



Ebenezer
CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART.

Oak Creek Kids Chronicle

220 W. Forest Hill Ave, Oak Creek, WI 53154

Open Monday-Friday 6 am—6 pm

(414) 768-0151

www.ebenezerchildcare.com



April 2023

Center Happenings

Tuition Due Dates:

April 10th

April 24th

Community Happenings

Community Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 1st, 3pm, 8040 S. 6th St, Oak Creek

Sneak Peek at Oak Creek, “behind the scenes” in Oak Creek, Saturday, April 29th, 9:00a—2:00p, City Hall

Week Of The Young Child, 4K Showcase, Celebration of Children, Daily Activities. Monday-Friday, April 3rd-7th, Ebenezer Child Care Center, Oak Creek

Inside this issue:

Get to Know Our Team	2
Curriculum Corner	2
Virtues of the Month	3
Earth Day	3
Referral Program Reward	3
EPiC Summer Program	3
Parenting Tip	4

Coordinator’s Corner



Hello Families!

Spring is such a wonderful time of year! It is filled with so many opportunities to learn and grow! Our teachers are excited to host new learning experiences in their classrooms. They have been busily working and planning awesome spring experiences that will surely bring each child fun & excitement.

Now that children can toss the muddy snow boots, winter hats and snow pants, it is time to roll up their sleeves and see what spring has to offer!

We look forward to seeing each child’s imagination come to life as they build, plant, dig and create. Please help us keep everyone safe by making sure each child has closed-toe shoes this spring.

We Are Hiring
JOIN OUR TEAM!



We are hiring for the following positions:

- Toddler Teacher
- Twos Teachers

Fundraising/Donations:

Thank you for supporting our fundraisers! We appreciate you!

-Kimberly, Nikki, and Mikayla



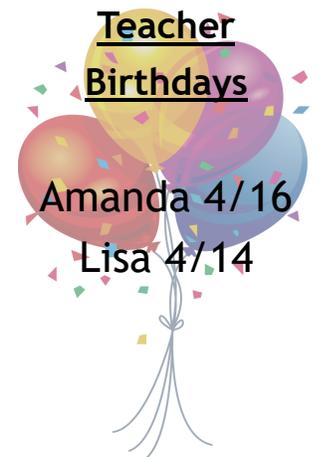
Happy Birthday!



Kishan 4/1
Jacob 4/2
Adalynn 4/3
Melis 4/5
Charles 4/8
Addalyssa 4/9
Leo 4/12
Gabriel 4/19
Aiden 4/22
Keira 4/22
Evelyn Y. 4/23
Michael 4/29

Teacher Birthdays

Amanda 4/16
Lisa 4/14



Curriculum Corner

~Mikayla Chmielewski

Curriculum Specialist

April Showers Bring... MUD!

Mud is so much more than just a mess, it is an amazing opportunity for learning! Mud play is an engaging sensory activity that helps children of all ages and abilities develop motor skills, problem solve, and have creativity. When playing together with family members or other children, mud play can also be used to promote social skills such as cooperation, sharing, and communication. It is also important for children to engage with nature and play in natural environments. Playing in mud connects children to nature and helps facilitate an appreciation for the environment, as well as the plants and living creatures that inhabit it. Many children are naturally drawn to messy sensory experiences such as playing in mud or jumping in puddles after the rain. So letting them explore their environment freely gives them the chance to develop a lifelong interest in nature.

Playing with mud can have a lot of health benefits for your child as well. Mud contains microscopic bacteria, which stimulates the immune system and increases the levels of serotonin in our brains - an endorphin that helps us relax and stay calm. This means that your child might even be happier and healthier with regular exposure to mud and mud play.

The possibilities of mud play for young children are endless. It can be used for sensory experiences, building, "cooking" in a play kitchen, science experiments, or even art! Mud can be wet, dry, smooth, or crumbly, which allows for so many ways to use it in different types of play. Adding other materials from nature or toys you have at home can make mud play even more exciting. For example, using sticks and mud to build a tower or playing with farm animal toys in a bin of mud or muddy area outside. Plus, giving the muddy animal toys a bath can be another fun sensory experience for your child. No matter how you use it, mud is well worth the mess!



Get To Know Our Team!



We are excited to announce Mrs. Angie as a part of our team! Angie joined us in March and is off to a great start! She has dived right in, familiarizing herself with everything Ebenezer, training, connecting with staff and learning all about the families and children we serve.

Angie takes pride in serving well and loves children. She has an innate ability to nurture and meet the needs of children. Angie's position allows her to be supportive to teacher and families in a variety of ways. Her warm and welcoming personality is a wonderful addition to our team.

We are glad to have Angie on our team!

*We sprinkle kindness
and watch love grow*





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.

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.



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. 108th St in West Allis. For more information, please visit the agency's website at www.ebenezerchildcare.com.