

Genesis Early Childhood Program News

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Developmental Milestones

From the Directors Mary Davis and Melanie Gehrt:

Learning about what would traditionally be called Social Studies and Science, occurs organically within the daily routines and play of children during their early childhood years. This knowledge should grow as the child grows. Here are some examples broke down by age:

Most 18 month olds & 2 year olds can:

- Recognize own characteristics and needs
- Imitate adult actions
- Go to correct location for activities like eating at a table
- Push and pull toys
- Notice and talk about animals and insects

Most 3 to 4 year olds can:

- Recognize same and different characteristics
- Play games that have pretend roles
- Begin to understand where things are located
- Play with and make predictions about how objects move and feel
- Talk and ask about objects in nature
- Observe and discuss the weather

Most 4 to 5 year olds can:

- Recognize characteristics of people
- Organize life around events, routines and time
- Discuss roles of community workers
- Identify common features in their environment like street or town name
- Investigate and describe characteristics of common objects
- Name and describe organisms and predictable life cycles (i.e. butterflies)
- Name and discuss earth materials and objects in the sky

Upcoming Events

DONUTS WITH DAD will be at 8:45-9:15 a.m. on **Wednesday, April 3** or **Thursday, April 4** in the Parish Hall. Please make plans to attend this event. The children really love to have their dads at their school!

CLASS PICTURES will be taken on **Wednesday, April 10** and **Thursday, April 11**. Don't be late as we will begin promptly at 9:15 a.m. Order forms will be sent home soon and payment must be received prior to picture day.

EASTER BREAK this year runs from Holy Thursday, April 18 through Easter Monday, April 22. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 23.

FUN IN THE SUN DAY will be **Wednesday, April 24** and **Thursday, April 25!** The children really enjoy this day in the water and sun! Look for more information and a schedule to come home later with all the details.

SPRING FESTIVAL will be the weekend of April 27-28. Once again, Genesis will be hosting an information and activity booth run by Genesis staff and parent volunteers. A Sign Up Genius email will be sent out for those who would like to volunteer for a short time slot.

MOTHER'S BLESSING will begin in the church at 1:15 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 8** or **Thursday, May 9**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special event.

CURRICULUM CORNER

Integrating literacy connections across the curriculum can make an enormous impact to the overall experience of reading a book. Last month, we used "The Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle across the curriculum and throughout all the ages of our program to learn many concepts. This book packs lots of concepts into one by covering sequence, progression of time, the process of metamorphosis, butterfly art projects, and sequencing metamorphosis. Later this month, we will release the live butterflies that we have watched transform through their life cycle. A few other books used throughout the year with lots of literary connections have been "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?", "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "Pete the Cat" books, and "Green Eggs and Ham." Pauline Press has some good children's books including St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body by Monica Ashour.

Read Along With Us!



4 YEAR OLDS

During April, the 4 year olds will focus on language development and science concepts. For example, the 4s will play with the descriptive words (adjectives) modeled after the book, "One Duck Stuck" by Phyllis Root. Dinosaurs and dads will dominate our other center areas during this month. We will be watching the metamorphosis with our caterpillars, culminating with a school wide butterfly release.

3 YEAR OLDS

We will have a roaring good time this month learning about dinosaurs! We are also looking forward to hearing fun things about our dads during our "Question of the day" such as "Is your dad tall or short?" and "Does your dad have hair?"

2 YEAR OLDS

This month the 2s will be enjoying some early science concepts in the classroom. We will explore dinosaurs, dinosaur eggs and dinosaur bones in our sensory tub as we become a Paleontologist for the day. We have been practicing our fine motor skills with cutting and tearing paper for some fun Easter projects.

18 MONTH OLDS

In April, the 18 month olds will use larger manipulative toys and finger painting to build fine motor skills; identify objects in books and encourage sharing. Our art projects this month will include gifts for Dad and Mom. Shhh, it's a secret!

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

BIBLE: In Bible this month, we will continue to talk about forgiveness within Lent. As we move through Lent, we will talk about Palm Sunday. We will end our month with Easter celebrations.

SCIENCE: Does a dinosaur roar? In Science this month, we will explore dinosaurs and dive into fun Spring Activities.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: This month in Music and Movement, we will continue to sing and dance as we practice our program songs. We will also be hopping like bunnies as we celebrate Easter and playing spring games to celebrate the season.