



**Ebenezer**  
CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART.

# Downtown Kids Chronicle

340 West St. Paul Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203  
Open Monday-Friday 6 am—6 pm  
(414) 224-0990  
[www.ebenezerchildcare.com](http://www.ebenezerchildcare.com)



## Coordinator's Corner

April 2023

### Center Happenings

#### Tuition Due:

Monday, April 10th  
Monday, April 24th

#### What Can We Do:

Join Ebenezer Child Care for a fun night at the Admirals game on Wednesday, April 5th playing Chicago Wolves!

Cost: \$23 per person and \$10 of each ticket sold will go back to Ebenezer!

Where: The UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena

Doors open at 6PM, with puck drop at 7PM.

Hope to see you there!

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April is here! It is so exciting to walk outside in the early spring morning breathing in the fresh air. My favorite part is hearing the birds chirping, letting us know that the warm weather is coming our way soon!

We are looking forward to a busy April with Week of the Young Child happening the week of April 3rd, followed by our Sneak Peek Week the week of the 24th! Keep an eye out for calendars of the special things happening in those weeks!

As always, here is the reminder that we go outside every day, so children need to be dressed accordingly. This season brings lots of wetness and some chillier temps, so raingear, including rain boots, are encouraged to have on hand every day (think mud, wet sand, etc.). Even the toddlers go

outside, so it is very important that they have shoes with them every day. At the very least, an additional set of shoes and pants could work so the children have something to change into after being outside.



Have a fabulous month!

~ Ms. Nicole & Ms. Jess



## Happy Birthday!

### Look who has a Birthday!

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Ms. Amy—14th  | Xavier M-17th   |
| Sierra M-19th | Ms. April- 21st |
| Samaya D-27th | Ms. Leslie-28th |
| Ms. Sam- 29th |                 |



# Curriculum Specialist Corner

By: Leslie Hundt

Promoting Creativity in Children  
Why is creativity important?

While listening to *Dan Pink-The Puzzle of Motivation* on [TED.com](https://www.ted.com) I heard something that made me rethink how we teach children.

Quote:

'That routine, rule-based, left-brain work --certain kinds of accounting, financial analysis, computer programming --has become easy to outsource, fairly easy to automate. Software can do it faster. Low-cost providers can do it cheaper. So, what really matters are the more right-brained creative, conceptual kinds of abilities.'

This statement was so eye opening to me. Everything we do uses some type of technology; calculators to do math, google to find a definition and google maps to find a location. Technology is the cornerstone of what we want, need and how we learn. We no longer must wonder-just google it and the answer is at your fingertips.

Think of the current technologies that did not exist 15 years ago, I pods, I pads, smart phones, tablet computers, MP3s, etc.... Someone had to invent these items, someone who had the capacity to create, think outside the box and imagine something new; someone who was not afraid to try new things, to fail and try again. When we allow children the opportunity to be creative, we are preparing them for their future, for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have not been invented, in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet.

Are children as creative, inventive, and imaginative as they used to be?

An observation: Children have become used to waiting for something to happen. Push a button and something happens, grab a device, and always have something to occupy our minds. No imagination needed. No thinking needed. This type of immediate response does not create initiative, a desire to try something new or imagination to invent.

As adults we rely on our phones for everything from telling us where to drive, where to find an imaginary creature, get a recipe or drive the car for us. We are teaching our children to do the same.

Do we allow children to think, try and fail? To meet the challenges of the future children must become critical thinkers, creative thinkers, intelligent problem solvers, and good communicators. To help them we need to change the way we teach our children. It is our job to encourage their creativity, problem solving and most importantly, allow them to fail and try again. These are the skills to which will help children be prepared for their future.



Introducing Ms. Deja!

## Position/Hire Date

Goldfish Room Lead Teacher

January 11, 2023

## Education/Experience

Currently attending MATC in the Early Child Care Program working toward an Associates Degree.

## Her Teaching Style

Believes in own personal motto- Each one. Teach one. Model, teach and lead.

## ECE Philosophy

I can, I will with guidance.

## ECE Goals/Aspirations

I want to grow as a person, teacher and eventually own my own academy.

## Family/Hobbies/Interests

In my free time I love to read, listen to music and have game nights!





## Virtues of the Month: Cleanliness & Orderliness

Ebenezer's Virtues of the Month Program is about empowering adults and children to live by their highest values. The mission of the Virtues Program is to provide empowering strategies of excellence that inspire the practice of virtues at Ebenezer Child Care Centers as well as at home.

This month's virtues are:

**Cleanliness** is keeping our bodies, our thoughts and our spaces clean. It is an environment of order and beauty that brings peace to our souls.

**Orderliness** is creating an environment of peace and order. It is planning step by step instead of going in circles.

For more on The Virtues Project, visit [VirtuesProject.com](http://VirtuesProject.com).

## Earth Day is April 22!

Please take a moment to talk with your children about the importance of taking care of our Mother Earth.

Consider doing these things as a family: picking up garbage at a local park; planting a tree; not eating meat for the week; going microbead free; going for a walk or a bike ride; reading books about conservation; starting a compost bin; starting seeds for a garden; and shopping at a local farmers market.



