



**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](http://www.ebenezerchildcare.com)



**We're Hiring**

## February 2023 Center Happenings

Tuition Due Dates:

**February 13**

**February 27**

## Community Happenings

Milwaukee County Zoo

Family Free Days

February 4th

930am to 430pm

Whether it's been years, months or days since you've been to the Zoo, there is always something new to explore. Family Free Days are a perfect opportunity for you, along with your family and friends, to come and enjoy the Zoo, free of charge (parking and concession fees still apply).



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## Coordinator's Corner

Our virtues for this month are  
Love & Loyalty—how fitting!  
Happy Valentines Day!

Little ones love being outdoors, but it can get a bit messy. Children one year and up go outside every day. Please be sure to continue sending appropriate outdoor attire for your little ones. When it's too cold, we will use the muscle rooms for some indoor large motor fun!

Don't forget to check Procure! Our Procure App is a great resource to communicate and receive information and messages about your children.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are still going on this month for our 3K and 4K classrooms. Conferences are being held February 7-9th.

- Kimberly

## Open Positions:

We have a few positions open at our center. We are always looking for caring individuals that want to work in child care. Do you know anyone? If so, send them our way and earn a referral credit.

## Fundraising/Donations:

Don't forget about our Cookie Dough Fundraiser and Parent's Night Out on February 10th 5:30p-8:00p.

-Kimberly,  
Nikki, and  
Mikayla



## Happy Birthday!

### Children Birthdays

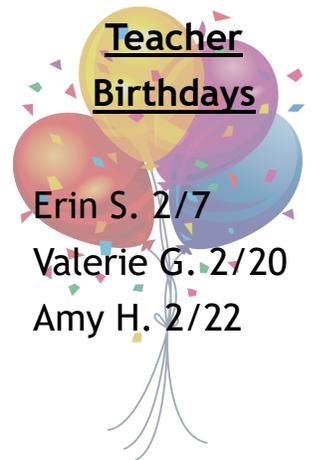
Grayson V. 2/3  
Mara O. 2/6  
Payton S. 2/8  
Riley S. 2/8  
Thomas B. 2/10  
Amos B. 2/11  
Anthony Y. 2/12



Rayna h. 2/12  
Cary K. 2/13  
Jack L. 2/14  
Evelyn D. 2/20  
Benjamin M. 2/24  
Mariana A. 2/29

### Teacher Birthdays

Erin S. 2/7  
Valerie G. 2/20  
Amy H. 2/22



# Curriculum Corner

~Mikayla Chmielewski

Curriculum Specialist

## Playing in Snow

Playing in snow is not only an exciting winter experience for many young children, but also an important part of development. Even the act of navigating through piled up snow or walking on slippery ground, can help children strengthen their large motor skills, focusing on their balance and coordination. Snow play is perfect for families with children of all ages because snow allows children to play at their own developmental level.

Snow is also the perfect material for building. It is exciting for children to see their own backyard or a playground they are familiar with, coated with snow, as it is likely already one of their favorite places, and now there is a new way to explore the area and add more to it. Children can build anything out of snow, from snowballs and snowmen, to castles and igloos! They are given full creative freedom to make their visions come to life, and they are using problem solving and engineering skills along the way. One way that we as adults can enhance children's learning experiences with snow, is by asking them questions throughout their play. Let them think through their answers and ask their own questions as well.

Many caregivers worry about children getting sick from being out too long in cold weather, but when your child is appropriately bundled up, there are many health benefits to outdoor play. Fresh air, body movement, and vitamin D are essential for both physical and mental health! Just be sure that children are wearing layers and have waterproof snow gear. Take this learning opportunity to explain to children why we keep our hats, mittens, and scarves on our bodies and set rules to stay safe while playing outdoors in the winter.

Alternatively, when it is too cold to go outside (or even when it isn't), there are also many ways to bring snow inside. Snow is a perfect material for science experiments or sensory play! Snow is an open-ended material, there are unlimited possibilities for what you can do. Snow can be gathered in a bin to be explored with a variety of tools, used with paint to create a winter art project, or used in science experiments to see how fast it melts in different conditions. Playing with snow, inside or outside, is a perfect way to create memories with young children and get them excited about learning.

