

Happy New Year!

Kirsten's Day Care
Annandale, VA

Winter, 2015-16

Mrs. K's Newsletter

Spring is in the air! Looking forward to a full week of day care with healthy kids and no snow days! ☺

Winter Curriculum

We have done so many fun and interesting things this winter. The kids and I have really enjoyed the new Mother Goose Time curriculum (<http://www.mothergoosetime.com/>). The themes are fun and the curriculum is easily adjusted to fit the needs and skill-level of the various ages in care.

Going on Safari: This has been an all-time favorite so far. The kids learned all about the different safari animals. They also went on safari...in the classroom and outside. They loved using their binoculars!



Coming up next!

Discover the Desert: We'll learn about desert animals, habitat, and much more!

Dr. Seuss Month!: Dr. Seuss' birthday is March 2, so we celebrate Dr. Seuss for the entire month of March. He has written so many great books that allow for so many fun activities all month!

Books: We read a lot of books every day, but we focus on books that keep with the theme and holidays of the month. Last month, we read, "The Hungry Caterpillar". The kids talked about the various things that the caterpillar ate. We also learned the Days of the Week song, sung to the tune of The Adams Family.

Currently, we are reading, "Brown Bear", which has a fun song, crafts, and other activities that go with it.

Spring is Coming!

Playground: We're so happy to have a beautifully mulched play area again! Please send your children to day care in tennis shoes since the mulch gets into Teva-type shoes and flip flops. If you have an extra, please bring a light jacket to leave here since morning temperatures will often require a coat, but afternoon temperatures will just require a jacket.



Food and Fitness: The children enjoyed exploring new fruits and vegetables. Many of the fruits the children eat, they only see cut up, so we explored the fruits whole, cut up, cooked, and raw. We smelled them, touched them, and, of course, tasted them. We learned some new exercises and learned how important exercise is...which is just play for them (and can be for us too!). They also got to help me make homemade bread.

Other Activities

Al's Pals: We're continuing with Al's Pals once or twice a week for the preschoolers. The two and three year olds know some of the songs and can't wait to participate in it next year.

Letters: We are doing structured activities for the preschoolers for our letter of the week. Mother Goose Curriculum does not do the letters in order, so take a look at the letters hanging over the sliding door to the preschool room so you know what we're working on.

You can help your child with early reading skills by pointing out all the signs that you see...especially the letters in his or her name.

St. Patrick's Day: Don't forget to send your child in with green on!

Easter activities: We are excited to start our Easter egg hunts and other Easter activities.

Babies: The toddlers do a lot of reading with Ms. L, Ms. Yesi, or me. They don't sit as long in group settings during reading time, so they get lots of one-on-one time. When not actively engaged in an activity with one of us, they are free to explore anything they can reach. I regularly rotate the toys to keep their interest. We talk a lot about body parts with all the babies and toddlers and they're retaining so much!



Birthdays and Other Occasions

We celebrated several birthdays over the last couple months. In March and April, we have the following birthdays:

Frank, March 23 (turning 3)

Luke, April 22 (turning 2)

We celebrated Eva's 3rd birthday just in time before her big move to Florida. We are all so sad to see her go, but know that she will love the great weather and they'll be close to the beach! Very exciting for the Taylor family. We wish you well!

Reminders

Closings: [FCPS Employee Calendar](#)

Upcoming Holidays are listed below:

- March 21-25: Spring Break
 - May 30: Memorial Day
 - June 27: Last full-time day of day care
- I begin "Mom's Day Out on June 28, from 8:00am-4:00pm.

Early arrivals: Please do not arrive before 7:00am, unless we have discussed this. I have made arrangements with some families

Late pick-ups: Please be sure to be here by 4:30pm. If you will be late, please call me as soon as possible as I or my assistants may have plans immediately following day care. There is a minimum \$15 late fee if you are over 15 minutes late or late twice in one month. I haven't had to be strict about this in the past, but unfortunately, I must this year.

I have made arrangements with some families either on an on-going basis or an occasional basis. We have a lot to do to both at the beginning of the day and end of day. We also may have other obligations at the end of the day, so please do your best to avoid this. Even with the best laid plans, we know that things come up, so please contact us as soon as possible if you know that you will be late.

Laundry room: Please do not let children play in the laundry room.

Sunscreen and bug spray: I will have a

mosquito barrier applied again this year, so we should not need bug spray.

Later this spring, we will begin to apply SPF 15 (or usually much higher) sunscreen on children if we will be out for more than 20 minutes. The back yard is mostly shaded, depending on where the children prefer to play. Some may get more than others, depending on their skin sensitivities and where they mostly play.

Communication: If you ever need to talk about your child or your child's care, please feel free to call me during naptime or in the evenings (I will return your call if I am busy). Sometimes, it is a little busy to talk while everyone is here since many kids get picked up and dropped off at the same time. Feel free to shoot me an email or text if you wanted to share information about your child, like if they had a rough night or if something is going on at home. These things are helpful so we can either talk to them a little bit about it or just give them a little more attention.

Have a lovely week!



Eva's sister, Julia,
playing with Leo.



Frank and Mabel painting
"Caterpillars".

