



# Great Beginnings Christian Child Care Center

December 2017

## Newsletter

### FROM THE DIRECTOR...

AMY BARTLETT

Merry Christmas to all! May your holiday be filled with all the important stuff: LOVE. You're working parents, you don't need to be Joanna Gaines, Giada De Laurentiis or whoever the latest Christmas décor and food bloggers may be. It doesn't have to be picture perfect or include every tradition you enjoyed growing up. It just has to have the family and friends you love and a focus on the blessing of Christ.

Some tips for the season:

- ◆ Try to stick to nap and eating schedules as best you can.
- ◆ If you're on the road, bring favorite snacks, toys/books, blankets and PJs
- ◆ Have the celebration at your house, it's easier for the children to have familiar things.
- ◆ Get a sitter for shopping and errand running.
- ◆ Keep it simple, the children pick up on your stress levels.
- ◆ Paper plates with premade food is not a sin. You can be Rachel Ray another day.

I hope you all have some good time off to enjoy, relax and play together. We are closed December 25, 26 and January 1st. **Please be sure to sign up for what days your child will be here. We staff accordingly. If you mark your child as being off on some days that week, you cannot change plans. We won't have staffing.**

***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

### Young Infant

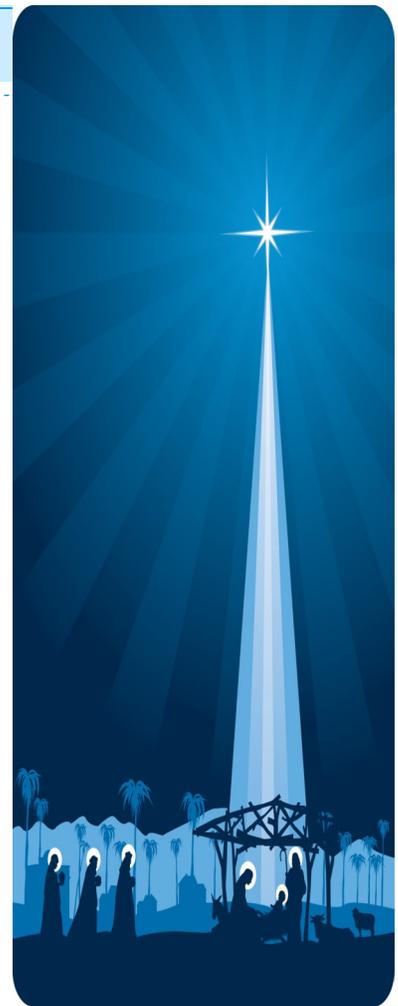
Miss Jenny

Seasons Greetings from the Young Infants. Christmas is a special holiday where we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The center has been busily preparing for our annual Christmas program on Dec. 1st. We will begin our program with the introduction of our young infants, it's so much fun watching each class perform on stage.

We recently said farewell to our friend Dylan. He was so excited to move to the older infant room. We will miss you Dylan! We would like to welcome the McKeller family to Great Beginnings. Lincoln McKeller is 2 months old and a wonderful addition to our young infants. He is officially our youngest friend and all of his teachers enjoy cuddling with him.

The majority of our little friends are on the move. We have army crawlers and bottom scooters. They all love to be on the move to reach their favorite toys.

Enjoy spending time with you family this holiday season. Merry Christmas and God Bless!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Older Infant	2
Young Toddler	2
Older Toddler	2
Threes	3
Fours	3



## OLDER INFANTS

MISS ANN



Winter will soon be upon us. Thanks for bringing hats, coats and mittens. We enjoyed getting outdoors during the last weeks of November.

The older infants are continuing to explore the classroom and sensory activities while building strength in their fine and large muscles. They are developing many new skills as they learn to control their fingers, arms and legs. They are building strength, and the concept of balance as they are moving their bodies. These new abilities are also building our physical coordination, social skills and self esteem as they engage in the power of play.

