



# Newsletter

August 2017

## Great Beginnings Christian Child Care Center and Kindergarten

### From the Director's Desk....

Amy Bartlett

Summer over?! No way, we have weeks of summer adventure to go and we intend to savor every moment!!!

As a child, I remember the golden days of summer being filled with endless hours of outdoor adventure and play. The play possibilities were as vast as our imaginations. This is what is referred to as “unstructured outdoor play” and it is just as important to a child’s development as anything we adults can organize and structure for them.

Unstructured play is when you have young children who take what ever is in front of them, apply their imagination, and let the adventure unfold. The older they are, the more complex the play will be. It doesn't require any special equipment, it's whatever they find in their environment like sticks, rocks, leaves, pails, balls,

trucks, etc. Just let them go out and they will come up with all kinds of ideas. What’s important is that it comes from them, with minimal or no direction from adults. (Of course you still have to make sure they are being safe—some imaginations can get too wild!)

This imaginary play with others will help them learn the following life skills:

- teamwork
- decision making
- negotiating
- problem solving
- care and cooperation
- role playing
- dialogue
- brainstorming

These are all life skills they will need for family, school and work.

Unstructured play will also help with developing their **executive functions**: working memory (holding onto information and applying it later on), flexible thinking (being able to use information in more than one way) and inhibitory control (being able ignore distractions and resist impulsive behavior). Again, all important life skills.

On top of all these important skills they are learning, there is a whole lot of science, math and art going on in their outdoor building activities. Medicine too if you count the “potions” they mix up!

So never again should you look at what they come up with outdoors as “just play”. It’s major work and major fun! A win/win in my book!!!!

Enjoy the rest of your summer days to the fullest!

Grow in God’s love!



### Young Infant

Miss Jenny

Greetings from the Young Infants! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Our friends look forward to outside play time and buggy rides. When our friends are able to explore their senses while playing outside, it helps stimulate brain growth.

We would like to welcome the Baruth family back to our young infant class. We are very excited to meet their twins Calvin & Camden. Our friends will be happy to have a new friends to play with. Our three oldest friends Reese, Britney & Jack turned 1 in July, Happy Birthday! We are approach-



ing that time again, (transition time) where our older friends graduate from the young infant room and move up to the older infants. We will surely miss our friends but we will be close by to watch them grow. Our friend Dylan is so busy crawling around to explore our room and to reach his favorite toys. Connor and Austin have found their voices and love playing near each other to squeal and babble with each other. Enjoy the rest of your summer! Until next month, God Bless...





## Older Infant

August is always a busy time at Great Beginnings. We are going to start our transition to our fall program. We will be introducing James, Abe and Teddy to the young toddler room and their future caregivers. This means we will go over after drop off and visit the classroom and they will get to explore the large playground. One of the older infant staff will stay with them as they begin to make new friends and develop new relationships with their future caregivers.

In the older infant room we will be welcoming Reese, Jack and Britney to visit with us. They will be transitioning to a new room

as well as starting the break to one nap a day. This is a gradual process and we meet each child where they are at with their sleeping needs. They will be ready though to enjoy climbing the play mats, walking behind the push toys and getting outside more than they currently do.

August is a very exciting time for us. A lot of change and growth is occurring. We are excited in preparing the children for their next journey in growth. For those friends staying put, this is their time to be top dogs in their age group and they get to teach their younger peers great things.

## Miss Ann

The activities that are the easiest, cheapest and most fun to do—such as singing, playing games, reading, storytelling and just talking and listening are also the best for child development.

Jerome Singer

### Have a great month!



## Young Toddler

Welcome August! Such a fun time of year and a very busy one. The kids have really been enjoying the great summer we had this past month. They are all huge lovers of the outdoors and are really coming out of their shells. Hopefully this next month will bless us with some more warm days with water play and nature walks.

Augusts' theme is **At the Beach**, and that includes sun, sand, sea life and palm trees.



## Miss Clancy

Our beach themed sensory table was a huge hit this past month so we will build off that so that we can have even more fun.

I hope everyone gets to enjoy the last parts of summer. It's been a really great one for the staff and kids and I can't wait to see what this next month has in store for all of the kids. Thinking warm weather thoughts and lots of excitement! God Bless!!

