



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



MARCH 2012 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.
- * Thank you for participating in American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. Flowers should arrive week of 3/16.
- * For center closings due to inclement weather, tune to WJAR TV10, WPRI TV 12, WLNE TV6 or the Fox stations or check their websites.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 1, Thur. National Smile Day
Have a smile-off – Who can smile the longest?
- Mar. 5 – Mar. 23 Pennies for Patients fundraiser for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- March 8 & 9 Th, Fri. Spring Pictures
- March 17, Sat Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- March 20, Tues. Spring arrives
Blood Drive 2:00-5:00

*While we try to teach our children about life,
 our children teach us what life is all about.*

Angela Schwindth

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!

PRESCHOOL – PRE-K NEWS

March is here, and that means spring is just a few short weeks away. We look forward to its arrival and warm, sunny weather! This month we will celebrate Dr. Seuss and turn the dramatic play area into a Dr. Seuss greenhouse! We will have fun anticipating St. Patrick's Day. Some goals we will focus on: increasing capacity for self-control, understanding an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary, associating a number of objects with names/symbols for numbers, investigating changes in materials and cause-effect relationships, and seeking help from another when appropriate. We wish all of our families a Happy Spring!



**REGISTRATION FOR
 KINDERGARTEN / FIRST GRADE**

If your child will be entering Kindergarten or first grade in September of 2012, 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. Smithfield Public Schools are holding Kindergarten Registration from March 5-March 8. Please call appropriate school for appointment.

CAN YOU HELP?



We received notice from the Smithfield Welfare Department regarding the food pantry. We are passing their request on to all of our families: *The Smithfield Welfare Department's food pantry right now is very much in need. While we received a tremendous amount of donations at the holidays, we have also had a tremendous demand for food. In the past month alone, we had 11 new families join our program; many with small children. Things we need are: Pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, rice dishes, stuffing, soup, juice, canned fruit, pasta dishes, coffee, crackers, cereal. We do have an ample supply of canned vegetables, although it is hard for a family to make a meal out of vegetables alone. We appreciate all your help! Thank you, Maura Beck Smithfield Welfare Dept. 949-4590 x27*

SPRING PICTURES

Gene Hutnak Photography will return to Breezy Knoll on Thursday, March 8 and Friday March 9 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 taken.**



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

We have a new arrival routine: Sign-in with your address!
Morning estimation jar!

Art

Clovers
Rainbows
Weather
Painting



Dramatic Play
Restaurant

Math

Cont. addition
Word problems
Begin subtraction
Estimation



Science

Healthy bodies
Weather



Reading/Language Arts

Dr. Seuss
Guided reading
Identify/blend onsets/rhymes
Sight words
Make words w/familiar endings



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 lots of time outside! 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 Anna, Alyssa, Lori, or Wanda. Our project needs are posted on the parent board. We thank you for your donations.

FREE READING WEBSITES FOR FAMILIES



- * Reading Is Fundamental 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.readingrockets.org. Reading Rockets is a website for parents who want more information about how to help struggling readers.
- * PBS www.pbskids.org. Kids can play educational games with their favorite characters and shows like *Reading Rainbow*, *Sesame Street*, *Between the Lions*, and more.

KIDS QUOTES



As the Honeybees talked about friendship, the teacher asked the class, "What make a good friend?" A child in the group offered: *Italians!*

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



HEALTH TIP 2

from www.HeathlyChildren.org.

Once you get your family moving:

Drink plenty of water before, during and after activities. Children need to drink at least six 8-ounce cups of water per day. Add another 8 ounces for every half hour of strenuous activity. For longer activities or when children don't drink enough water, diluted 100 percent fruit juice or sports drinks can increase their fluid intake.

Breakfast is an important meal for all children. Consider serving whole-grain cereals or muffins made with fruit, like bananas, blueberries or raisins. For a snack before or after physical activities, serve crackers and cheese, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, trail mix, containers of cut-up fruit and sliced vegetables with a low-fat dip.

PARENT TIP

From TRUCE (Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment) www.truceteachers.org.

Toys have enhanced play value when they :

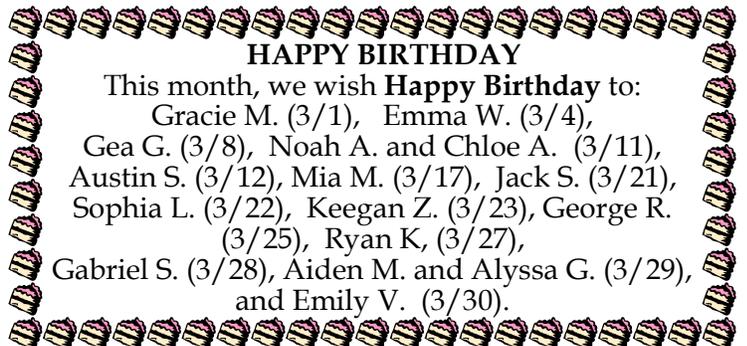
- * Can be used in many ways.
- * Allow children to be in charge of the play.
- * Appeal to children at more than one age or level of development.
- * Are not linked to video games, TV, or movies.
- * Can be used with other toys for new and more complex play.
- * Will stand the test of time and continue to be part of play as children develop new interests and skills.
- * Promote respectful, non-stereotyped, nonviolent interactions among children.
- * Help children develop skills important for further learning and a sense of mastery.
- * Can be used by children to play alone as well as with others.
- * Can be enjoyed by both girls and boys.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This month, we wish **Happy Birthday** to:

Gracie M. (3/1), Emma W. (3/4),
Gea G. (3/8), Noah A. and Chloe A. (3/11),
Austin S. (3/12), Mia M. (3/17), Jack S. (3/21),
Sophia L. (3/22), Keegan Z. (3/23), George R.
(3/25), Ryan K. (3/27),
Gabriel S. (3/28), Aiden M. and Alyssa G. (3/29),
and Emily V. (3/30).



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



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 pass-
ing 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.



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!



Lucky Leprechaun

I found a little leprechaun.
A tiny man was he.
He sat under a rainbow.
Near an old oak tree.
I walked right up to him.
And he looked me over.
Then he winked and
handed me
A real four leaf clover!

JOKE OF THE MONTH!

Q: What do you get when you
cross a caterpillar with a parrot?
A: A walkie-talkie!



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.
Once I saw a butterfly
Dancing in the clear blue sky.

BLOOD DRIVE

Breezy Knoll will be sponsoring a blood drive
on Tuesday, March 20 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—RIELS

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.

Your child will love to help you prepare food. Here's a fun recipe for Chocolate Ladybugs from HealthyChildren.org.

Ingredients: 5 fresh, large whole strawberries
30 semi-sweet dark chocolate chips

Directions: Cut the tops off of the strawberries and cut them in half lengthwise. With your fingers, gently push three chocolate chips into each half to create the ladybug's spots. Serve on a fun platter!

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 \$ _____

