

FOR OUR FAMILIES

Pictures, Messages and At-Home Ideas from Our Team

In this Issue:

- Messages and pictures from the Staff
- Themes to Investigate with Children
- Fun At-Home Activities
- Link to On-line site for Preschool Learning
- Answers to Questions Parents Might Have

Staying Connected

During this difficult time, we recognize the importance of keeping in touch with extended family and friends. At Children's House, we include our staff and our center's children and families in that "VIP" group.

We hope all our families are faring well while sheltering at home and we all extend our sincere appreciation to those who are working on the front lines to keep us safe, healthy and fed!

Questions and Answers

Q: Are Teachers working while center is closed?

A: At this time, none of our staff is officially employed. We are keeping in touch though. All contributions made to this newsletter were voluntarily created or researched and submitted.

Q: Is the center being monitored during closure?

A: Yes, we are fortunate to have random Police drive throughs daily, the security system is activated and cameras are in place with views of the front and back parking lots. Pam, Kim, Irene and Sandip have all stopped at the center during the closure as well.

Q: If I need to ask a question, who should I reach out to?

A: Pam Flowers and Sandip Patel are monitoring emails.

pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org

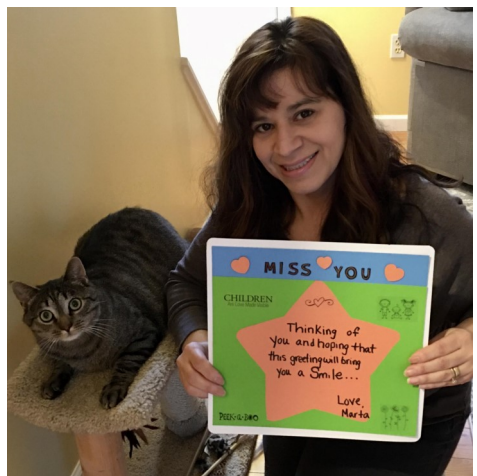
spatel@childrenshouseinc.org

"No matter how bleak or menacing a situation may appear, it does not entirely own us. It can't take away our freedom to respond, our power to action."


-Ryder Carroll

Some great activities for Preschoolers from Sue:

[Print and Play from HP](#)



Hello Friends,

I miss you all so much! I think of your smiling faces and want to give you a big hug. 

What have you been doing? It is nice that you have lots of time with your families. Maybe you have been spending time outdoors or coloring or playing with your favorite toys. If you have a chance, practice your dancing so when you come back we can have a dance party!

I have been putting together some fun arts & crafts projects for us to do when we are back in the classroom.

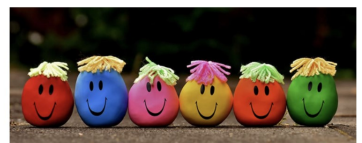
I am excited and looking forward to when we are all together at the Children's House.

Remember I think of you always and will see you soon. Be happy!



Denise

HOMEMADE NON-TOXIC PLAYDOUGH



- Ingredients:** *Shared by Kailyn*
- 2 cups of flour
 - 1 cup of salt
 - 1 cup of cold water
 - 1 tbsp of oil
 - 2-3 drops of food colouring

Directions: In one bowl mix the flour and salt and in another bowl mix the cold water, oil and food colouring. When everything is mixed in you can begin to slowly add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and knead well.

I hope you all enjoy this fun activity with your little one/ones! :)

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Teachers create lesson plans based on monthly themes and incorporate the Massachusetts Infant/Toddler, Preschool and Pre-K/K Guidelines and Standards.

They also use curriculum ideas from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, Creative Curriculum and Ages and Stages.

May Themes

Cinco de Mayo

The Farm

Machinery and Jobs on the Farm

Different Types of Farms

Animals on the Farm

Mother's Day

Memorial Day



~ From Kailyn



**MOTHERCOULD
BABY SAFE PAINT**

YOU'LL NEED:
 -1/2 cup baby cereal (I used a multigrain one)
 -3/4 to 1 cup of water
 -Food coloring

INSTRUCTIONS:
 1. Add the baby cereal, water and food coloring to a food processor. If you don't have one, you can mix with a whisk.
 2. Mix until color is well blended. Adjust water quantity based on the consistency you'd like.
 *Even though this recipe is taste safe, I still like to discourage my girls from eating it. It helps when I introduce real paint and food coloring is not great to eat.
 **Make sure you are constantly supervising your little ones doing any activities especially if they are babies. These suckers are fast!

FUN THINGS TO DO AT HOME ~ Shared by Denise

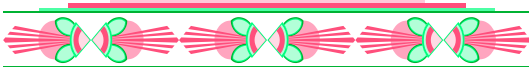
- Play "jump the river"
- Join Audible and listen to books together
- Have an indoor campout; Build a blanket fort or tent
- Start some indoor seed plantings
- Indoor Scavenger Hunt
- Hand-Clapping games like Miss Mary Mack, Double Double
- Play Tic-Tac-Toe, Go on a Bearhunt & Huckle Buckle Beanstalk
- Hide something sweet and create a Treasure Map for the kids
- Learn Morse Code; Invent your own code
- Learn a little American Sign Language for kids
- Build a house of cards
- Learn some yoga poses
- Look at old photos and share their memories
- Write old-fashioned letters and postcards
- Make gratitude lists
- Play charades
- Invent a card game
- Learn a few magic tricks
- Using stuff from around your house, set up a bowling lane
- Mark out a hopscotch field with masking/duct tape
- Thumb wrestle
- Play Hangman
- Plan a family vacation
- Learn about nautical flags and how to communicate with them
- Learn the parts of a sailboat
- Play dress up
- Play the silent game
- Have a staring contest
- Learn some yo-yo tricks
- Build the biggest LEGO/block tower in history
- Make shadow puppets
- Have a tea party; Have a doll or stuffed animal wedding
- Play Simon Says
- Talk with an accent
- Make a stuffed animal zoo
- Invent a new sport
- Do a puzzle
- Match up your socks, roll them up, and have a sock fight
- Play dominoes (extra credit for making your own)
- Make your own Bingo game
- Bust out the flashlights and go on a "ghost" hunt
- Learn how to tie cool knots
- Read to the pets or Grandparents (via Facetime/Skype)
- Play with older toys
- Go on a Sunday Drive any day of the week
- Make a dollhouse with shoe boxes
- Play Alligator

