



West Allis Kids Chronicle

1136 S. 108th West Allis WI 53214
 Open Monday-Friday 6:00 am - 6:00 pm
 (414) 210-4541
www.ebenezerchildcare.com



Coordinator's Corner

Hello Families,

It is hard to believe we are in the last month of 2022, where did the year go? I am excited at the idea of starting new and fresh in 2023!

Friendly reminder that the children do go outside twice a day, weather permitting. Please be sure your child has all the proper outdoor weather clothing. Talk to your child's teacher for a full list of items that are needed.

As we enter a new year, this is a time that we will be doing file audits, so please pay attention to any emails or messages that come through on forms that need to be updated. Thank you in advance for taking care of that for us ASAP.

If you are not enrolled in tuition express-you should consider it. This program is FREE and will auto pull from any savings/checking account every two weeks. This is a great way to pay tuition and not worry about reminders to pay. Please stop by the office for the enrollment form.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding while I have been out of the building

supporting our Oak Creek Center. I am pleased to announce we did hire a new Center Coordinator for that location. I am in the process of training her and will be returning full time very soon to West Allis.

Special shout out to Ms. Abby and Ms. Dana for holding the center down while I was away. I am truly blessed to have an amazing staff and family base at West Allis!

We want to wish all of you and your family the very best of holidays and a safe one at that.

Open Positions:

We are still hiring, so if you know of anyone that wants to work in the Early Childhood field, send them our way and you can earn a referral credit towards your tuition!

~ Ms. Sarah & Ms. Abby



December 2022 Center Happenings:

EBT Transfer Due:

December 3rd

Tuition is Due:

December 5th

December 19th

*Coat Drive-thru
December 16th*

*Kringle Delivery-
December 12th*

*Center will be closed:

Monday, December 26th
for observance of
Christmas



Time to Celebrate!

December Birthdays/Anniversaries:

Staff Birthday: N/A
Staff Anniversary: Ms. Kenzie-5 Years

Turning 1:
Ronan

Turning 2:
Taya
Delani
Madison
Oliver
Ethan

Turning 3:
Ryder W.
Jade

Turning 5:
Mackenzie



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Curriculum Corner

- Dana Brumm, Curriculum Specialist

Switch the Focus During the Holidays

The holiday season is fast approaching and as an early childhood educator, I am always interested in new and intriguing ways to include children in holiday activities. I am especially interested in shifting the focus from receiving to giving since so much of what young children are seeing all around them is not. We want to foster and develop a spirit of gratitude and generosity in our children, and the more I talk with other parents the more I find they wish to do the same. To that end, here is my list of favorite family-friendly holiday activities that focus on giving rather than receiving:

1. **Advent Calendar: Random Acts of Kindness**

Instead of getting a tiny gift in each calendar date pocket, write a random act of kindness activity that you can do together as a family. Some examples are volunteer in your local food pantry or soup kitchen, make cookies for your neighbors, visit a local senior center, draw a picture for an elderly neighbor, and write letters to deployed soldiers.

2. **Giving Box:** This is another project that even the smallest members of your family can participate in. Make and decorate large gifting boxes to keep under your tree. The decorations on the box should personally reflect your family and can include baby/toddler painted footprints and drawings by your children as wrapping paper. Every day during the holiday season the family adds one item to the box. Examples include non-perishable food items for your local soup kitchen/food pantry, a gift box of hygiene products and non-perishable snacks to send to deployed soldiers, and/or a gift box of kid's toys and books for a children's hospital.

4. **Give Before You Receive:** For every gift you are planning to give your child, have him select a gently used toy to donate to a children's organization or homeless shelter.

5. **Gratitude Journal:** Have your child write down and/or draw at least one thing they are thankful for every night during the holiday season.

Maybe you want to make these traditions of generosity moments a more regular event in your household. Designate a few times a year and mark them on the calendar when you as a family spend an hour or an afternoon spreading goodness, thinking of someone who is overlooked or could really benefit from this kindness. Here's to wonderful holidays for all!



Staff Highlight

Ms. Maya- 2's #1 Lead Teacher

Ms. Maya has been in the field of Early Childhood for over 12 years and with Ebenezer since 2022. Ms. Maya has a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education.

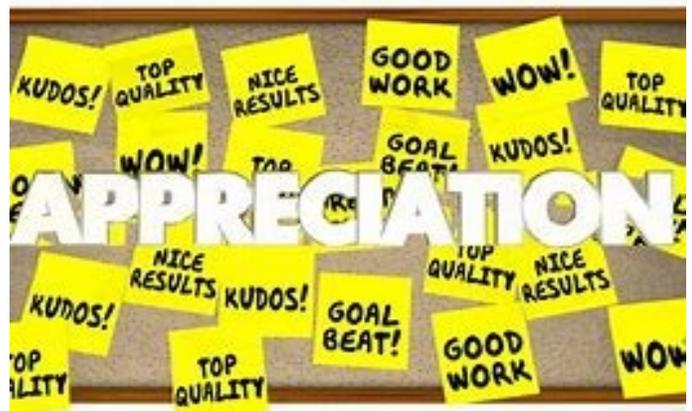
Ms. Maya provides planned activities that are fun and help children build the necessary skills for school and life.

Ms. Maya believes that the early years are for showing children that the world is a wonderful place to be.

