



Breezy Knoll Child Care Center  
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## April 2012 Newsletter

### CONFIRMATION SUMMER AND FALL

If you need to change your child's schedule for **summer or fall**, kindly let Jeannette know as soon as possible. Now is the time to reserve the days you need in all programs. Thank you!



### Ways To Talk To Your Toddler That Pay Off Academically

From Dr. Gina A. Cook, researcher, Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development at Utah State University

It's more than just playing with our children - it's about how we play with them. The kinds of stimulating activities that are related to later academic outcomes include those behaviors that are slightly above a child's developmental level such as **elaborating** on the pictures and words in a book instead of just reading the book, **asking open-ended questions**, and **expanding** on what the child is saying or doing. **ELABORATING:** When reading a book with a dog in it to a 2-3 year old child, instead of just reading the words you might want to point to a picture of the dog and talk about the dog such as what color the dog is, what sound the dog makes, that the dog is like your dog : "Look at the brown doggy, it's a big doggy, it has spots like our doggy. What sound does the doggy make?"

**ASKING OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS:** When discussing the dog you could ask the child an open-ended question about what the dog is doing: "Where's the dog going? Why do you like dogs? What did our dog do this morning?" **EXPANDING:** If the child says "doggy" when you turn the page you could say - "Yes, a doggy, the doggy is brown like our doggy." Please note that these examples can be applied not just when reading, but also when playing, and really any time you are talking to your child (say if you are out for a walk and you see a dog). This kind of engagement in conversation with your toddler is not only fun for both of you - I would speculate that part of the effect on cognitive development comes directly from the positive affect attached to learning. And do keep in mind that a big reminder from the study is that parents should be sure to give their toddlers *plenty of time* for pretend play and be active participants - it's a great opportunity to elaborate, ask open-ended questions, and expand during conversation. And you will see benefits from all this 10 years later in school.

### PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are happy to be spending time outside and observing signs of spring! This month, some of the goals we will focus on are:

- ◆ demonstrating a growing awareness of the beginning sounds of words
- ◆ using language to understand the order and position of objects
- ◆ beginning to understand that events take place in the past, present, or future
- ◆ using scientific tools as props in play
- ◆ exploring the natural processes or growing
- ◆ changing and adapting to the environment
- ◆ appreciating and respecting the work of others
- ◆ learning to tolerate a wide variety of sensory input



### KIDS QUOTES



When the Kindergarten class was discussing the insides of our bodies, the teacher asked, "What is our heart's job?" A child replied, "To keep us in love!" :-)

### POETRY FUN from Reading is Fundamental website

#### RIF Guide to Encouraging Young Readers

Rhyming can be contagious, especially with children. Say a word, then let your child call out rhyming words until you can't think of any more! Rhyming is like the flu: Often you don't know its coming on until it hits you, as when someone says, "Give me the keys, please." Warning: Rhyming can be very contagious, especially among children! Say a word, then let the children call out rhyming words until the possibilities are exhausted. Depending on the children's ages, you might want to accept nonsense words-after all, they do rhyme! A few poetry books we recommend are: Commmotion in the Ocean by Giles Andreae, One, Two, Skip a Few by Roberta Arenson, Hailstones and Halibut Bones by Mary O'Neil, and Hand Rhymes by Marc Brown.



A great website we have found is: [poetry4kids.com](http://poetry4kids.com). Check it out!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Mar 28- Apr 2 | National Friendship Week                           |
| April 6       | Good Friday BK <b>closed</b> for staff development |
| April 16-20   | Spring vacation                                    |
|               | <b>No Kindergarten class / Breezy Knoll OPEN</b>   |
| April 21      | Kindergarten founded in 1837                       |
| April 22      | Earth Day  |



## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Spring vacation is April 16-20. Kindergarten is not in session, but BK will remain **open**.



Language Arts/Reading  
Vowels (long/short)  
Poetry  
Word families  
Guided reading  
Sound chunks



Science/Social Studies  
Larvae to Butterfly  
Recycling/Reusing  
Reptiles/Amphibians

Math  
Money values  
Subtraction/addition  
Graphing  
Estimation



*Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.*

Thank you for returning any clothing borrowed from Breezy Knoll's spare clothing! Kindly be sure your child has a complete set of spare clothes to be kept at Breezy.



## EARTH DAY

April 22 is Earth Day. As we discuss the importance of caring for the world we live in, we are passing along some ideas which require little effort, but provide big payoffs to the environment:

- Use coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveways.
- Replace regular light bulbs with energy-saving fluorescent bulbs.
- Install water-saving faucets and showerheads.
- Turn off water in between rinses when shaving or brushing teeth.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine with a full load only.
- Live each day as if it were Earth Day!

Check the DEM website [www.den.ri.gov/earthday](http://www.den.ri.gov/earthday) for celebrations around the state.

## MUSIC AND MOOD from HealthyChildren.org



Because of our unique experiences, we develop different musical tastes and preferences. Despite these differences, there are some common responses to music. Babies love lullabies. Maternal singing is particularly soothing, regardless of a mom's formal musical talents or training.

**Music, Attention, and Learning:** Everyone who has learned their ABCs knows that it is easier to memorize a list if it is set to music. Scientific research supports common experience that pairing music with rhythm and pitch enhances learning and recall. Music helps children and adolescents with attention problems in several ways. First, it can be used as a reward for desired behavior. For example, for paying attention to homework for 10 minutes, a child can be rewarded with the opportunity to listen to music for 5 minutes. Second, it can be used to help enhance attention to "boring" academic tasks such as memorization, using songs, rhythms, and dance or movement to enhance the interest of the lists to be memorized. Instrumental baroque music is great for improving attention and reasoning. For students, playing background music is not distracting. Third, musical cues can be used to help organize activities - one kind of music for one activity (studying), another for a different activity (eating), and a third kind for heading to bed. Fourth, studies show that calming music can promote pro-social behavior and decrease impulsive behavior.



