



**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

March 2023

### Center Happenings

#### Tuition Due:

Monday, March 13th

Monday, March 27th

#### What Can We Do:

### COMMUNITY ACCESS DAYS AT BETTY BRINN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

March 16

9:30 am - 7:00 pm

All guests receive FREE admission to the Betty Brinn Children's Museum on the third Thursday of every month from 9:30 am to 7 pm. *Tickets are released 2 weeks ahead of each Community Access Day!*

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This month we are celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday with a week full of crazy dress up days. (Check out the activity calendar for specifics)

We are already gearing up for another year of our summer program! Our EPiC Adventures Program is going to lead us on paths of discovering and exploring new things far and wide! Where does a chinchilla live? How do homes look in the arctic? What do people eat in the rainforests? These are just some of the questions that we will dig into!

Enrollment forms will be going out for everyone. Don't delay in returning yours, to ensure that you have a spot saved for this EPiC ADVENTURE!

As you may have already seen, we have reopened the Goldfish room after being closed since Covid hit three years ago. We have added new smiling faces to our team and looking for more in the coming weeks. Please help us welcome the new members of our family!



A most important reminder as we march into spring: All children must have all necessary weather gear with them EVERY DAY! We go outside each day and it is important that the children have a hat, mittens/gloves, jacket, scarf, boots, and snow pants to play in!

Have a fabulous month!

~ Ms. Nicole & Ms. Jess

## Happy Birthday!

### Look who has a Birthday!



Riaan J- 4th

Ms. Delijah-6th

Zoie S- 15th

Ms. Tracy-19th

Maya G- 5th

Adelynn G-11th

Izabella H-17th

Hana A-20th

Violet P-29th



# Curriculum Specialist Corner

By: *Nicole Dalsing*

## Reading Aloud to Young Children

This winter has brought us several weekends of snow, which brought me thoughts of hibernating, staying warm and cozy inside, reading a good book, and drinking hot cocoa. Something I have done since I could read.

Think back to your childhood. Do you remember someone reading you a story? Did you ask for the same book, over and over? When you think back, do you remember the books that were read, or do you have memories of snuggling up and enjoying a book with someone special to you?

Research has discovered that, the tradition of reading aloud to children, is a wonderful way of helping children reach their full potential. Reading aloud is a perfect way of engaging with young children. This engagement supports healthy brain development. It is widely accepted that reading aloud is the single most important researched activity leading to language development and promotes early literacy skills. Even infants love to be held close in a loved one's lap and hear their voice as they read a story.

Reading aloud builds curiosity, motivation, and memory. It also takes children to places and times they have never been, enlarging their worlds and creates a positive association with books and reading. Just handling board books develops school readiness in infants!

For children of all ages, try to incorporate reading with your child into your daily routine. Make it fun, talk about the pictures, help your child turn the pages. Talk to your child about the cover and what the story is about. You don't have to read the book to tell the story. Using different voices and animal sounds can make the story come alive. Ask your child questions and encourage them to ask you questions while sharing the book.

When reading to your infant hold them in your lap while you read. Babies like board books, especially those with photographs of babies, people and animals in them. Point to pictures as you read - this is how babies learn.

Toddlers and two's love stories that rhyme, are songs and are repetitive. Many will even memorize these! They will often choose the same storybook over and over. After hearing a story repeatedly they will often say the word at the end of each sentence. They like books that are silly, and have animals in them. They also will show interest in signs, everywhere you go.

Preschoolers may want to sit next to you while you are reading. They like to ask questions about the story or about new words they've heard in the story. Ask preschool children to tell you a story. Preschoolers like to go to the library and pick out their own books. Preschoolers like longer books that tell stories, picture books without words, ABC and counting words, books about families, friends and going to school. They also like to be read to at bedtime. Happy reading!



Introducing Ms. Bea!

## Position/Hire Date

Bunny Room Lead Teacher

August 13, 2001

## Education/Experience

CDA (Child Development Associate certificate), Infant Toddler Credential and Preschool Credential Prior to coming to Ebenezer, 16 years working in early childhood settings.

## Her Teaching Style

I am a caring teacher, committed to creating a classroom atmosphere that is stimulating and encouraging to students. I believe it is important for me to understand different learning and teaching styles because every child learns differently.

## ECE Philosophy

I believe in setting the foundation and giving children in my care the opportunity to explore the world around them.

## ECE Goals/Aspirations

My goal is to further my knowledge about early childhood education, so I can implement that knowledge in my work.

## Family/Hobbies/Interests

In my spare time my interests include time with my family, and exploring other cultures through their music, foods and languages.