## Older Toddler

It is difficult to believe that we are heading into the last month of Summer, once again time has gotten away from us. We've been able to have some fun playing in the water and take walks out to the hill and on the trails which the friends have enjoyed.

We have enjoyed watching the bunnies that eat outside our windows, when the friends see a bunny at one window they run to the other to see where it hops off to. We get the opportunity to be bird watchers also and I always have helpers to fill the bird feeders, to keep them coming back. They love to watch the guys who take care of the lawn too. They had the chance to see the gentleman

who cuts the hills and fields, they were fascinated by his brush hog. After he was done cutting the grass we saw the turkey and a deer.



## Miss De

In August we will continue with our Summer theme, this month we'll be heading to the beach to see what adventures can be had.

Also in this last month we will be preparing our older friends for the Fall move up to the 3 year old room. I will be taking the older ones over to visit the classroom and spend time in it and to spend some time with Ms. Diane.

I hope you all have had a chance to enjoy your summer and were able to relax, if not I hope you can find time to have a little R&R. and enjoy the rest of summer.





### Threes

WOW—Where did the time go? I can't believe that August has already begun which means that the start of another school year is just around the corner.

We all have enjoyed our year with our class so much! Thanks to all of you for letting us help mold them as they grow. It is such a pleasure to watch the changes take place throughout the year!

We want to wish Nathan and his family all the best as they celebrate a new baby in their

family and also as they leave our center and move on. We will miss you greatly! You have brought smiles to our faces each day.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Grace and Conley! May God, bless you both!



### Miss Di

Through the coming month we will be saying Goodbye and Good luck to several friends who will be moving up to Ms. Heidi's room in September. You will always have a special place in our hearts. Some of our friends will stay with us yet to be our Big Helpers as we welcome new friends that will join us!

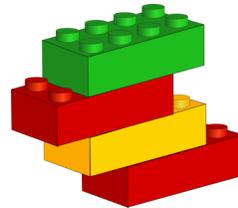
Enjoy the rest of the summer!

♥ Ms. Di

### Fours

We have had the best summer!.. And we still have weeks to go! At first, we'll be going buggy with "It's A Bug's Life!" For two weeks we'll be exploring the world of insects and spiders. We'll be learning what makes an insect an insect/spider. We'll be doing all sorts of fun activities, games and art projects that involve insects/spiders. Some of those activities will include: fly puppets, game mats, edible spiders, playdoh mats, butterfly art and we will be observing real "Painted Lady" Butterflies transform through their metamorphosis stages!! So cool! We will care for them for a time, then release them in our fields! I have purchased some new science "tools" ~ nets and bug boxes!

A new theme will fill another week in August that is sure to be a huge hit: "Legos!" We will be doing all sorts of fun math activities this week and a science experiment also that will all include Legos. The class will create a "Lego Guy" face, have fun with a Lego estimation jar and even make "Lego Brownies!"



Story Extensions are so fun and we will be devoting a whole week to them. Several Eric Carle books with be explored along with other

### Miss Heidi

summer themed books. We will be doing some cool art projects, science and texture activities that go along with each daily book more extensively. When books are the focus you just cannot go wrong! The last week of August will be filled with all those fun summer themed favorites like watermelon, bubbles, bare feet, and "Forever Friends!" We'll celebrate friendships, old and new, as we prepare for welcomes and 'good byes'. We'll have an ice cream party to celebrate... What could be better!

Happy August!

Happy Birthday to Max!

### School Age

Wow, where to begin! We have had such fun and busy days this summer. From exploring with different S.T.E.M activities in June, to building construction box buildings in July, and now to diving into different animals around the world in August- we have had lots to do! We have been having water days whenever it's been nice enough to and play different games with it. With the nice weather we have been able to play more organized games in the side yard, and have been able to continue to explore the hills! We also have been

able to celebrate different days including: movie day, sugar cookie day, vanilla ice cream day, stick your tongue out day, gummi worm day, milk chocolate day, sports day- and many more! This has been very fun and engaging for the children to take part in. We look forward to our field trip to the Saginaw Zoo in the beginning of August, as we will be discussing different types of animals throughout the month of August! It has been a privilege for us to work with these children and have had a great summer with them. We wish

### Miss Rachel and Miss Nicole

them all the best in their upcoming school year!

