

Preschool News!

Spring is in the air!

Intergenerational Time

The past few weeks have been busy at Jill's House! We have had so much fun doing art activities with the residents as well as literacy, music and movement. The residents have also become more comfortable visiting us downstairs in the afternoon as well. This week we will be starting the robotics study. If you have not signed the permission slips, but would like for your child to participate, please let me know and I can get a permission slip to you. A few of you signed up for the first round, but then the permission slips needed to be updated and a new one had to be signed. This will be a part of our intergenerational time. We will also be making St. Patrick's Day cards again for the Meals for wheels for Area 10 Center for aging. They loved our Valentine's and we are happy to make someone's day a little brighter!

Important Information

We still have a few spots available in our small room, so we are getting ready to advertise and give tours. After Spring Break, I will be sending home commitment forms to get an idea of how many spots we will have available. I have given great consideration to our half day classes, and I am afraid that due to staffing we may have to eliminate half days from our offerings. We can still offer part time, MWF or T/TH but not half days. Our official school day is 8:30-3:00, and that is \$40 a day. We will also be asking families to commit through the summer to hold a spot in the fall. I know that this is not convenient to all families, but unfortunately it is the only way for us to pay our staff. This is our first time having Spring Recruitment, so please be patient with our process.

I know that many of you are anxiously awaiting news on infant and toddler spaces. Corporate is on board with this expansion and they have asked architects to begin drawings for the spaces. I just do not know how long the process will take. I promise that I will keep you posted as I hear more information.

Please remember that we dress for mess at Jill's House. Boots are really important because the kids love to play in the mud and the puddles. Please send



Important Announcements

- **Spring Break is 3/12-3/16, no school**
- **Please make sure to read through your handbook so you understand our policies and procedures. Let me know if you have any questions.**
- **We have had a lot of sick kiddos. Please have your students come right in and wash their hands upon entering. This is a good habit for us to get into to avoid the spread of germs.**
- **Please make sure that your child is 24 hours fever free WITHOUT tylenol or advil before returning to school. Thanks!! 😊**

Parents Resource

"Don't Rush kids into academic learning before ages six or seven. Child development moves at the pace of evolution. Accept its natural pace; don't try to accelerate it. Playing ball, blocks, and dress up is exactly what your child needs to do, learning in her own time, at her own rate. Young kids need ample time to explore and play- their brains and emotional health depend on it".

~Heather Shumaker, author of *It is OK Not to Share and Other Renegade Rules for Raising Competent and Compassionate Kids*

boots and plenty of extra clothes for your kiddos. Also remember to check for bags of dirty clothes. On occasion we have had to lend clothes and have not had them returned. Please try to send back borrowed clothing so we can make sure to keep a stock of extras for everyone. Thanks!

I wanted to introduce you all to our new assistant in the small room. We are so lucky to welcome David Thrasher to our staff. His son Daniel is a student in the small room and the Thrashers were the first family to sign up for our very special program. David worked for the First United Methodist Parent's Day Out program here in Bloomington, as well as watching children in his neighborhood. I knew when I had another opening that David would be the perfect fit! It is awesome to have another person in our program that is so committed to building great experiences for our kids! David is married to Holly, and in addition to his son Daniel he has a daughter Myra who attends Templeton Elementary School. We are thrilled to welcome him to Jill's House!

I want to thank all of you for believing in us here at Jill's House! I am so proud of all of my teachers and assistants. We are doing amazing things and I am so grateful to all of you for your support!