let go.  
Those March winds have begun to blow!  
Out with the winter; in with the spring.  
Those strong winds mean just one thing.  
It's time again for string and kite.  
Take it outside; the wind is just right!



## The More We Get Together

The more we get together,  
Together, together.  
The more we get together  
The happier we'll be.



For your friends are my friends  
And my friends are your friends.  
The more we get together  
The happier we'll be.

## A Springtime Rhyme

(tune: The Farmer in the Dell)  
The flowers start to bloom.  
The grass begins to grow.  
The warm rays of the sun  
Have melted all the snow.  
The birds look for some worms.  
And they begin to sing.  
You know when these things  
happen, then it must be spring!

## The Flower

Here's a green leaf  
And here's a green leaf.  
That, you see, makes  
two.  
Here's a bud that  
makes a flower.  
Watch it bloom for you!



## JOKE OF THE MONTH!

Q: What kind of dog has no tail?  
A: A hot dog!



## Once I Saw a Butterfly

(tune: Twinkle Little Star)  
Once I saw a butterfly  
Dancing in the clear blue sky.  
Through the meadow he would go.  
Flying high and flying low.

## BLOOD DRIVE

Breezy Knoll will be sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, March 15 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 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.

## NUTRITION TIP—FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES—REELS

Eating Healthy: A great way to teach your child about good nutrition is to talk about, prepare, and eat healthy foods together. Explain that bodies need healthy foods to grow, and that treats like cake, cookies, and candy are okay once in a while. Ask your child to help as you prepare simple and healthy recipes.

Your child will love to help you prepare food. Think about recipes that use healthy ingredients. Here's one from the book "Yummies" by James Marshall:

### Yummies

6 tsps. grated cheese      Mix all of the ingredients together  
2 Tbsps. Butter              and form into little balls. Bake at  
10 tsps. Flour                375 degrees for 10 minutes.

## Optional Lunch Milk/Juice Money

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

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Milk/Juice money enclosed for month of: (circle one)

Jan    Feb    Mar    Apr    May    Jun    Jul    Aug    Sep    Oct    Nov    Dec

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

