



Village News

February, 2012

Happy Valentine's Day!



We hope that you are all able to find time for a special moment with your families on this day.

A Quick Look at Early Childhood Development

As children develop, they progress from complete dependency to complete independence. These stages of development were first identified by psychologist Erik Erikson. Understanding these stages can increase a parent's ability to encourage positive growth from one stage to another. A simple review

follows:

Trust vs Mistrust (0-1 year)
The bonds formed at this stage provide the basic foundation for basic trust to grow. It involves the ability of the parent or caregiver to provide the infant's basic needs, both physical and emotional.

Autonomy vs Shame/Doubt (Toddlers-2 Years)
Your child begins to explore his/her surroundings, Parents need to provide encouragement and protection, rather than the absolute "right" and "wrong", so that the little ones can learn how to solve their own problems.



Initiative vs Guilt (3-5 Years)

At this stage, children want to begin and complete activities by themselves. They become frustrated when adults attempt to do things for them. Their sense of self and their importance in the world

depends on what they can contribute. A caregiver's job is to provide encouragement and assistance in making realistic and appropriate choices. Frustrating them can lead to aggressive and overly assertive behavior.

Check out further developmental stages thru 20 years!

Kids Love Soup !!

Ken Haedrich, a father of four children, is the author of Soup Makes the Meal. He presents soup as kid-friendly, easy to make ahead of time, comforting, and usually resulting in leftovers. It's also an excellent way to get kids (by about two years



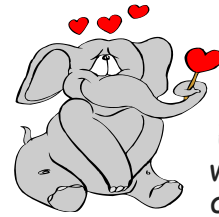
of age) interested in vegetables, and even in picking them out in the store or garden. They often offer immunity and anti-inflammatory properties as well.

Here's his **Grandma's Healing Soup** recipe:

- 1 1/2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 large leak, white pts. chopped
- 1 large carrot, diced
- 1 large potato, diced
- 1 parsnip, peeled & diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 5 cups vegetable stock
- Sea salt to taste
- Handful parsley leaves
- Handful fresh spinach
- Freshly ground black pepper

Heat olive oil and sauté next five ingredients for 5 minutes. Add stock

and salt and simmer 5 minutes. Stir in parsley and spinach, cook 5 minutes, until vegetables tender. Add pepper.



Don't Forget

Even though the colder weather has been absent, February is here! Please remember to check WLOS for any weather-related delays or closings. You can enroll for automatic text announcements relaying our school's status at <http://www.wlos.com/shared/newroom/closings/weather/>. This information also scrolls along the lower screen edge on local TV channel 13/WLOS station.

Teacher Notes



Waddler Room

The first month of 2012 is behind us and we cannot believe the weather we are having! It was very warm for January and we were able to be outside more often, which everyone enjoyed very much. We were exploring all the beauty of the trees, talking about birds, and looking at all the different shapes of the clouds.

We also welcomed a new friend to the Waddler Room, Colin's little sister Bailey. We are very happy to have her!

We would like to also say Happy Valentine's day to all the Village families, and hope you will enjoy the special day of love with your family (check out our hearts on the wall)!

Thank you everyone for doing such a wonderful job with labeling your child's items. It has been a huge help to us!

If you have any questions, we are always here for you.

Ms Petra, Ms Donna & Ms Sarah

Toddler Room

Another month gone by, and still no snow! Even though it's been warmer, please remember to bring extra clothes, especially pants. Hats and gloves are great too, because we like to play outside before lunch (often it's chilly at this time).

We are excited to work on colors and shapes this month. We will be using red, white, and pink since it's Valentine's Day on the 14th. Please remember to check your child's art folder weekly.

We will be reading our Elmo colors and shapes books in class. If any parent has a specific book you'd like us to read, we'd love for you to bring it in.

We are looking forward to fun art activities with hearts. We will do some group projects, as well as let each child create some new individual masterpieces!

