



# Breezy Knoll Child Care Center

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Smithfield, RI 02917  
(401) 232-7177



## DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



Happy Holidays to our Families!  
All of the staff at Breezy Knoll  
would like to extend  
our best wishes to  
each and every one of you.  
We thank you for your continued  
support in all of our efforts.  
We wish you the best of health  
and prosperity throughout  
the coming year.

### REGISTRATION

Please remember to return the registration form to reserve enrollment for your child for summer and fall of 2014. We are reserving enrollment for our families before offering openings to our waiting list. If you need another form, please see Jeannette. Thank you!



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 27- Dec. 5	Happy Hanukkah!
Fri. Dec. 13	Giving Tree gifts due
Sat. Dec. 21	Winter begins
<b>HOLIDAY HOURS:</b>	
Tues. Dec. 24	CLOSING at 12:00 pm
Wed. Dec. 25	CLOSED Merry Christmas!
BREEZY OPEN Mon 12/23, Thur 12/26, Fri 12/27, Mon 12/30	
Tues. Dec. 31	Breezy Knoll CLOSING at 3:00
Wed. Jan 1, 2014	CLOSED Happy New Year!
Thur. Jan 2, 2014	Kindergarten class resumes

### SNOW CANCELLATIONS



The RI Broadcasters Association's member television and radio stations have unified for notification of the cancellation/delay process due to inclement weather. **You will still receive the information as in the past on your favorite radio and television station and their websites.** Attached is a complete listing of participating stations.

If you choose, you can register to be personally notified on your home or cell phone, PDA or email address. The simple registration form is available on websites of participating radio/television stations.

### FUNDRAISER

We thank you all for your participation in our Dinner and Dessert Fundraiser. Our proceeds totaled \$1919.00! We will be sure to let you know when we have chosen something for the center that all will enjoy. The search is on! Again, we are thankful for all of your continued efforts to support our program.



*All children smile in the same language.*

### REMINDERS

\*If you plan to share a special holiday treat with the children, we ask that you consider some healthier options besides sweet/baked treats. Fruit and dip, pudding/yogurt, and jello jigglers are a few suggestions. We appreciate your offering snacks, and we are thinking of the health of your children. It's so easy to overload on sugary treats during the holiday season!

### HOLIDAY HINT: Poison Plant Protection

*Excerpt from Child Health Alert*

Here is a list of plants that can cause problems. Families should keep in mind that many plants are poisonous if parts of them are chewed or swallowed. Most cause only vomiting and diarrhea, but some can be far more toxic, causing convulsions and even coma. Toxic plants include: **Mistletoe:** All parts are toxic, but the small white berries are particularly dangerous. **Jerusalem Cherry:** The fruit is very toxic. **Yew:** All parts are toxic. **Boxwood:** Leaves and twigs are especially toxic. **Poinsettia:** The American Poinsettia, the more common variety in the US, is mildly toxic, causing intestinal problems. There are European varieties that may be more toxic, so it's a good idea to keep all poinsettias out of a child's reach.

Parents should know the names of the plants that they have in the house. If there is any doubt, and a poisoning is suspected, call your poison control center. Attach the telephone number to the phone. **RI Poison Control Center is (401) 444-5727.**

#### OTHER DECORATIONS TO CONSIDER:

- \* **Cans of snow spray** may contain chemicals that are toxic if inhaled. Be sure to use these products in a **well ventilated area** to avoid inhaling.
- \* **Foil or colored gift wraps** may contain lead. Children should not put gift wrap in their mouths.
- \* **Fireplace color crystals** can look like candy to children; **keep them out of reach** so they will not ingest them.
- \* **Tree and wreath lights** can be a fire hazard. Be sure to **unplug all lighted decorations** when leaving the house and/or going to bed.
- \* Angel Hair is a holiday decoration made of **thinly spun glass**. Keep out of reach of children as it can cause **throat and intestinal irritation** if swallowed.





## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Happy Holidays to all! Enjoy your vacation!

**REMINDERS:** Please check your child's spare clothes to be sure they are suitable for the cold weather. Label everything! Boots, hats, mittens, snow pants, and a coat are needed for outdoor play when it snows. Dry shoes are needed for the classroom on snowy days. Please consider taking home backpacks, as the hooks will be needed for jackets and snow pants.

