

Happy Spring!

Kirsten's Day Care
Annandale, VA

Spring, 2016-17

Mrs. K's Newsletter

Happy Spring!

We made it! The darkness of winter has gone and we are all enjoying the sun, flowers, birds, and so much that spring has to offer. The children are so happy to play outside. They're all becoming very good artists and are enjoying playing with chalk. They have done a lot of dramatic play with the playhouse outside, opening ice cream parlors and cafes. The meals they serve are delicious.

We have stopped to watch earth worms and other bugs, rescued caterpillars from the playhouse, and watched the bees flying in the neighbor's backyard beehive. We are learning a lot about bees, and enjoyed a



visit from Jim, the Beekeeper. They have learned a lot about flowers and can recognize pansies, daisies, daffodils, tulips, and a few more.

Daily schedule

The daily schedule has been very similar at the Mullens as it is at my home. Below is a quick refresher of our daily schedule.

7:00-7:30-We welcome the kids and read and free play while waiting for everyone to arrive for breakfast.

7:30-We eat breakfast, then we do story time (circle time) with the kids, which includes discussing the letter of the week, our theme (bees and butterflies, most recently), and read a story (we're still a bit obsessed with our Dr. Seuss books).

8:15-I do preschool time with the older kids, while Mrs. Yesi and Mrs. X reinforce different stories, themes, and songs with the younger kids. This is followed by free play.

9:15-Snacktime

9:30-We transition to storytime and one more preschool activity (game, Al's Pals, craft, reading/writing, etc.), then free-play, which includes everything from reading, arts & crafts, rolling the ball, listening to & playing music, and going outside. They have been enjoying dramatic play a lot lately, pretending to be Paw Patrol characters!

11:15-Lunch

12:00-2:30-Naptime

2:30-Snacktime

3:00-I do story time until everyone is ready to go outside or start another activity (if the weather is bad).

Trainings

My assistants and I are all required 16 hours of training. We often receive many more training hours. Mrs. Xenia is working on her early childhood education degree and doing very well at Liberty University.

This year, we have had trainings for:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Safe Sleep Practices
- Child Abuse
- Red Flags in Child Development
- Pre-Reading and Pre-Writing
- ASQ Evaluations

Mrs. Xenia and I just attended an all-day workshop in Herndon last Saturday:

[Celebrating Babies Conference](#)

Arts & Crafts

With age comes better fine motor skills. The infants and young toddlers get to participate just as much as the older kids. They enjoy finger painting and many have even attempted holding paint brushes. The twos and threes are drawing more shapes and becoming more precise in their work. They know most of their colors and most of them have a favorite color that they always reach for! The older three-year-olds and four-year-olds do much more detailed work. They often label their work, with a little help.



Curriculum

Easter: We just finished up some fantastic Easter lessons. We did a number of Easter egg hunts, which all the children were involved in. We also did several art projects using cotton balls, stickers, glue, paint, and much more.



Puppets: We use puppets to tell stories, play make-believe, and to talk about animal names, colors, sounds, and more. Their favorite thing to do with our puppets is sing “Old MacDonald had a farm”.

Babies and toddlers: The babies and toddlers have received lots of one on one time sitting, reading, and exploring a number of toys. We talk a lot about body parts with all the babies and toddlers.

Al’s Pals: The preschoolers now know almost all the Al’s Pals songs and can tell you about the many lessons that they have learned. Al has taught them how to problem-solve, calm down, make friends, and make good choices regarding our bodies (exercise, eating, etc.) Read more about [Al’s Pals here](#).

May: We are exploring water (lakes, rivers, oceans, etc.) and everything that goes with it, from plants to animals.

Other Skills/Activities

Other skills that they are working on include:

Using positional words-over, under, behind, between, around, etc. We sometimes do this by putting a line of masking tape on the floor and asking the children to stand “behind” the line, for example. It is important to always describe exactly what you’re doing and seeing when you’re around babies and children. It helps them build a large vocabulary.

Washing hands-we wash our hands with the following song: "Top and bottom, top and bottom, in between, in between, rub them both together, rub them both together, they're all clean, squeaky clean!"

Reading-we choose books that match our themes, as well as whatever other books we choose from the library. We recently did the many Dr. Seuss books, Easter books, bird books, and flower and gardening books. Thanks again for sharing some of your books with us every week so we can expand our library.



Mom's Day Out

It's been a rough year with the tree damaging our house. Between the initial shock to finding housing and day care for my own children and dealing with a major renovation, I need to take a break. My family needs more of my time this summer and I will only be open a couple days.

I plan on working a couple Tuesdays and maybe the last Friday before we return to school, since that always seems to be much needed. The hours will be 8:00-4:00 and will include breakfast, lunch, and a snack. I will post the days and fee schedule in June.

1-2-3, Magic

We have been using [1-2-3 Magic](#) as a discipline system since I started doing day care. I have the DVDs that go with it so I can improve my implementation of the program, and also my assistants' and parents'. It is designed for children 2-12. The DVDs are available for loan,

which I highly recommend for all families with children two and above. Dr. Phelan, the man behind 1-2-3, Magic, is quite entertaining and has made an easy program to follow. My DVDs are packed, but the Dunn Loring center has them and you may loan them from them.

ASQ Evaluations

I have been looking for these evaluations since we moved to Luke's house and I finally found them! I would like to send these home as soon as I can get them organized. It is a parent-driven evaluation. For more information, go to: [Ages and Stages Questionnaires](#)

End of year move

As you know, we will finish the year here. Many of you loaned us safety equipment, gates, and many other things. Most of it was not labeled and I'm afraid that I do not remember who brought what. I will set things aside that are not mine so everyone can claim them. If, after this has been done, you are still missing something, let me know and I will send out an email to all in case someone may have picked it up by mistake. Memories fade after five months, so it may have been claimed by accident.

Thanks again for everyone's help when we moved in. I could really use some help moving things back to my home at the end of the school year. I will send out an email requesting help closer to the move. Thanks!

End of year party:

Every year, I do an end of year party for all families and alumni. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 14 from 11:00-12:30 at My Gym. It is located at 9566 Burke Rd., Burke, VA 22015. I will serve lunch with dessert for your family! I will send out an Evite so I can keep track of reservations. I hope you can all make it!



Birthdays

May birthdays!

May 7: Leo turned 2

May 28: Garrett turns 2

Summer birthdays!!!

July 13: Reese turns 1

August 18: Olivia turns 3

August 21: Adelyn turns 3

Good-byes

We are so sad to say good-bye to the Williams Family. He and his older brother James have been part of our day care family for three years. He will be attending Corpus Christi preschool in Falls Church. We will all miss him so much. We wish him all the best!

Yesi will also be leaving us too. Her last day is May 19. She found a great job in a doctor's office and we are very happy for her. We will all miss her so much too. We wish her the best as well.

Reminders

Closings: [FCPS calendars](#)

Upcoming Holidays are listed below:

- May 29: Memorial Day
- June 27: Last full-time day

Back to School: August 21, 7:00am-4:30pm
Please drive slowly. There are many families with children and pets in the neighborhood.



