



Child Development Center Connections

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CCDC plans to celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day, April 22nd, is a day set aside to remind us how important it is to preserve and protect our environment. According to the Earth Day Network, the first Earth Day was observed in 1970 and launched the beginning of the environmental movement. Since then, the U.S. has enacted the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act as well as many other environmental movements.

In keeping with the spirit of keeping and protecting the environment, CCDC is planning a fun recycling program for all of the children in the center. Miss Rebecca Smith said that children will learn to sort recycling items such as plastic, glass and metal. Also, children will learn about Earth Day in their classrooms.



**Reminder: CCDC will be closed on April 18th for Good Friday.*

Welcome new students!

Infant 1

Baby Ghosh



Congratulations to all who are
graduating to the next level!

Infants to Toddlers

Avni Tayal (T4)

Early Preschool to Preschool

Saanvi Pradeep
Manasvi Phatak

Spotlight on New Staff

Morgan Johns

CCDC welcomes Morgan Johns to the support staff in Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten. Morgan is an 18-year-old graduate from Columbus Signature Academy. Throughout high school she worked as a nanny for three families over the course of four years.

Morgan has one older and one younger sister. She said that the three of them love to travel and explore. She said that she loves sports and participating in outdoor activities, especially camping.

Morgan said she loves teaching and inspiring children to do their best.

"I am looking forward to interacting with kids at CCDC and making sure their environment is safe and emotionally fun."

*Miss Morgan
smiles with
Pre-K 1
students.*



Shelby Stahl

CCDC is happy to welcome Shelby Stahl as a primary teacher in Toddler 4. Shelby has a beautiful baby girl named Blakelynn Michelle, with her fiancé, Jacob Stevens.

Shelby has been interested in child development for many years. She began taking child development classes when she was in high school and has previously worked at two different child care facilities. Currently, Shelby is pursuing an associate's degree in child development.

When she's not taking care of her baby girl or studying Shelby enjoys playing and coaching softball. She also enjoys riding four-wheelers.

"I'm looking forward to working at CCDC and learning about each child and their families," she said.



*Miss
Shelby
smiles
with
toddlers.*

Infants Inch by Inch



Madeline Aker paints a picture in Infant 4.

Infant 4 welcomed a new teacher to their room, Ms. Megan Shepherd. During the month of March, infants enjoyed many sensory and language activities. They explored marshmallows and "mud" (Oreos and chocolate pudding) for a fun science experiment using their five senses. They also explored different textures and sounds on

their sensory blanket. The infants worked on learning new signs to add to their sign language skills. Many of the older infants are working on the toddler's schedule. They are honing their communication skills, using utensils and taking only one big nap a day (if possible). This practice helps make the transition from infants to toddlers much easier.



Shirin Kulkarni explores "mud" (marshmallows and chocolate pudding).

Toddling Tots

Toddler 1 had a busy time learning to count and playing in the sensory bins during the month of March. Since they were studying the letter "N," the toddlers worked very hard on number recognition. Also, Ms. Tessa and Ms. Chelsea are teaching many of the children to count to 15. The students are having a lot of fun learning to recognize numbers and to count.

The tots also enjoyed mixing and using paint in March. Toddlers enjoyed free painting and made prints with their hands and with food.

The teachers said that the tots' favorite activity is the sensory table. At the table, children are allowed to use their senses to engage materials such as cotton balls and spaghetti.

Teachers encourage further exploration by asking questions such as: "What does it feel like?" "Is this cold or hot?" Overall, the sensory table engages early scientific thinking and language skills. Most importantly, the children are learning and having fun.



Iris Miller and Carrington Milne play with paintbrushes in Toddler 1.

Keeping Busy in Early Preschool



Maya Orr plays with animals and practices animal sounds.

Students in Early Preschool 1 have been having a lot of fun while learning the sounds of the alphabet and exploring sensory play for the letters L, M, N, O and P.