We are constantly on the go but books and reading slow us down. This group of boys and girls enjoy time exploring and reading books. Reading aloud to the children teaches them about communication. Reading introduces many concepts like colors, shapes and numbers in a fun repetitive way. As caregivers we enjoy reading to the children as they build listening, memory and vocabulary skills. It provides information to babies about the world around them.

As the older infants are growing I am observing an increase in the children's ability to stay focused on their play and staying engaged for longer periods of time. We are seeing this happen frequently with sensory play, building with blocks and listening to books.

## YOUNG TODDLER

MISS CLANCY

Wow it is finally December! I cannot believe we are closing out 2107 already! It's been such a busy and fun year here at Great Beginnings and can't wait to see what 2018 holds for us all. But first... Christmas! It is such a fun time of the year for the toddlers. Between our Christmas performance (Dec 1st), hopefully the first good snow, and all the holiday events, it's an exciting experience.

We have already begun our fun Christmas crafts and will be adding more as we get closer to the actual holidays. Prepare your refrigerator doors, because we love doing lots of projects and crafts together during the morning. From the sounds of it we may have some mediocre weather to look forward to, but temperature will still be pretty chilly. Please make sure to bring boots, hats, and mittens so we can stay warm when we go out.

I hope everyone has a warm and safe holiday season full of love and new memories. Merry Christmas.

## OLDER TODDLER

MISS DE

It's the most wonderful time of the Year! It could also be considered stressful, with all the cooking, cleaning, shopping and traveling done at this time of year. For some it may even bring disappointment. What ever emotion it stirs up, I pray we could all focus on Jesus. The babe that came so many years ago to bring hope, peace and joy. This is one time of the year we are kinder, speak gentler and more giving to others. He came into the world, not to rule but to serve. May we extend ourselves a little more this season and when we do I hope we will take time to spend enjoying our family and friends. May we see the hope and joy in our children's eyes and pray for peace. I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas. May the true spirit of Christmas resonate in your hearts this Christmas and into the next year.



## THREES

### Precious Presents

Written by Heather Price

Some come to us wrapped in packages of glitter and gold—  
Some are wrapped in paper of brown—a beauty yet to unfold  
For these precious presents are found in each child we see  
Precious presents God sends for the Earth to borrow—  
Laughter, hugs and toothless grins—the future of tomorrow  
we find them in our classrooms with hearts full of love  
Tiny blessings that remind us of our calling from above.  
They are miracles of God: touched by His love and grace—  
Believing in magic and hoping we keep the world a safe place  
They wait for us to unwrap them so they  
can spread their wings and fly  
once tiny caterpillars that emerge as fragile and  
beautiful butterflies  
These precious presents are never tied with ribbons and bows  
They are God’s promise after the storm—beautiful rainbows.



So, unwrap these precious presents and keep them safe from harm. Love them, treasure them and hold them in your arms.

When you open these precious presents love them from the start— Hold tight to God’s little blessings because they are treasures of the heart.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy December Birthdays to Chase, Logan and Jaxon!

## FOURS

## MISS HEIDI

We have plenty of activities that will put us in the Christmas spirit.... Not that we need a lot of help with that! ☺

We are so excited for the program and I know we’ll be great! Other festive activities will be: adding hay to Jesus’ manger to pillow His head (game), singing Christmas carols, patterning Christmas loops for Letter Ll, making handprint wreaths, setting up our tree and having a party to celebrate Jesus’ birthday. We’ll sing “Happy Birthday” in honor of Him and have treats too. Please keep an eye on the door for party information! You are always so generous! I thank you in advance for your participation!

Along with all the Christmas activities and projects we’ll still be busy with our “everyday school activities”... for phonics we’ll be working with Ll, Mm, and Nn. We’ll be doing a lot of patterning, working up to more “elaborate” patterns, measuring, predicting and graphing. In language we’ll be doing some labeling. In science, magnets will be a big focus.

As always, our centers will be filled with Christmas themed math and language. Learning is so much fun!

I wish you and your family a very MERRY CHRISTMAS celebrating our Savior’s birth!

Happy 5th Birthday to Ryan!