## Referral Program Reward!

When you get a family to enroll at one of our three centers, you'll receive one week of free tuition (up to \$250)! All the family has to do is mention your name at the time of enrollment and stay enrolled for a minimum of four weeks. That's a lot of money to do something fun with! **PLEASE NOTE: This offer is also good for families who enroll in our EPiC Adventures Summer Program.**



## Happening this Summer at Ebenezer

Children will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math and Nature in a variety of ways. They will do this by using a map to guide their way into a summer filled with exciting adventures.

**SCIENCE** While playing-children will be experimenting, analyzing, predicting, and hypothesizing.

**TECHNOLOGY** While playing-children will explore tools of the trade, make their own inventions, and examine robots and cause and effect.

**ENGINEERING** While playing-children will learn about designing and building, take apart and put together all sorts of machines, and develop problem solving abilities.

**ART** While playing-children will discover the many layers of music, varieties of dance, and have an opportunity to delve into their hidden dramatic talents as well as utilize a variety of art materials.

**MATH** While playing-children will understand that math is not only about adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. They will be discovering spatial concepts and pattern relationships. They will be measuring, sequencing, and analyzing data.

**NATURE** While playing-children will locate (maybe even visit some) lakes, rivers, and streams. They will participate in recycling, and perhaps uncover their joy of landscaping and gardening.



Ebenezer's EPiC Adventures Summer Program will be held at our following locations:

- Downtown Center**  
340 W. St. Paul Avenue
- Oak Creek Center**  
220 W. Forest Hill Avenue
- West Allis/Wauwatosa Center**  
1136 S. 108th Street



For more information, call 414.643.5070 or visit [www.EbenezerChildCare.com](http://www.EbenezerChildCare.com).



**Ebenezer**

CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART

## April's Parenting Tip: The Importance of Play

What do most happy children, successful businesspeople, teachers, and scientists have in common? They love to play and understand that play is an important part of learning.

According to Beverly Anderson, Executive Director of Ebenezer Child Care Centers with locations in downtown Milwaukee, on Milwaukee's southside, and in Oak Creek and West Allis/Wauwatosa, "Research has shown that play is FUNdamental to living a healthy and productive life. It positively impacts a person's physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development. Yet, as adults in a work-obsessed society, it is something we often eliminate from our daily 'to-do' list."

Anderson says the benefits of play are so impressive that parents should incorporate some form of creative play into their children's lives every day. She adds that children who regularly participate in creative play have better problem-solving and adaptive abilities. They learn how to manage and transform their "negative" emotions and experiences and are supercharged for learning.

### Inspiring Creative Play

Anderson says one way you can inspire creative play is by reducing the control you exert over play time. "Provide your children with a creative environment, and then sit back and allow them to be spontaneous and become creative spirits," says Anderson. Using open-ended materials allows for children to direct their own play-based learning, as there are endless possibilities for what children can do or make.

"Tell them that it is okay to not always have the right answer to a problem as long as the answer they provide is innovative and shows some thought." Anderson says it is also important to encourage your children to use their creative energy to its fullest and always see a project to completion, rather than give up on it half-way through.

### Creative Games Worth Trying

Anderson suggests having children build a project, such as a robot, with things from around the house. This way you can use parts that move, make noise, and have unique shapes. The robot also has no specified requirements, so however it is made, it is made right.

Another idea is to start a story and have each of your children add onto it. You can have children draw pictures of what they think will happen next as well, or even find materials to make ideas from the story come to life.

Still one more idea is to provide your children with props, either new materials or something they show interest in, and observe how they use them to imitate the things, people, animals, and machines they see in the world every day.

### Things That Prevent Creative Play

Anderson says there are a number of things that are currently preventing children from participating in creative play. They include standardized testing, reduced free play and outdoor times in schools, and non-educational shows or video games where prepackaged scripts can limit a child's imagination. Overuse of electronic toys can also be overstimulating and reduce children's creative thought processes. And often, our rushed, overscheduled lives make it difficult to promote time for creative play.

### Tips to Enhance Your Children's Creative Play Time

#### Reduce screen time:

Turn off or limit time for TVs, smart phones, computers, and video games. Encourage make-believe play to inspire your children's inner creativity.

#### Choose open-ended toys:

Your children's imagination is the engine of healthy play. What were some of your favorite things to play with when you were a child? Boxes, blocks, balls, and stuffed animals or dolls can all be excellent stimulants for creative play. Another option is adding a variety of tools, containers, or even toys like cars or animal toys to familiar materials like sand, water, or rice to find new ways to play.

#### Encourage outdoor adventures:

Try to get outdoors every day, so your children can run, climb, find secret hiding places, and dream up wonderful adventures.

#### Let your children's creativity soar:

Avoid interrupting or taking over play but be available as needed to play with them, ask questions about what they are doing, and introduce them to new things. Let children know their play is important.

Ebenezer Child Care Centers is a not-for-profit, locally based agency committed to providing early childhood programs from the heart. The agency prides itself on being different from other child care providers in that it offers a home-like atmosphere; individualized, nurturing care; and structured curriculum that is virtue-based for every child's developmental stage.

Every Ebenezer Child Care Center focuses on all aspects of a child's development: cognitive, physical, emotional, and social. In addition to providing quality care, the agency also offers other educational programming all aimed at helping parents.

The agency has locations in downtown Milwaukee, Oak Creek, and West Allis/Wauwatosa. The agency's main office is located at 1138 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St in West Allis. For more information, please visit the agency's website at [www.ebenezerchildcare.com](http://www.ebenezerchildcare.com).