While learning about the letter "L," they painted with lemons and limes and made fruit prints. This lesson benefited the students' sensory development and was a fun fine arts project. EP1 was also excited to make and host a lemonade stand. The kids and teachers served drinks to children and CCDC staff.

While learning about the letter "M," the

children used the shapes of their hands to make monster handprints. They also made marble paintings. The teachers put paint, paper and a marble in a box that the children shook to make a painting.

When studying the letter "N," they played with noodles in the sensory table, looked at and made collages with the newspapers. They worked on identifying numbers, too.

They also practiced identifying animals and their sounds this month. For letter "O" they are studying the ocean.



Early Preschool 1 enjoys lemonade at their lemonade stand.

Staff Birthdays

Trisha Bridges – April 7
Carrie Palmetter – April 9
Sarah Gwin – April 11
Sharon Kelley – April 14

Cindy Hopkins – April 15
Erin Callon – April 19
Jennifer Milan – April 21

What's New in Preschool?

Preschool 2 welcomed a new teacher to their room in March, Ms. Carrie Palmetter. Since then, the children have been busy, busy, busy. They explored lots of letter "M" activities. The children learned about monkeys, melons, mice, the moose and the amazing manatee. They also enjoyed marching to music and painted with marbles. To enrich their counting skills, they counted with money.

They also practiced writing "M" words to strengthen their language, early reading skills, and fine motor control.

For St. Patrick's Day, Preschool 2 had an Irish party. They enjoyed many green treats like punch and cookies.



Allie Bissey learns about nurses through play.



Kids show their moose ears in Preschool 1.

Busy Pre-Kindergartners

Letter "M" was all about money, maps, monsters and milkshakes in Pre-K 1. Students learned the names of the coins and what each one was worth. They also counted pennies, sorted coins and wrote the names of each one. As a class they talked about maps and what they are used for. Each student also made their own map for the way to school or the way to treasure. The class also listened to Miss Alisha read two monster books. After hearing the books and looking at the illustrations, the students got creative and made their own monsters. They also got their bodies moving in March by doing minute exercises like butterfly stretches, arm circles, jumping jacks and running in place.

At the end of the letter "M" the class enjoyed



Brady Miller enjoys one minute of dancing.

chocolate, vanilla and banana milkshakes!

Pre-K 1 is really looking forward to more spring weather and spending more time outside enjoying the sunshine. Near the end of March, Pre-K 1 was able to enjoy a nature walk and play outside on a few warmer days.



Pre-K 1 girls make tree rubbings while on a nature walk.

The Kindergarten World Of

Gabriella Wheeldon brought her "MOMMY" for letter "M" show & share. Her mommy brought ice cream treats for the whole Kindergarten class.

During the month of March, Kindergarten did lots of activities with marshmallows. They sorted marshmallows by color, then counted, graphed and made patterns with



Clara Bissey works hard to make a mountain.

them. When students were finished working with the marshmallows, they got to eat them. Students also studied different mountains around the U.S. and the world. They made their own mountains out of paper. They formed the mountain and then added a coating of a glue/water mixture to make it stiffer. Then they painted it to look like a "real" mountain and then added little paper animals and people that they made. The finished product is on display in Kindergarten. Everyone is invited to check it out. The class is really proud of it!

Kindergarten also learned about newspapers, focusing on all the parts of the newspaper and how we use them to get information. When Ms. Julie asked the class what we use newspapers for, Lane Barringer said, "to read in the bathroom." Bella Hawkins added, "Only grandpas do that." Oh, the funny things kids say! Kindergarten has already started making plans for graduation. It is hard to believe this school year is quickly coming to an end.



Kindergarten enjoys an ice cream from Gabriella Wheeldon's mom.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Picture week — March 31-April 4
 Infant pictures — March 31
 Toddler pictures — April 1
 Early Preschool — April 2

Preschool — April 3
 PreK & Kindergarten — April 4
 Good Friday — April 18 (center closed)
 Easter Sunday — April 20