



April/May 2018

Saint Dominic Child Care Newsletter

Announcements:

- Please bring in sunscreen and weather appropriate extra clothes for your child to have (2-3pairs).
- We are still searching for the perfect playscape to add to our toddler playground. Referrals are welcomed!

Thank you for brightening our days during teacher appreciation week!!

What we have done in April:

Our Infant 1 children learned about sound recognition. They were able to connect a certain sound to an object or animal by using their cognitive skills. They practiced this skill by shaking rain makers and listening to the sounds of thunder.

Our Infant 2 children learned all about spring! They finger painted bunnies with different spring colors. We encouraged color recognition as well as fine motor development.

Our Toddler 1 children learned about different body parts and how we can use them. We encouraged marching, dancing and hopping as a fun way we can use our legs. We also discovered opposites as they turned the lights on and off, felt warm and cold water as well as stood up and sat down.

Our Toddler 2 children will be introduced to the changes we discover in Spring. We introduced these changes to the children visually and creatively by creating the sun, various bugs and rain clouds. We took the children on campus walks to discover these changes first hand and listen to bird sounds.

Our Toddler 3 children focused on flowers and the growth process. We guided the children through planting sunflower seeds. We buried them in soil and put them outside in the sun to grow! The children developed cause and effect skills as well as learned about nature.

Our Three's children celebrated the week of the young child by making maracas, smoothies, and process art. We encouraged the children to work together through team building activities. The children were able to learn more about their peers and their families as they helped create a family book. We also discussed Earth Day and the importance of caring for our Earth and the environment that we live in.

Our Four's children focused on the importance of farms. We discussed how we depend on farms for different foods, vegetables, fruits, and materials. Through this process, they also learned about the diversity and stages of life such as birth, growth, and the reproduction of chickens.

Taking a look at May:

Our Infant 1 children have developed and strengthened their fine motor skills by experiencing various sensory based activities. The children explored textures by planting flowers as well as the process of growing flowers by watering them.

Our Infant 2 children will learn to recognize characteristics of flowers and their shapes. The children developed their gross motor skills as they created sunflowers. We encouraged them to stand and push down on the paper with their painted feet.

Our Toddler 1 children learned about animals and the distinct features each animal has. The children learned which animals live on the farm and which animals live at the zoo. We encouraged this through story time books and art activities.

Our Toddler 2 children focused on making choices throughout their daily routines as well as through art experiences. We talked about Mother's day and why our moms are so special. We documented their responses to particular questions to help develop their cognitive thinking skills.

Our Toddler 3 children focused on learning and recognizing colors around us. The children were very interested in the grass growing outside so we brought grass inside and encouraged the children to paint with it. We repeated the color green to the children as they painted and encouraged them to repeat it back focusing on their language development.

Our Three's children learned about occupations, health, and gardening. We encouraged them to take part in our dress up day to express what they would like to be when they grow up. We also transformed our dramatic play center into a doctor's office as well for the children to use their imagination.

Our Four's classroom concentrated on activities to get students outdoors! Our themes included gardening, sports and camping. We used fine motor, gross motor and science skills through each of these themes. The students filled a jar of dirt, painted rocks and placed them carefully to make a worm home!



A Note from the Director:

We are setting up for our FUN in the SUN Summer adventures. Starting in July we will have themes planned with a special learning experience each week. We are very excited to give the children a break in their routines with some extra excitement. We will have bubble play, water adventures, watermelon Wednesday, garden party and so much more! ~Michelle