### HOLIDAY HOURS:

Kindergarten vacation 12/23/13 – 12/31/13  
Breezy Knoll closing at 12:00 on Tues. 12/24  
CLOSED Wednesday, December 25  
OPEN M 12/23, Th 12/26, F 12/27, M 12/30  
Breezy Knoll closing at 3:00 on Tues. 12/31  
Breezy Knoll CLOSED Tues. 1/1/14  
Class resumes on Thursday, January 2

### Writing/Reading

Holiday cards  
Sight words  
Compare/contrast  
Gingerbread stories  
Beginning, middle, and ending sounds

### SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, December 13  
Ornament Making Family Event  
\*DETAILS TO FOLLOW\*



### Dramatic Play

Bake Shop

### Math

Finish geometry unit  
Work with numbers to 20

### Art

Holiday gifts  
Gingerbread people  
Ornaments



### Topics

Gingerbread stories  
Polar Express  
Winter holidays



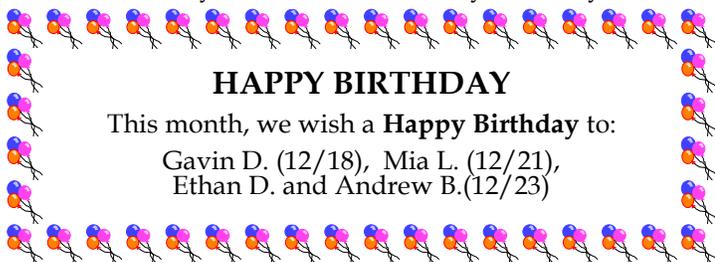
### Science/Social Studies

Wants/needs  
Five Senses-gingerbread  
Animals Getting Ready for Winter

## GIVING TREE



This holiday season, Breezy Knoll is working the Smithfield Welfare Department in their Adopt-a-Family program. We will provide Christmas gifts for two families. We have set up a "Giving Tree" in the front hall. If you want to help, simply take an ornament from the tree and **attach it to the wrapped gift you are donating, (very important!)**, then return it under the tree. This program **ends on Friday, December 13**. All gifts are due by that date to ensure delivery in time for the holiday. Thank you!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This month, we wish a **Happy Birthday** to:

Gavin D. (12/18), Mia L. (12/21),  
Ethan D. and Andrew B. (12/23)

## PRESCHOOL NEWS



In December, we will focus on these learning goals: self-organization, developing successful relationships, communicating needs clearly and increasing vocabulary, understanding that spoken/written words have meaning, and recognizing and generating rhymes. In Math, children will name common shapes and use language to describe the position of objects. Children will continue to demonstrate self-care skills and explore a wide variety of sensory input. We will discuss family traditions and celebrations and focus on a theme of giving and sharing.



## TOY SAFETY from [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)



Children can have a lot of fun playing with their toys. However, it's important to keep in mind that safety should always come first. Each year thousands of children are injured by toys. Read on to learn what to look for when buying toys and how a few simple ideas for safe use can often prevent injuries.

1. **Read the label.** Warning labels give important information about how to use a toy and what ages the toy is safe for. Be sure to show your child how to use the toy the right way.
2. **Think LARGE.** Make sure all toys and parts are larger than your child's mouth to prevent choking.
3. **Avoid toys that shoot objects into the air.** They can cause serious eye injuries or choking.
4. **Avoid toys that are loud** to prevent damage to your child's hearing.
5. **Look for stuffed toys that are well made.** Make sure all the parts are on tight and seams and edges are secure. It should also be machine washable. Take off any loose ribbons or strings to avoid strangulation. Avoid toys that have small bean-like pellets or stuffing that can cause choking or suffocation if swallowed.
6. **Buy plastic toys that are sturdy.** Toys made from thin plastic may break easily.
7. **Avoid toys with toxic materials that could cause poisoning.** Make sure the label says "nontoxic."
8. **Avoid hobby kits and chemistry sets for any child younger than 12 years.** They can cause fires or explosions and may contain dangerous chemicals. Make sure your older child knows how to safely handle these kinds of toys.
9. **Electric toys should be "UL Approved."** Check the label to be sure.
10. **Be careful when buying crib toys.** Strings or wires that hang in a crib should be kept short to avoid strangulation. Crib toys should be removed as soon as your child can push up on his hands and knees.



