

The Child Care Center in Norwich



March 2019

Brain Builders

The first years are the most crucial to a child's healthy development. During this period, one million new brain connections form every second, laying a foundation for social-emotional development, learning and skill-building. While a child's genes provide the blueprint for these connections, early experiences influence brain development. Connections that are used are strengthened, while those that aren't stimulated are lost through a natural process called pruning. This means that helping our children build strong brains means giving them stimulating learning opportunities and nurturing, responsive relationships—from day one.

- Let's Grow Kids

Classroom Updates

Nursery



In the Nursery books have been particularly popular lately. Choosing books to be read and to be looked at independently has become the pre-naptime routine. Our gross motor activities have included pushing and zooming cars and trucks, throwing and chasing balls and running in line in the “runway” area of the Nursery. We have also been using the musical instruments, marching and spinning and hopping and jumping to music. During mealtimes we are practicing using utensils. We have also been using markers and discovering stamp art. To the degree possible, it would make mealtimes easier if you would cut up the foods that you put in your child’s lunch. Happy Birthday to Zephyr and Felix, who both turn two in March, and a correction on Iona’s birthday, she turned one on February 17th.

Karla, Cindy, & Tom



Orange Room

One of the good things about all this snow is that we have seen lots of footprints in the snow outside by the birdfeeder. We’ve noticed lots of squirrel tracks and lots of bird tracks. One of the books we’re reading, Animal Tracks, shows us how you can identify the animal by its footprints. It is also possible to tell which direction it was going and maybe even how fast it was going. We may try to make some of our own “footprints”. Now that spring is getting closer, we are hoping to see some different birds at our bird feeders. The goldfinches will be turning bright yellow soon. Dinos still reign supreme in the Orange Room. If there’s anything you want to know about dinosaurs, ask Charlie, our budding paleontologist! We have managed to go outside more with the weather being a little bit warmer. Spring will come!

Karen



Red Room

Hello March! We are excited that spring is around the corner. (Hopefully). The Red Roomers have been very busy using their creative side, expressing themselves through art. We have enjoyed painting, gluing and playing in goop. We have lots of new art work up around the classroom. We have also enjoyed many dance parties and are learning new songs such as Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear and Where is Thumbkin. Just a reminder that two-year-olds easily choke on things like whole grapes and hard foods like peanuts and raw carrots. Those items should not come in children's lunches. We have three birthdays this month, we would like to wish Everett, Theo and Jingzhi a very happy third birthday. Anna will be leaving the Red Room on March 8th, we would like to wish her family the best of luck on their new adventures in Seattle.

Thank you!

Julie



Yellow Room

Team Yellow has been working on team building activities! Playing cooperative games is a fun way to emphasize working together. *Hoot Owl Hoot* is a small group game where children take turns moving the baby owls through the colorful game board to get to the nest before sunrise. Turn taking and cooperative play is in full swing. Another fun board game is *Orchard*. Children work together to set up the fruit trees in the orchard. Once all the fruit is set up, children take turns rolling the giant dice hoping to fill up their baskets with fruit while building a bird puzzle that is woven into the game objective. There has been lots of interest in journal time and exploration with a variety of writing and drawing materials. Colored pencils, crayons, markers and scissors, along with lots and lots of paint and watercolor fun. A new addition has been do-a-dot art! Friendship reading has really blossomed and is a great time for emergent reading skills to flower. New transportation vehicles in the sensory table has been a big hit. We continue to try to get outside every chance we get. Sledding has been great and the Red Room playground has been a lovely spot in the morning where the sun shines on all those rosy cheeks and pink noses. Sending big bright happy birthday wishes to Orla, who turns four on March 31st!

Jodie & Mia

Blue Room



This month sure flew by! We've been reading a lot of books about the solar system, doing puzzles and discussing the planets. It's been very exciting to observe how excited the children have been to create the "papier mâché" planets that are starting to adorn the room. The children have all enjoyed getting into the process of building from beginning to end. First, creating painted, colorful, richly textured, planet paper, to smushing newspapers together to shape the planets and, finally, to applying torn up planet paper with glue and paintbrushes to the planets themselves. The looks of wonderment, joy and excitement on their faces through each process has been very rewarding to watch. With the month of March upon us, we are looking forward to longer days of sunlight, and, hopefully, warmer weather. We are brainstorming as a group what we'd like to be doing, experiencing and learning about in the Blue Room. It's fun to hear all the ideas flow from our creative, young thinkers. Very soon, Tuesday, March 5th, we will be saying bye to our friend Polizer, he will be gone for two whole months while he visits his homeland, China, with his family. We will miss his lively energy and infectious smile. Thankfully he has agreed to keep us posted from time to time about his activities while he is there. Just a reminder, keep bringing in water bottles, sweaters or sweatshirts for layering and weather appropriate changes of clothes for any unforeseen need that might arise.

Thank you! Olivia & Yolanda



AfterSchool

K-1 - Though we may all be growing tired of snow, it has been a great winter for sledding! Sliding and spinning and then running back up our little hill is just the thing after a long day at school. We have recently been co-inventing a game called K-1 Moves, aiming to find fun ways to blow off steam on days when the weather outside is frightful. Ask your child to show you how to do a Superman or an Inchworm! and let us know if you have new moves to share. Mary

After school 2 – 6 - Hello everyone! All of the after schoolers have been embracing the colder weather February brought. It has been wonderful to see—when weather permits—all the kids running around and having so much fun. The past couple of days have had us thinking about spring and the warm weather it brings. Sadly Whaleback Wednesdays are coming to an end but we are also excited to have our full group back on Wednesdays. Last but not least, the creativity has not stopped in the art room. Everyday the kids find new ways to use the materials. One of our favorites is when they make new clothes for us out of tissue paper, stickers, and glitter! Bill and Kate