## Get To Know Our Team!



Ms. Mikayla, our Curriculum Specialist, hit the ground running in 2023 and is off to such a great start this year. Daily, she is providing invaluable support to all our teachers to help them be their best. She is resourceful and consistently makes herself available to help wherever there is a need.

She has been working diligently, preparing performance reviews and meeting with teachers to help them reflect, set and achieve new goals this year. As we continue our commitment to growth and quality service another year, we are honored to have Mikayla on the team.

We appreciate her and all her hard work.

*We sprinkle kindness  
and watch love grow*





## Virtues of the Month: Love & Loyalty

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 our child care centers as well as at home. This month's virtues are:

**Love** is the connection between one heart and another. Attraction, affection and caring for a person, a place, an idea, and for life itself

**Loyalty** is an Unwavering faithfulness and commitment to people and ideas we care about, through good times and bad.

For more information on virtues, visit [www.VirtuesProject.com](http://www.VirtuesProject.com).

## February is Children's Dental Health Month!



Oral hygiene is important. Make sure you are replacing your toothbrush every three months, storing it upright to prevent bacteria growth, and keeping it away from other brushes. Here are some other hygiene tips:

1. Make sure your child's toothbrush isn't too large for his/her mouth, and that it has soft bristles as well as a flexible neck.
2. Only use a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste.
3. Brush in gentle, circular motions starting in the back and working your way around your mouth.
4. Floss daily between every tooth.
5. Rinse your mouth with antiseptic mouthwash to kill germs to complete the process.
6. Brush twice a day, two minutes each time.

## Follow us!



## 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



**Ebenezer**  
CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART

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



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## February's Parenting Tip: Building Better Brains

Do you want to give your children the best opportunities for success in life? Your children's early years are very important to their lifelong development. One of the most important ways you can support your children is what you are already doing: being their first and best teacher.

According to Dana Brumm, Curriculum Specialist for Ebenezer Child Care Centers with locations in downtown Milwaukee, Oak Creek, and West Allis/Wauwatosa, "When babies are born, the parts of their brains that handle thinking and remembering as well as emotional and social behavior are undeveloped. This means that the relationships and experiences they have will greatly impact the way their brain develops and is 'wired' for success." Consider following these simple tips to help build your baby's brain power.

### **Never Underestimate the Power of Snuggling**

Because babies experience the world through their senses, Brumm points out that it is extremely important for parents and caregivers to nurture young children in order to help foster their brain development.

"Holding, rocking, smiling, and talking to your baby, strengthens the emotional connections that lead to secure relationships which is critical for brain development," says Brumm.

"Research has proven that children who grow up in a secure environment, where they are nurtured and know that they are a loved, are better able to cope with difficult times when they are older, are more likely to get along better with others, and ultimately perform better in school."

### **Why Reading Is Critical**

Brumm says, in addition to nurturing your baby, it's never too early to begin reading to your children. Reading sparks children's curiosity, stimulates their imagination, and starts them down a positive path of learning. She says babies are mesmerized by brightly colored books with rhythmic language, and they learn speech development through the repetition of words. Plus, reading is the perfect way to introduce new concepts, ideas,

and places.

Anderson recommends that parents spend a minimum of 20 minutes each day reading out loud to their young children. She also encourages parents talk and sing to their babies on a regular basis to help stimulate brain development.

### **Encouraging Learning Through Play**

In addition to reading, Brumm says play is a wonderful way to help a baby's brain develop. It is important to let children simply play and explore to encourage brain development.

"There is a great deal of research out there that says that children under the age of four learn best through play," says Brumm. Play might be a game, talking, or singing to actively engage your child's brain. "Peek-a-boo" and holding toys out to watch help a baby's brain develop. Talk to your baby about what you are doing. For young children, sing songs with actions (like "Wheels on the Bus"), encourage pretend play, color, and build with blocks and toys. These activities foster imagination and creativity.

Ebenezer Child Care Centers is a not-for-profit, locally based agency committed to providing early care and education 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 early care and education, 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> Street, West Allis. For more information, please call 414-643-5070 or visit the agency's website at [www.ebenezerchildcare.com](http://www.ebenezerchildcare.com).

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