



# April 2017

## Saint Dominic Child Care Newsletter

### Announcements:

- Please check your parent mailboxes daily.
- Please bring in a family photo for your child.
- April 14<sup>th</sup> we are CLOSED for Good Friday
- Parents will be encouraged to participate in our staff appreciation EGG HUNT! Proceeds will go to Saint Dominic Child Care.

### What we did in March:

**Our Infants** discovered all of the different weather patterns of each season. The children were able to explore each season and type of weather by using all of their senses. They experienced the cold of snow in sensory bins, the warmth of the sun shining in the windows, and the sounds of rain through the different sensory bottles. The children also practiced their fine motor skills and cause and effect skills by manipulating weather related pieces on the felt board.

**Our Toddler 1** The children had a lot of fun learning about rhyming words and creating a "SEUSSICAL" masterpiece for the classroom board. The children strengthened their fine motor skills and eye hand coordination as they practiced pouring, filling, and stacking throughout various sensory activities. We also moved our bodies and learned about the color green as we did a shamrock shake dance.

**Our Toddler 2** class introduced the letter M as our letter of the week. We encouraged the children to use their fine motor skills to color a classroom "Map" that we created. During circle time we asked the children, "What words start with M?" We then repeated words such as monkey, mommy, money, and map. We also started implementing sign language to the children during meal and play times, to help them express themselves. We reviewed the signs please and sorry with the children.

**Our Over 3** class explored their new environment and quickly learned the daily routine. They were introduced to the expectations of the classroom through "The Rules Rap" and then created our classroom version of Hands are Not For Hitting. The children gained knowledge about themselves and their peers through "All About Me" activities. They participated by bringing in "Me Bags", creating self-portraits, measuring height, and having group discussions about our favorite things. We also introduced spring by making birds' nests.

### Taking a look at April:

**Our Infants** will be learning about all of the animal life cycles that we start to see in Spring, such as butterflies and birds. The children will explore the different characteristics of bugs by exploring insects in the sensory bin as well as singing "Itsy Bitsy Spider". We will encourage the children's language development and introduce new language to them as we read books about Spring and bugs.

**Our Toddler 1** class will be exploring animals that live on the farm. The children will practice identifying different animals by their characteristics as well as matching them to the sound they make. We will encourage this as we sing "Old McDonald" during circle time. We will do various activities to introduce the children to the color purple. The children will practice independence and self-help skills such as handwashing and blowing their noses. At the end of the month we will celebrate Earth Day. As a large group we will problem solve ways to keep our earth clean.

**Our Toddler 2** class will be embracing spring by bringing nature into the classroom. The children will be planting their own flowers. We will be talking about the life cycle of flowers and what we need to help our flowers grow. We will also be developing our gross motor skills and our coordination skills outside as we hop, skip, and run. The children will be exploring their senses as we make playdough as large group. The children will develop skills such as mixing, pouring and filling.

**Our Over 3** class will be exploring dinosaurs based off of the children's interest. We will research different kinds of dinosaurs. The children will engage in science activities that will encourage them to identify and create fossils. They will build their creativity as they make their own dinosaurs and pretend to be dinosaurs in dramatic play. We will also introduce our "Handwriting Without Tears" program. The children will be encouraged to learn proper handwriting techniques, and take part in the letter of the week.



### A Note from the Director:

**Happy Spring!** We made it through the winter and we will be planning many fun parent events and summer activities! Please let me know if you have any fundraising ideas to raise money the facility. We have the opportunity to offer a FREE vision screening to the children, done by the Lion's Club of Southington. I am welcoming feedback to see if it is something parents are interested in participating in. See me for more details ~Michelle