



ECRC Newsletter

Spring 2017 • March

Dear Families and Friends of the ECRC,

A whole-child approach to early childhood education allows us to stay committed to what makes each child special. Our curriculum provides our teachers the opportunity to develop upon each of the four domains integral to child development: physical development, social-emotional development, cognitive development, and communication.

By celebrating Valentine's Day with our students, we are able to focus in on students' social-emotional skills and celebrate the true meaning of the holiday by teaching children kindness, love, and empathy integrated with academic knowledge. Many of the activities during the month of February encouraged students to collaborate with their peers. Below, check out some of our favorite activities from this month of love and togetherness.



ECRC Curriculum

We begin the month of March with a special birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss! This holiday allows us to investigate this beloved author for young children and the impact that he has made on the literacy in our lives. We will be detectives as we find the rhyming words present in his books and create our own rhymes. We will also take on the role of many of the characters that we love from these stories, such as Mr. Brown, Thing One and Thing Two!

As spring approaches, we will take advantage of the science right outside our doors by exploring the changes occurring outside. We will use magnifying glasses to make observations and predictions as the plants begin to blossom again. Take a look at some of the books below to extend our fun learning at home:

- One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss
- The Lorax by Dr. Seuss
- Our Community Garden by Barbara Pollak
- The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

-Keely O'Connell

Updates from our Associate Director

Our next tuition due date is:

March 27th

Tuition should be paid in full by this date.

Spring Recess: No School

We are closed for Spring recess from Monday, March 20th through Friday, March 24th. Enjoy!

Thanks!

- Corinne Eggleston

Upcoming Events & Reminders

- **Wacky Wednesday – March 8th**
We love to celebrate Dr. Seuss's kooky and creative ideas by dressing crazy! Your child can wear un-matching clothes or even do something silly with their hair! Be creative ☺
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences – March 8th - 10th**
Please sign up on the Google document for a conference if you would like to speak with your child's teacher about her/his progress, accomplishments and/or your concerns.



University at Buffalo

Graduate School of Education



Early Childhood Research Center

ECRC

Preschool I

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Our Favorite Activity

Painting provides such a fun experience for young children. Our students love to paint with paintbrushes, sponges, cotton balls, or even their hands!

Do you want a mess free paint idea that incorporates all the same benefits as painting at school does? We love paint bags at school! Paint bags encourage students to experiment with color mixing and promote fine motor development as students use their fingers to write and draw in them. Take a look at Nour mixing red and yellow to make orange!

- Miss Cai & Miss Paige

Happy Birthday to...
Evan – March 2nd



Mr. Dan and Evan practice painting with chopsticks.



Ryan, JuJu, and Evan love music play! Here, they use the stretchy band to feel the beat.



Natalie and Everett add ingredients with Miss Cai to make play dough!



Dr. Katie checks Muhan's teeth in the dentist office.



Ellie and Nina share drinks at their Chinese New Year dinner.

Try this at Home

Do you have any cardboard boxes at home that you're not using?

A cardboard box, to a young child, can be anything...a spaceship, a racecar. Encourage your child to use their creativity to make something out of a simple box. They can then decorate and specialize it with crayons and markers!



Our Favorite Activity

Our curriculum is built around what is going on in the children's lives. Celebrating Valentine's Day allowed us to incorporate love in every area of our classroom! We had so much fun using conversation hearts in many of our centers. Below, Audrey is patterning with the hearts, while Maddigan uses the hearts to make the first letter in her name. We enjoyed celebrating the love that we have for our classroom community this month!

- Mr. Stanley & Miss Norline

Happy Birthday to...
Isha – March 18th



Owen and Madeline continue working on their visual arts piece, adding plants around the water that they've created.



Nolan sorts through foods, identifying healthy foods and treats for our teeth.



Try this at Home

Shaving Cream & Glue!

Two household items that almost everyone has at home make an incredible painting material! Mix both of these materials together and add a little bit of paint. Then, encourage your child to paint with it! This puffy paint is a great sensory activity that allows children to be creative!



Nora, Julie & Isha create Valentine's, using both drawings and words.



Arya loves to play 'throw the toothbrush,' as she practices aiming for the bin.





Early Childhood Research Center

ECRC PM Preschool

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Our Favorite Activity

Children are naturally interested in music and movement as they begin to navigate the world. Early music development is essential for children to begin to understand rhythm, beat, pitch, and tone. Music Play with Miss Jenna is such a joy! ☺ In Music Play, our students are immersed in an environment that promotes the exploration of our voices and our bodies! Below, both Hazel and Tyler laugh and play with shaker eggs as Miss Jenna chants a new song.

- Miss Ashley & Miss Wei

Happy Birthday to...
Evan – March 2nd



Gerry & JuJu use the toothbrushes to keep the babies teeth clean.



We love to play outside! Tyler and Griffin continue to build strength as they jump and push their feet.

A student intern and Peyton work together in the flower shop.



Isabella and Rose work together in the dentist office to write prescriptions, while Gerry sorts foods that are healthy vs. treats for our teeth.



Try this at Home

We can count almost anything!

Encouraging your child to count in their daily lives promotes mathematical thinking! There are many things to count around us: the stairs as we walk up and down, the cars parked in a row, or even the people sitting down for dinner. As you count with your child, guide him/her to count one item at a time to develop one-to-one correspondence skills.



Our Favorite Activity

You may have heard of STEAM learning, but what is it actually? STEAM is an acronym that stands for **s**cience, **t**echnology, **e**ngineering, **a**rts, and **m**ath. These topics are essential to our curriculum, and the integration of these subjects encourages students to hypothesize, predict, and reason.

This month, we provided students with a challenge that integrated each of these topics – how can we use just marshmallows and toothpicks to create a cube? Our students worked hard to solve this problem, as they gave each other ideas and discussed the square shape on each of the faces. Below, take a look at Hazuki and Xavier figuring it out.

- Miss Keely, Miss Corinne & Miss SeungJung

Happy Birthday to...
Miss Corinne – March 2nd
Trenton – March 27th



Try this at Home

Rhyming Words

We now begin an author study of Dr. Seuss. What makes Dr. Seuss special and legendary is his creative rhymes throughout his books. Encourage your child to find those rhymes as you read these books, discussing why each pair is a rhyming pair!



Dentists Steele and Sandy check out their patient, Sophia's, teeth. They brush, floss, and count all 20 of her baby teeth.



Nola explores watercolor paints as she paints a heart.



The Pre-K class works together to build a dentist office.

Sandy repeats and extends a pattern using conversation hearts.



Miss SJ, Oscar, Trenton and Steele work together selling flowers for Valentine's Day!