Shoe Box Surprise

~ From Kim

Find some small blocks or other toys of similar sizes. Cut a hole in the top of a shoe box that's slightly bigger than the toys.

Show your young toddler how to stick the toy through the hole, and then help him find where it went by taking off the lid! You'll be surprised how excited your toddler will be when he succeeds in fitting the toy through the hole, as well as when he figures out how to find where the toy went.



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My cat, Smokey, "helped" me make this sign for our front window. Maybe he thought sitting on the paper would hold it still while I colored? I miss seeing all your happy faces and I'm looking forward to seeing you this summer!!
~Pam Flowers



Simple & Creative Ideas

~ From Kim

Unwrap the Fun!

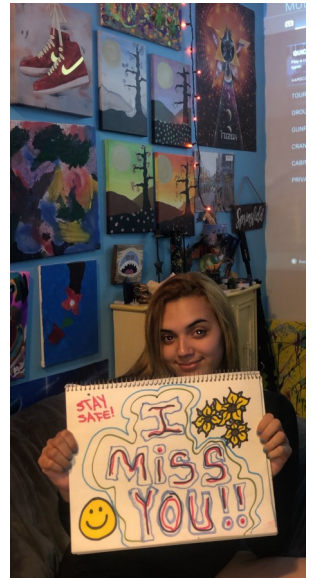
If you've ever been to a one-year-old's birthday party, you know that kids often love wrapping paper even more than they love gifts. Create your own wrapping paper party by using old newspapers to wrap up familiar objects from around the house – such as the baby's bowl, a toy car, a stuffed animal, and a set of keys. See how long it takes your child to figure out how to get to the object. For toddlers, have them feel the object through the wrapping to guess what it is.



Fill 'Er Up!

~ From Kim

Young toddlers are just starting to be able to identify common objects, such as toys. Once you see that he can identify several toys, set a large paper bag on the floor, and ask him to get one of the toys and put it in the bag. At first, you may need to split your instructions into two requests: "Can you get me the ball?" "Can you put it in the bag?" But soon, your toddler will be running to add more objects to the bag. At the end, ask, "Can you dump the bag?" Your toddler will be quick to comply, especially after you show him what the word "dump" means.



Messages to our families...

"Be strong and I hope we are all together soon. I miss you."
~ Holly

"Hopefully you're doing well! Can't wait to see you again. Make sure you continue to practice your letter sounds and read with your parents. Remember...No smiling allowed! :)" ~Sandy

"To all the children who have brightened and made my life so complete in what are my retirement years. I so miss you and all that you bring. May you all be back together soon. Sending love to all."
~ Dianne

"In these uncertain times, I hope you are all well and staying safe. Hopefully, soon we will be together sharing hope and laughter for the future." ~Irene

"I miss seeing everyone's smiling faces. I hope we can all see each other very soon"
~Pam Frogameni

Favorite Songs

- The Freeze (Kids in Motion)
- Tooty Ta (Jack Hartman)
- Sammy (Hap Palmer)
- Animal Action (Kids in Motion)
- Tummy Tango (Kids in Motion)

Thank you to all those families who have sent their own well wishes and photos during this time apart! We are very appreciative of your continued support and concern for all of us!

Favorite Fingerplays

- Open, Shut Them
- Thumbkin
- Three Little Monkeys
- Three Little Ducks Went out to Play
- Itsy Bitsy Spider



June Themes

Insects

- Bees
- Caterpillars
- Butterflies
- Ants
- Fireflies
- Grasshoppers
- Ladybugs



In

Keep learning!

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Our toddlers might recognize this tree that's been on the Toddler deck. Please let them know that Jenny took it home to take care of while we're all away from the center!



"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

-Christopher Reeve

Great advice from the Center for Disease Control during this challenging time...
(shared by Sue)



CDC
Parents: Children might worry about getting sick with COVID-19...and about YOU getting sick. Take steps to help your children with their fears:

- Make time to listen and to talk.
- Give information that is honest and accurate.
- Remain calm and reassuring.
- Do not blame others.
- Pay attention to what children see or hear on TV or online, and do not let them watch a lot of news.
- Teach children simple steps, like washing hands often, to stay healthy.

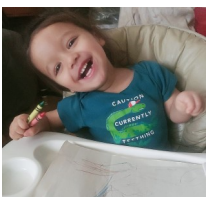
Learn more tips: <https://bit.ly/2w0NEBQ>



Pre-Kindergarten Graduation Caps & Diplomas

While we won't be able to have our traditional June graduation ceremony this year, we would like to reassure children and parents that, as long as we are able to open in July, all of our Pre-Kindergarten graduates will receive their graduation caps and diplomas at some point over the summer.

We know these types of mementos are keepsakes and we certainly want our children and families to have them to remember their happy times at Children's House!



Nikita is enjoying time at home with new baby, Ariella, and her son, Jibril! Mom, Dad, Ariella and Jibril are doing fun learning activities together!



Good Times To Come!