**Music and Sleep:** Many people listen to soothing music to help them fall asleep. This practice is supported by studies in a variety of settings. Just don't try listening to lively dance music or rousing marches before you aim to fall asleep. Conversely, if you're trying to wake up in the morning, go for the fast-tempo music rather than lullabies.

## TODDLER NEWS



Spring has arrived, and we are looking forward to warmer days and seeing green grass. We hope to spend time outdoors enjoying the pleasures that spring brings.

Please take note of our project needs. A list will be posted on the Parent Board.

Reminders: All quiet time items must be washed weekly. Please be sure that there is an extra set of clothes suitable for the changing weather at BK for your child. Children are more comfortable in their own clothing.

Our Toddler teacher Alyssa has decided to return to school on a full time basis and will no longer be working at Breezy Knoll. We will all miss her, but wish her well in her new endeavor. Jillian will be working in the mornings with Anna, Lori, Wanda, and Sarah.

## OPTIONAL LUNCH MILK/JUICE MONEY

If you would like Breezy Knoll to serve milk/juice to your child at lunchtime, please enclose 25cents for each day of the month your child will receive milk/juice. Please place money in an envelope and drop in tuition mailbox.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Milk/juice money enclosed for month (please circle):

Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec



# SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS

## Here Comes the Rain

(tune: Green Grass Grows All Around)

Here comes the rain. (Echo)  
The wettest rain. (Echo)  
The heaviest rain (Echo)  
That you ever did see. (Echo)



And the water keeps going all around, all around.  
And the water keeps going all around.



## A Fat Bunny

A little fat bunny with ears so tall

And two pink eyes about this small

Went hop, hop, hopping

To get some lunch.

He found a carrot.

Yum, yum! Crunch! Crunch!

## I'm a Caterpillar

(tune: I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a caterpillar, cute and green

I'm inside a chrysalis and can't be seen.

Wait a little while and you'll see why.

I'll pop out as a butterfly!



## April Rains

April rains come falling down.  
Splishing, splashing, all around.  
We stay inside, but we all know  
The rain helps make the garden grow.



## The Clean Up Song

(tune: Twinkle Little Star)

If you're near or if you're far  
It's time to clean up where you are.

Put everything back in its place.

Keep a smile upon your face.

If you're near or if you're far

It's time to clean up where you are!



## Down at the Dump

(tune: Down By the Station)

Down at the dump early in the morning

See the dump trucks standing in a row.

See them dump the garbage  
In a great big pile.

Dump, dump, dump, dump. Watch them go.

Pretty soon our dumps will all be full.

We had better figure out something to do.

We could all recycle some of our garbage.

Recycle, recycle; watch us go!



## This Land

(tune: This Land is Your Land)

This land is your land. This land is my land.

Let's work together to make it better.

From tall green forest to clear blue waters.

This land depends on you and me!



## *April showers bring May flowers*



## Birds Sing

(tune: Do Your Ears Hang Low?)

Do you hear birds sing?

They're so happy that it's spring.

Hear them cheep, cheep, cheep.

Hear them twitter; hear them peep.

Hear them at sunrise when you open up your eyes.

Do you hear birds sing?



## Walking in the Rain

((tune: Farmer in the Dell)

We're walking in the rain.

We're walking in the rain.

We'll carry our umbrellas

As we're walking in the rain.



## LEARN THROUGH PLAY

*From Fun Family Activities:* CREATIVITY: MUSIC

### Get ready for some noise and great fun!

- Listen to all kinds of music on the radio — jazz, rock, classical and golden oldies. Play a children's tape and sing loudly.

- Play "Guess the Song" game. One person can start by humming a familiar song or clapping or tapping the beat or use a kazoo. Others can try to guess the song.

- Pretend to be in a band or parade. Use kazoos and musical instruments made from things you find around the house. For added fun, wear costumes.

- Talk to your child about the instruments you hear in the music that you listen to together. Try to detect the guitar, drums and piano.

- Encourage your child to explore and experiment with sounds with real or toy instruments such as a piano, xylophone or bells

- Have your child sing into a tape recorder. You and your child will love to listen to the recordings!

- Put together a musical performance to show to other family members.

- Go to a musical play or concert at a nearby school.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This month, we wish a Happy Birthday to:

Maci M. (4/3), Lillian C. (4/7),  
Patrick M. (4/9), Luyao L. and  
"RJ" R. (4/10), Peter C. (4/12),  
Max H. (4/19), Jacob C. (4/24),  
And Savannah E (4/25).



## APRIL IS NATIONAL HUMOR MONTH

*The average five-year-old laughs 400 times a day, while the average adult laughs just 15 times a day.*

*Try to laugh a little more this month!*

Q: Where did the sheep go to get his wool cut?

A: *To the baabaa shop!*

Q: What did the egg say to the clown?

A: *You crack me up!*

Q: What did one flea say to the other flea?

A: *Shall we walk or take a dog?*



## BUTTERFLIES

During the month of April, each of the groups will be hatching butterflies in their classrooms. The plan is for each class to watch the different stages of development, from larva to butterfly. When all of the butterflies are hatched and become strong enough, the entire school will meet outside and watch as we release the butterflies into the natural setting. It will be a lovely, colorful sight to watch as they flutter away to find a home.