We are happy to announce that Sophie became a big sister on January 30th, to little sister Eila Amelia. Eila weighed 6 pounds 12 ounces, and Mommy reports that all are doing well. Congratulations to the whole family!

Ms. Trisha, Ms. Christine & Ms. Krystal

Two's & Three's Room

Happy February! We have been so busy that January seems to have flown by! This month we will be celebrating friendship, love, and caring, and learning about Groundhog Day.

In honor of Valentine's Day, our class will be having a Celebration of Love. There will be a Potluck Breakfast at 9:00 am on Tuesday, February 14th. We understand that it might be hard for many parents to take time off from work, but anyone special or important to you child is welcome to attend. Closer to the event we will post a sign-up sheet for

items to bring to the breakfast, as well as an RSVP list (we want to have places for everyone to sit!). Please let us know if you would be interested in coming a little early to help set up. We will also be decorating bags for collecting Valentine's Day cards. If your child would like to bring cards, please be sure to bring one for each child in the class (we have a total of 16 children).

This month, our friend Paila will be moving on from the Village. We will miss her and we wish her the best of luck!

We look forward to another month of fun and exciting activities in the Two's and Three's Room!

Ms. Cassie, Ms Gretchen & Ms Abby

Pre-School Room

Dear Families,

We hope that you all had a great month! We have loved all of the wonderful weather. We have been spending a lot of time outdoors. Please remember to pack appropriate gear such as rain gear (boots, rain coat), warm coat, hats and gloves. The temperature can vary from the beginning to the end of the school day. We want to ensure that each child is comfortable during play.

In the classroom, we spent the month of January exploring letters. We practiced writing and forming letters in a variety of mediums such as paint, pasta, pretzels, collaged paper, clay, sand, and watercolors. The children became very interested in writing, and took it to the next level by practicing to write different words in cards to family and friends.

This month we will spend time talking about winter. We will work on winter art activities such as weaving and baking. We hope to bake bread soon, and are in need of supplies such as flour, yeast, honey and jam.

We will have a small Valentine's Day class party on the 14th, and your child is welcome to bring cards for the rest of the class. We can provide you with a class list if needed.

REMINDER: On February 17 we will be going on a fieldtrip to the Black Mountain library, to hear stories and see a puppet show. We will be leaving Creative Village at 9:00. Please have your child here prior to 9:00 if you are not driving. If you are not planning to attend the fieldtrip, it is very important that you leave a car seat at school, so that we are able to transport children. The fieldtrip sign up is on the classroom door. Please sign up if you are able to attend.

Another reminder, we are in need of treasure box donations, and we are happy to take recycled items. Thank you for all of your help, have a wonderful month.

Ms. Kristine, Ms. Tara & Ms. Jessica

AND, Thanks to our part time teachers who make this all possible, including Denise

Sharon Nif, Challice and Katlin, our wonderful subs!



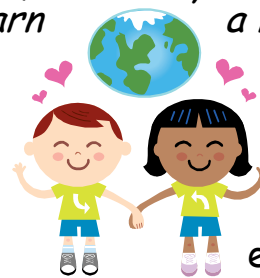
bonds of family history from a young child's point of view, probably a pre-schooler.

Spaghetti in a Hotdog Bun:

Having the Courage to Be Who You Are

By Kimberly Shaw Peterson

This fun book talks to little ones about being who they really are, not what everybody dictates to be "cool". It's OK to be different; a lesson for all of us. (*Did we say that we can learn*



a lot from our children's books?!).

The words and the illustrations empower our young ones to

be true, right, and proud of it!

These and other recommended books can be found in our parent library, or with one of our teachers.

Recommended Reading:

Grandpa Green

By Lane Smith

A recent award-winner book that follows a great-grandson through a garden of memories about his great grandfather, a horticulturist.



The illustrations are natural greenery clipped into wonderful shapes depicting his memories. A great book exploring the

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