## Virtues of the Month: Compassion & Friendliness

Ebenezer's Virtues of the Month Program is about empowering adults and children to live by their highest values. There are 52 virtues in the program. This month's virtues are Compassion and Friendliness.

**Compassion** is having deep empathy for the suffering of others. Compassion flows freely from the heart when we let go of judgments and seek to understand.

**Friendliness** is reaching out to others with warmth and caring. It is the willingness to be an intimate companion.

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

## Easy Hamburger Soup

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds 90% lean ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- (1) 28 oz can undrained diced tomatoes
- (2) 14.5 oz cans of beef broth
- 1 cup water
- 4 celery ribs, thinly sliced
- 4 large carrots, halved and thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup quick-cooking barley
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup minced, fresh parsley

### Directions

1. In a large saucepan, cook beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink, breaking the meat into crumbles; drain. Stir in the tomatoes, broth and water. Bring to a boil.
  2. Add celery, carrots, barley, thyme and pepper. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, for 10-12 minutes or until vegetables and barley are tender.
  3. Remove from heat; stir in parsley. Let stand 5 minutes.
- Source: Taste of Home



## 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.

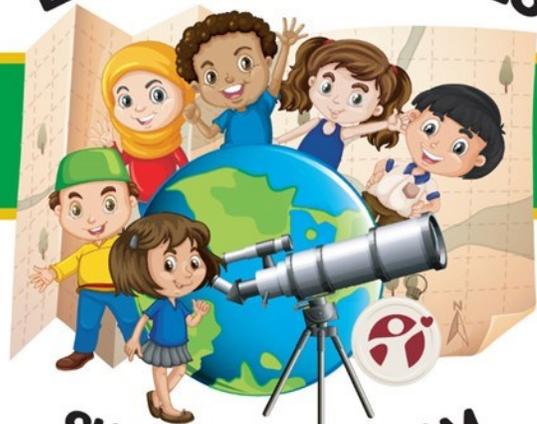
**ENGINEERING** While playing-children will learn about designing and building, take apart and put together all sorts of machines, and develop problem solving abilities.

**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.

## EPIC ADVENTURES



## SUMMER PROGRAM

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



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## March's Parenting Tip: Helping Your Child Become A Responsible Citizen

Every parent dreams of their children growing up to be respectful and responsible citizens who contribute to the good of society. How do we ensure this happens?

According to Leslie Hundt, Program Coordinator for Ebenezer Child Care Centers with locations in downtown Milwaukee, Oak Creek, and West Allis/Wauwatosa, "Just as children are taught to read and learn basic skills, they must also be taught character traits such as honesty, responsibility, and respect for oneself and others."

So how can you go about teaching your children these things? Here are some tips:

### **Be a Positive Role Model**

Remember your children are always watching you. You are your children's first and best teacher. Children learn proper values and behaviors when they are very young by observing the significant adults in their lives.

What children hear and see you do is considered acceptable, and they will do and say the same things. If they do not learn from an early age what is important, they will not exhibit these behaviors when they are older.

### **Set High Expectations and Be Clear and Consistent With Them**

It is important to remember as children grow, they will test the limits from time to time. This is normal behavior for children. When you establish clearly defined expectations, and make sure you are being consistent with them, children understand what your expectations are and how to follow them.

Children learn at an early age from adults that their actions have consequences, and negative or disrespectful behaviors will not be permitted. Keep in mind it is better for children to learn from their mistakes when they are young and the consequences aren't as great, than to wait until they are older when behaviors are harder to change.

Hundt recommends that you keep your expectations simple and avoid coming up with complicated rules. She also encourages you to keep your instructions positive, telling children how you want them to act or what you want them to say, rather than telling them what not to do.

Hundt suggests that you remind your children of your expectations frequently, especially

before going to events where other families will be present and expectations will be different.

### **Utilize Books and Character Programs to Reinforce Positive Behaviors**

Hundt recommends utilizing character programs such as the Virtues Project (<https://www.virtuesproject.com/>) as well as children's books to help teach your children about the types of positive behaviors expected.

"Books such as *Franklin Fibs* by Paulette Bourgeois, tell the story of Franklin, who finds himself in an embarrassing predicament after telling a lie. Books like this can help parents explain the importance of being honest and the consequences of what happens when you aren't."

"At Ebenezer Child Care Centers, we pick two virtues every month to focus on and incorporate into our programming and daily interactions. It helps our teachers create safe, caring, and high performing early education environments where children can thrive."

"It is critical to remember that everything you do as a parent is under the watchful eyes of your children," states Hundt. "Modeling respectful and responsible behaviors is so important to raising good citizens."

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 childcare 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 free Parenting Talks and 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 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).