

Happy Spring!

Kirsten's Day Care
Annandale, VA

Spring, 2013-14

Mrs. K's Newsletter

Happy Spring!

We are all enjoying spring here. The children are so happy to play outside for extended periods of time with the sun shining down on them. While outside, we blow bubbles, play in the sand box, play with the bikes/push toys, dig, play hide and go seek, play with chalk and, best of all, go on nature hikes. They love exploring the back yard and discovering different plants, animals, insects and more.

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 four and up group does much more detailed work. They often label their work, with a little help.

We use a variety of media for art: crayons, markers, glue sticks, cotton balls, paint brushes, pom poms, stickers, stamps, play-doh, and, of course, our fingers!

Curriculum

Gardening: We are starting our gardening activities next week. Not only are Paul and I planting in the big garden, which the kids help us pick and eat, but they are planting some flowers and vegetables in planters.



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.

Birds: Currently, we're wrapping up our bird lesson. We've learned about different kinds of birds, bird parts, and what they eat, which the big kids either got a kick out of or were grossed out by. We have many birds nesting in our bird

houses and in the trees. I just put out the hummingbird feeders, which are so exciting to watch. The children will be creating pine cone bird feeders soon.



Puppets: We use puppets to tell stories, play make-believe, and to talk about animal names, colors, sounds, and more.

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

Al's Pals: The children 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](#).

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.

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!” (I think that is from Nick Jr.)

Nature walks-we talk about everything that we see outside, from the names of the different plants to the earthworms that we dig up and hold (well, only some of the kids hold them).



These adorable babies won't stay put on the blanket much longer!

Reading-we choose books that match our themes, as well as whatever other books we choose from the library. We recently did the “If you Give a Mouse a Muffin” series, Easter books, bird books, and we are currently working on flower and gardening books.

Mom's Day Out

This summer, we'll continue to do “Mom's (or Dad's) Day Out”. During summer, we allow the

children to guide the learning, mostly in the outdoors. We will use the “Growing up Wild” curriculum, which I went to a training seminar for and received a wonderful book to help me implement it.

The hours will be 8:00-4:00 and will include breakfast, lunch, and a snack. The fees are \$75 for children under one and \$65 for children one and older. I usually need to know in advance if you will be coming so I can plan for staffing, food, crafts, etc. Fees are still paid at the beginning of the month, unless there is space and you “drop in”.

1-2-3 Magic

We have been using [1-2-3 Magic](#) as a discipline system since I started doing day care. This year, I purchased the DVDs that go with it so I can not only improve my implementation of the program, but 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. Please let me know if you would like to loan the DVD. I see Friday night date night for mom and dad in your near future. 😊



End of year party:

Every year, I do an end of year party for all families and alumni. Please mark your calendar for Friday, June 13 from 4:00-6:00. I will serve dinner for your family and pull out the moon bounce and other toys.

Birthdays

May birthdays!

May 11: Emmett turns 2!

May 25: Aaron turns 4!

June birthdays!

June 20: Clara turns 2

June 27: Sheila turns 3

June 29: Ethan turns 5

Summer birthdays!!!

July 29: Eliana turns 9

August 14: Qieran turns 1

August 21: Adelyn turns 1



The big kids get to play upstairs during naptime. We love games and dress up!

clothes, so it doesn't get mixed up with someone else's items. If you haven't updated your change of clothes lately, be sure to bring in summer clothes.

Laundry room: Please do not let children play in the laundry room. Always close the door behind you.

Gate: After 8:00am, always close the gate behind you. I have let Star out at the end of the day and he has wandered out the gate and away from our house a couple times. Also, even if you're just running in for a second, please close the gate so no children get out.



The big kids, making up songs during music time.

Reminders

Closings: [FCPS Employee Calendar](#)

Upcoming Holidays are listed below:

- May 26: Memorial Day
- June 20: Last full-time day

Late pick-ups: Please be sure to be here by 4:00pm. If you will be late, even 5 minutes, please call me as soon as possible as I or my assistants may have plans immediately following day care. .

Landscaping: Please do not allow your children to climb on landscaped rocks or play with the yard decorations. The borders are secure enough to keep mulch/rocks in, but may not be steady enough to use as a balance beam. My children, and others, have also damaged yard decorations and other landscaping.

Labeling: Please remember to label all items that you bring here, including your change of



These friends love their Cheerios!



Painting our Mother's Day pots!



Planting our Mother's Day flowers!

