

Great Beginnings Christian Child Care Center Newsletter

Director's Desk...

Amy Bartlett

Wow, doesn't May feel so good with these warm temperatures and sunshine! Glad to have you here at last!

I'd like to wish all of our Moms and Grandmothers a **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**. You work so hard to care for others, I hope this day will be special for you. I have a feeling that your **children's beautiful art work** will be a feature on this day, along with all the other thoughtful gestures.

Let's talk about those art projects. Children's art experiences serve many functions in their development. Not only do you get great works of art (okay, sweet & interesting) to put up on the fridge to admire, but they get to work on their:

Fine Motor Skills: gripping crayons, markers and paint brushes leads to writing skills and other controlled movements.

Cognitive Development: they plan and execute their design along with experience of the process (mixing paint colors together can create new colors—cause and effect).

Language Skills: they can tell you all about their work (ask open ended questions like, "tell me about your picture") and the process of how they did it. This works on vocabulary and their story telling ability.

Math Skills: size, shape, spatial reasoning, making comparisons, counting and patterning.

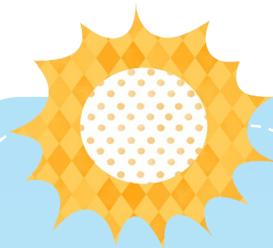
The process of creating art also gives them an opportunity to be expressive and creative. They get to explore working with different mediums and see what they are like. When you do art with your child: provide a variety of choices, let them lead, focus on the joy of the process—not the end product. It's a great time to let their imagination go wild. To read the full article on this topic, search Michigan State Extension "The art of creating: Why art is important for early childhood development" by Kylie Rymanowicz 1/22/15.

Young Infant

Miss Jenny

Happy Spring from the Young Infants! Our friends are enjoying the pleasant temperatures. They love the fresh air and buggy rides outside. Parents please bring in light jackets and sun hats for our outside fun. We would like to wish our friend Zoey a Happy Birthday, she turned one on April 27th. We also recently said farewell to our friend Lincoln, his family will be moving to Grand Rapids. Lincoln will be missed by all of his teachers and friends.

We would like to wish all the mothers at Great Beginnings a Happy Mother's Day on May 13th. I hope all of you know how special every one of you are. At times being a mother can be overwhelming but it is also one of the greatest gifts God can bless us with. I hope all of you enjoy your special day where you are recognized for being an awesome mother! God Bless...



May 2018

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Important Dates

- 05/28 Memorial Day—
Center closed.
- 06/18 Summer School Age
Program begins
- 06/21 CARNIVAL!!!
- 06/22 SVSU STEM presen-
tation for Summer
School Age class



Older Infants

Miss Ann

So how is your adventure into parenting going? I'm sure you can attest to how tiring it was caring for your newborn. Hopefully you've gotten past the sleepless nights as you now are in the "Onder" year. Let's face it you'll never sleep past 9:00am again (okay maybe 7:00.) Those days are long gone but hopefully most nights pass peacefully. Keep powering through the fatigue it does get better.

The "One"der year does mean the very beginning of toddlerhood. I must be honest with you, there is no such thing as a weak-willed toddler. Have you ever tried to stuff an octopus into a pillowcase? Me either. But I'm sure you do after having to buckle your angry toddler into their car seat mid-meltdown. It's hard to go from a little baby totally dependent on you to a little human with opinions of their own. Patience and more patience will get you through.

You know it's all a series of stages. Tantrums, sleepless nights, leaving church without actually hearing a word of the sermon due to a squirmy, active kid -- none of these last forever. Just wait till you're in the "random nudist in awkward places" stage of toddlerhood and just can't keep pants on your child—don't sweat it! All parents go through this, and it will end eventually. (Probably)