## Optional Lunch Milk/Juice Money

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

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Milk/juice money enclosed for month of (circle one) :

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## TODDLER NEWS



The month of December is planned with great activities! With the exciting holiday season upon us, we will enjoy some soothing activities, such as finger painting and exploring the sand table, balanced with energetic fun, such as parachute play. We will, of course, celebrate the spirit of the season in giving and sharing. If you have any holiday traditions to share, kindly jot them down and leave them in Tanya's, Chelsea's, or Patrice's mailbox. If you plan to bring in snacks for the children to share, please consider the nutritional value of the snacks. Kindly include the list of ingredients so that we may check for allergies. Kindly remember that there is a Toddler in the room who has a nut allergy. If you need some suggestion, please ask us. Thank you! Please remember to bring mittens (more than one pair, if you can) and hats **daily** and label *everything*. Also, remember to wash all quiet time items weekly.

As winter quickly approaches, so does the cold and flu season.

**We wish all of our Toddlers and their families a very Happy Holiday Season!**

### FAMILY TRADITIONS Early Childhood News



Customs contribute to family closeness and create a sense of "home." They help give you a sense of who you are as a family. Customs and rituals are a part of every family's life. Some of them occur on holidays or special occasions.

Many family customs are handed down from one generation to the next. Others may be invented by your family as you create your home. Often, in fast-paced lifestyles, some traditions fade away. Consider modifying or simplifying traditions, allowing them to be preserved. Sometimes, too many customs can be overwhelming. Incorporating everything from your parents' families is difficult. Families can outgrow certain traditions.

Family customs and traditions are important resources. When wisely used, they can strengthen family bonds and contribute to family closeness and unity.

*There are two ways of spreading light,  
to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.*

*Edith Wharton*



### IT SURE IS COLD OUTSIDE!

**Children lose body heat much faster than adults!** When sending your children outdoors in the winter; keep the following in mind: **\*\*\*Give them something to eat** before they head outdoors to play. Their body will

turn the food into heat which will help keep them warmer longer. **\*\*\*Bundle them up!** Think layers. Dress them with long johns, a sweater, thick socks and an outer waterproof layer. **\*\*\*Don't forget hats and mittens!** 50- 60% of their body heat can be lost through their head and hands. **\*\*\*Limit the amount of time** you let your children play outdoors in the cold weather. Check on them after one hour to be sure their inner layers are not wet and they are not shivering. **\*\*\*When the wind chill is below 0 degrees, keep your children inside.**

Gingerbread Men (Action Rhyme)

*Author Unknown (tune: Sing a Song of Sixpence)*

Stir a bowl of gingerbread, smooth and spicy brown.  
(Pretend to stir.)

Roll it with the rolling pin up and down.  
(Making rolling motions.)

Take a cookie cutter and make some little men.  
(Use imaginary cutter to cut imaginary shape.)

Put them in the oven 'til half past ten.  
(Pretend to slide cookie tray into oven.) MMMM!

### THIN ICE ISN'T ALWAYS OBVIOUS

**When it comes to frozen bodies of water, you can never be too careful!**

To keep your children safe, teach them:

- \* **Never** use ice for a shortcut.
- \* **Never** skate alone or without asking your permission first.
- \* **Never** skate on ice that has not been tested by the Fire or Recreation Department.
- \* **Never** go out on the ice to help another child or animal. **Get help!**

**The only safe ice is at an ice skating rink.**

For information on ice safety, visit the website :

<http://www.riparks.com/IceSafety.html>

*Children will not remember you for the material things you provided, but for the feeling that you cherished them.*

*Richard L. Evans*

### NUTRITION TIP

*from Scholastic Parent & Child Magazine*

#### TOAST TOPPERS

The quick breakfast classic just got even more nutritious and delicious!  
By Samantha Brody



Whole wheat: Tasty base: all natural peanut butter (no salt or sugar added)

Topper: Raisins/sprinkle of cinnamon

Pumpernickel: Tasty base: Low-fat cream cheese  
Topper: sliced cucumber

Multigrain: Tasty base: Almond butter  
Topper: sliced bananas and strawberries

Rye: Tasty base: a slice of low-fat Swiss/Cheddar  
Topper: sliced cherry tomatoes



**SENSE OF WONDER** by Ruth Wilson excerpt from Child Care Exchange  
 Watch young children as it begins to snow. You'll witness an abundance of exuberance and joy. You'll see children wholly engaged in the now, and you'll find them responding with their whole bodies. They'll laugh, dance, run, listen, and perhaps even taste. Adults, on the other hand, are more likely to respond with thoughts about what comes next and will spend little time immersing themselves in the moment and in the sensory experiences of what is happening around them. Adults see the snow and think of shoveling the driveway or become anxious about driving on icy roads.

