



**Bright Beginnings
Child Development
Center**

KID'S TRIBUNE

February 2010

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,

2009 is in the rear view mirror and 2010 is off with a bang! The new year is a time for new goals, new plans and new dreams - Bright Beginnings is no exception!

This year, we will continue to strive to improve every aspect of our program - from the quality of our teaching to the quality of our facilities.

With that said, we recognize that we are not perfect, so we welcome your input in our program at any time. For we agree with the African proverb that "It takes a village to raise a child."

Cold Weather

Regardless of what the groundhog may see on February 2nd, Springtime weather certainly has not yet arrived. Daily exercise is a critical part of our curriculum, so we ask that you be mindful of the fact that the children will go outside on most days for a period of time. Please be sure to provide your child with a heavy coat, a hat or hood and gloves.

Bright Beginnings After Dark

With Valentine's Day approaching, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that the Bright Beginnings Saturday evening drop-off program is still in existence.

Bright Beginnings After Dark is a service we make available to any parents who need trusted, reliable childcare on Saturday evenings. The program is held in our trackout building from 6pm to 12am and we provide dinner (at 6:30pm), movies, games and a snack.

The flat fee for the drop-off care is \$35 for the first child and \$20 for each additional sibling. If you are interested, please reserve your spot by the Thursday prior to your outing.

Adventures Unlimited

If you have a school-age child who needs fun, yet educational care during his/her trackout breaks,

you cannot beat Adventures Unlimited.

For just \$150 a week, campers participate in a variety of themed activities, field trips and games. Not to mention the fact that lunch is included, as well!

We also welcome students from traditional schools for care during teacher work-days and holidays.

Notable Dates:

**Feb. 12, 2010-
Valentine's Day Party**



Annual \$75 Registration Fee is Due. Please leave your payment with the front office if you have not already paid.

Classrooms — What's Goin' On?

Want to know what's planned for February in your child's classroom? Take a look below:

INFANTS	
February Theme	Using My Hands
Key Activities in February	Hands & Shapes
Welcome New Student (s)!	None
February Birthdays!	None
TODDLER 1	
February Theme	Favorite Toys
Key Activities in February	Playing w/ balls, Telling stories w/ puppets, Fun w/ paint, bubbles & goop, Building & stacking blocks
Welcome New Student (s)!	JYREEK HAYES
February Birthdays!	SEBASTIAN TATE, RILEY THOMPSON
TODDLER 2/PRESCHOOL 1	
February Theme	Valentine's Day, Favorite Toys, Favorite Foods
Key Activities in February	Valentine's Cards, Collecting Pictures of favorite toys & food
Welcome New Student (s)!	OWEN MILLER, YOLANDA BRIDGES
February Birthdays!	None
PRESCHOOL 2	
February Themes	Circus, Valentine's Day, America, Patriots, Health & Hygiene
Key Activities in February	Following classroom routines, writing letters
Welcome New Student (s)!	None
February Birthdays!	AAYUSH KORADIA, JODYAH DANCY
KINDERPREP 1	
February Themes	Valentine's Day, Circus, Letters V and K
Key Activities in February	Valentine Necklace, Clown hats, Elephant Ears
Welcome New Student (s)!	EMILY WHELAN, AUSTIN CIRIAGO
February Birthdays!	DEVANTE HARRIS

Classrooms (cont'd)

KINDERPREP 2	
February Theme	Helpers in our community
Key Activities in February	Community duties, writing & mailing letters, graphing, friendship card exchange
Welcome New Student (s)!	None
February Birthdays!	RUTH JUAREZ-VILLATORO, MAGGIE WEISMAN
KINDERPREP 3	
February Themes	Community (pet store, post office, grocery store, library)
Key Activities in February	Writing & mailing letters, sorting, retelling stories
Welcome New Student (s)!	None
February Birthdays!	None

With the holiday season upon us, we thought it would be appropriate to share the following article about thankfulness.

Teaching Thankfulness - A Holiday Gift for Children, by Brenda Nixon

Some of the first words you teach your tot are "thank you." And throughout their young life children need prompts like, "What do you say to Aunt Becky?" Hopefully, over time, their response becomes automatic. But parents need to continue teaching an attitude of thanks even as children grow into teenagers. As you celebrate this busy holiday season, utilize every moment as an opportunity to nurture thankfulness in your child. Here are free and simple ways to incorporate it into your daily lifestyle:

Live the Lesson It has been said that we're always teaching - sometimes we use words. Remembering to say "thank you" is proper. However, your child is watching you: the first and most influential teacher! So be sure to live a life of gratitude. When you model thankfulness, then your child will absorb that teaching.

Notice Nature Encourage your child to appreciate the inspiration that surrounds her. Marvel at the power of the wind, the

immensity of the ocean, the perfection of a snowflake, the endless night sky or the rugged beauty of a mountain range. I've reminded my girls of the saying of Goethe, "Nature is the living, visible garment of God."

Convert Attitude into Action A small gesture, such as a smile, can lighten the day of the waitress who hands your youngster a glass of milk. A hug for your child's teacher is another attitude action. When she empties the dishwasher, remind your daughter that this is her action of appreciation for home and food even if she doesn't think so at the time. Thankfulness can also be expressed through homemade goodies. To show appreciation for their classroom teachers, my girls and I made little holiday gifts for them. What ways can you convert your thoughts into action this season?

Discover Dictionary Descriptions Although we have our own words to explain thankfulness, it helps to see new definitions. Go to your public library and see what dictionaries say about the word. I like what *Webster's Dictionary* says about thankfulness, "Impressed with a sense of kindness received." This definition takes the focus off material possessions and puts it on the giver.

Gather Great Quotes My research for this article took me to Web sites that offer all types of quotes. A humorous one about thanks comes from Woody Allen: "I am thankful for laughter, except when milk comes out of my nose." Have fun with your child as you gather quotes about thankfulness.

Contrast Your Family with Folks Less Fortunate Help her see that there are those in your community who aren't as blessed: families without homes, people who are sad or lonely or those who must go to food kitchens to eat. When my daughters were young, one of our family traditions was to serve a meal to the homeless. Every Thanksgiving, my husband, two girls and I spent an evening at a rescue mission. After seeing hungry faces accepting a plate of food, my daughters heartily appreciated going home to their safe, cozy bedrooms. But they also learned about thankfulness when they saw and heard expressions of gratitude from those receiving the meal.

Make a Medley of Thankfulness Grab a pile of old magazines. Encourage your child to look through the pages and cut out pictures of things she is thankful for. Glue these on one page, overlapping pictures. Soon she'll have a visual reminder of the many blessings in her life.

Pen a Poem of Thankfulness Together, with your child, write words that rhyme with thanks, gratitude or thankful. See how many you can come up with. At any age, this can be a fun, language-learning exercise that stretches the imagination.

Practice Gratitude Permanently Showing thanks and appreciation does not end with the season. Help your child write thank you notes for her Christmas gifts. Preschoolers can dictate their gratitude as you write, or they can draw a picture of appreciation to give to their gift-giver. Also, find opportunities during the upcoming year to reinforce your lesson.



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