Ms. Maya's goal is to retire teaching young children in early care and education.

Ms. Maya has two daughters (who attend Ebenezer), enjoys Pilates, reading, traveling and spending time with family.

Thank you Ms. Maya for all that you do for Ebenezer families and children, we appreciate you!





Virtues of the Month: Peacefulness & Unity

Ebenezer's Virtues of the Month Program is about empowering everyone to live by their highest values. There are 52 virtues that provide empowering strategies of excellence. This month's virtues are:

Peacefulness is inner calm and tranquility. It is giving up the love of power for the power of love. Peacefulness is resolving conflict in a just and gentle way.

Unity is inclusiveness. It is finding common ground in our diversity. Unity is seeking peace in all circumstances.

To learn more about the virtues project, visit virtuesproject.com.

Connect with us socially:



Refer A Family or Employee and Get Rewarded!

That's right! When you get a family to enroll at one of our three centers, or an employee to join our team, 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. New

employees need to mention your family's referral at the time of their interview and be employed for six months for you to receive your referral reward.

Please help us spread the word about Ebenezer!

The Original Fantasy Fudge Recipe

Anyone who has been fortunate enough to get a gift of fudge from our Executive Director, Beverly Anderson, knows it is to die for! That's why we asked her if we could share her recipe this month! Enjoy!



Note: This recipe was found on the back of a well-known brand of marshmallow crème. Many were surprised when it was changed. However, this is the original! You may find that most packages of chocolate chips are 10 ounces now: 12 ounces of chocolate chips is roughly 2 cups.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups white sugar
- 3/4 cup margarine (don't use butter)
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk (small can)
- 1 (12 ounce) package semisweet chocolate chips (actually need 2 cups, see note above)
- 1 (7 ounce) jar marshmallow creme (Beverly uses Kraft)
- 1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Grease a 9x13-inch pan. Mix sugar, margarine, and evaporated milk in a large, heavy saucepan over medium heat, stirring to dissolve sugar. Bring mixture to a full boil for 5 minutes, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and stir in chocolate chips until melted and thoroughly combined. Mix in marshmallow creme, walnuts, and vanilla extract. Transfer fudge to a lightly greased pan and let cool before cutting into squares.

Ebenezer Receives \$50,000 Grant from The Greater Milwaukee Foundation

We are excited to announce that we have received a \$50,000 grant from Greater Milwaukee Foundation Capital Fund to assist with our \$70,000 playground renovation at our Oak Creek Child Care Center.

Our Oak Creek location opened in October 2004, and all of its outdoor play spaces were completed by May 2009. After years of wear and tear from adventurous children, it is time to clean up our existing playground, make it safer for the children enrolled in our center, and provide more natural elements to promote an appreciation for the great outdoors.

The Green Team of Wisconsin, Inc. will complete the project. Details on it can be found on our blog on our website at EbenezerChildCare.com.

"We're incredibly grateful to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation for supporting us in this massive renovation process," said Beverly Anderson, Executive Director of Ebenezer Child Care Centers. "Their generosity enables us to show our commitment to our environment, the city of Oak Creek, and the next generation of leaders."



Ebenezer

CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART

December's Parenting Tip: Giving The Gift of Time

If you ask most parents, they will agree that their homes are cluttered with things for their kids. That's why, as you approach the holiday season, it might be worth considering giving the gift of time this year versus things.

According to Beverly Anderson, Executive Director of Ebenezer Child Care Centers with locations in downtown Milwaukee, Oak Creek, and Wauwatosa/West Allis, "In today's world where we are so busy, giving the gift of time really is a precious thing to consider."

Fitness Time

Anderson says there are many ways your family can spend quality family time focusing on health and wellness.

"A family membership to the YMCA or another area health club, where you can go swimming or play basketball or racquetball together, is a great idea. Another fun idea is downhill skiing lift tickets or purchasing snowshoes that you can utilize in our county and state parks. Finally, there are many yoga studios which offer family yoga that are worth checking out as well."

Vacation Time

Family vacations make memories that last a lifetime, and whether you travel far or stay closer to home, the time away together is precious.

Anderson suggests watching Groupon for travel specials and using a vacation as an opportunity for your children to learn.

"There are so many great museums, historical venues, and attractions aimed at helping children explore the world around them just waiting to be visited. Pick a destination to visit and decide what to do together."

Cooking Time

Cooking is a lifelong skill that everyone needs to learn, so purchasing cooking classes aimed at kids, simple kitchen tools, or kids' cookbooks that your children can use to help cook, is a great idea.

Anderson also suggests purchasing meal kits or assembling your own kits to make special cooking sessions. For example, you could

purchase all of the fixings for healthy snacks, and then have a time where you make ants on a log (celery, peanut butter, and raisins) together. Or, you could purchase pancake molds, pancake mix, and syrup and have a quality Saturday morning baking session for breakfast.

"The idea is to get kids comfortable in the kitchen while having fun together."

Game Nights

Anderson suggests you start an ongoing tradition of game nights.

"Consider starting the night with a special dinner, like making your own pizzas, and then select some games to play or a puzzle to make together. The quality time you spend together will far outweigh cluttering up your house with more things this holiday season."

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 a structured curriculum that is virtues-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 South 108th Street, West Allis. For more information, please visit the agency's website at www.ebenezerchildcare.com.