Children's way of relating to the world corresponds to their unique way of knowing the world — that is, a way based more on wonder than analytical thought. With adults, however, perception obeys thought. The sense of wonder usually diminishes rather quickly.

Adults would do well to recognize and honor children's way of knowing and strive to keep the children's and their own sense of wonder alive. Wonder can serve as a life-long source of joy and enrichment.

## **FIVE LITTLE BELLS**

*Author Unknown*

*Five little bells hanging in a row, (Hold up five fingers.)*

*The first one said, "Ring me slow." (Hold up one finger.)*

*The second one said, "Ring me fast." (Hold up two fingers.)*

*The third one said, "Ring me last." (Hold up three fingers.)*

*The fourth one said, "I'm like a chime." (Hold up four fingers.)*

*The fifth one said, "Ring us all at Holiday time." (Five fingers.)*



## RI BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATION PROGRAM

### TELEVISION STATIONS

WLNE-TV/ABC 6	( <a href="http://www.abc6.com">www.abc6.com</a> )
WJAR-TV/NBC 10	( <a href="http://www.turnto10.com">www.turnto10.com</a> )
WPRI-TV/CBS 12	( <a href="http://www.wpri.com">www.wpri.com</a> )
CW 28	( <a href="http://www.cw28tv.com">www.cw28tv.com</a> )
RI PBS/Channel 36	( <a href="http://www.ripbs.org">www.ripbs.org</a> )
WNAC-FOX	( <a href="http://www.fox64.com">www.fox64.com</a> )

### RADIO STATIONS

#### FM DIAL:

92.3 WPRO	( <a href="http://www.92profm.com">www.92profm.com</a> )
93.3 WSNE	( <a href="http://www.wsne.com">www.wsne.com</a> )
94.1 WHJY	( <a href="http://www.whjy.com">www.whjy.com</a> )
95.5 WBRU	( <a href="http://www.wbru.com">www.wbru.com</a> )
98.1 WCTK	( <a href="http://www.wctk.com">www.wctk.com</a> )
99.7 WSKO	( <a href="http://www.scoreamfm.com">www.scoreamfm.com</a> )
100.3 WKKB	( <a href="http://www.latina1003.com">www.latina1003.com</a> )
101.5 WWBB	( <a href="http://www.b101.com">www.b101.com</a> )
102.7 JAZZ	( <a href="http://www.festivaljazz1027.com">www.festivaljazz1027.com</a> )
105.1 WWLI	( <a href="http://www.litrock105fm.com">www.litrock105fm.com</a> )
106.3 WWKX	( <a href="http://www.hot1063.com">www.hot1063.com</a> )
1450 WLKW	( <a href="http://www.wnbh.com">www.wnbh.com</a> )

#### AM DIAL:

1590 WARV	( <a href="http://www.warv.net">www.warv.net</a> )
630 WPRO	( <a href="http://www.630wpro.com">www.630wpro.com</a> )
790 WSKO	( <a href="http://www.scoreamfm.com">www.scoreamfm.com</a> )
920 WHJJ	( <a href="http://www.whjjam.com">www.whjjam.com</a> )
1110 WPMZ	( <a href="http://www.poder1110.com">www.poder1110.com</a> )
1180 WCNX	( <a href="http://www.wcnx1180.com">www.wcnx1180.com</a> )
1240 WOON	( <a href="http://www.onworldwide.com">www.onworldwide.com</a> )
1290 WRNI	( <a href="http://www.wrni.org">www.wrni.org</a> )
1540 WADK	( <a href="http://www.wadk.com">www.wadk.com</a> )
1590 WARV	( <a href="http://www.warv.net">www.warv.net</a> )

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