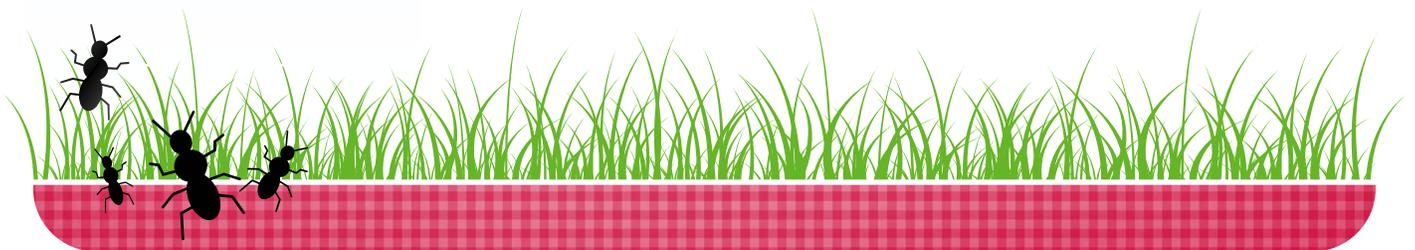
You know God chose you to snuggle, feed, burp, console, teach and love these special little people. He knew they needed you and us (as caregivers) and we needed them. Hold on to this when stages are particularly difficult. (Hello, impending teenage-hood!) You are, without a doubt, the right person for this job and your child. Even if you don't always feel like it. Even if sometimes you want to run into the woods and live the life of a hermit. You are meant to be this mom and dad, and they are meant to be your kids. Trust in this when you find yourself questioning your parenting abilities. God knew what he was doing when he put you together. He loves you and your child(ren).

Toddlers

Miss De

Happy Mothers Day ,to all our wonderful moms. We appreciate all the things you do for us. You are busy people and givers, you deserve a day all your own, so we hope you get some time to kick your feet up and enjoy your special day! This month our theme for the month will be on Farms. We will learn about the animals that live on a farm, the products we get from a farm, and the equipment they use on the farms.

We have been enjoying the outdoors since the nice spring weather has arrived. Please send a pair of tennis shoes that you will leave here, we like to walk to the hills and tennies are safer for their little feet. If you have any concerns or questions please direct them to myself, thank you for your cooperation.



Threes

Welcome to the beautiful month of May! The tulips are beginning to bloom and the leaves on the trees are starting to bud. It is a great feeling to see the warm sun out! We have had a chance to be outside a long time, chase bubbles and ride the bikes.

In the month of May, we will be learning about how plants grow and be able to help plant our own sunflowers. After they begin to grow here, please consider taking them home to plant. Once its flowered, take a picture of your child standing by it to share with the class. We love to see them.

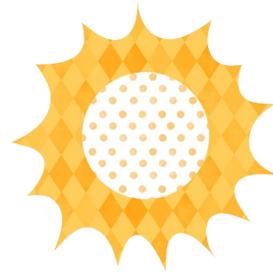
Creepy Crawly Critters will be another theme for this month, this theme is a fun one to explore. We will be sorting out the plastic bugs and learning the names of some of the bugs and play Bug Bingo. We will have several art projects as well to create and share. If you have any favorite books that

Miss Di

go with our theme please feel free to bring them in.

A heartfelt wish goes out to all of the wonderful Moms and Grandmas at our center as they celebrate Mother's Day this month. May God hold you in the palm of his hands and fill you with many blessings. You are all very special!

Happy Birthday wishes to Rylee, Rosalie and Carter!



Happy Mother's Day to all our awesome Moms and Grandmas!

Fours

As we welcome May, we'll do a week of celebrating and honoring our Moms. We'll take time to celebrate our wonderful Moms and the great job they do, during our "Magnificent Moms" week. Also during May, we'll be exploring plant life for a two week theme of "Planting and Growing." We'll be learning all that scientific vocabulary like: photosynthesis, chlorophyll and all the parts of a plant. Our room will be overflowing with science experiments! We'll also be learning a few poems We love poetry! The boys and girls will all be planting and caring for their own sunflower plants also—huge hit! (If you have any flowers, pussy willows, bushes etc. that are blooming at your homes, we'd love to display a clipping for our science table.)

In phonics and math we'll be doing blends, reviewing and vowels and exploring measurements and writing numerals 1-10.

Happy Mother's Day to all our Moms!

Miss Heidi

