



Barlina House Preschool



CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

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Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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Mrs. Anita, Mrs. G. and Mrs. Nicol Tuesday/Thursday Classes

News From the Director, Cathy Kuntz

Spring is finally arriving this month. We hope for continuous nice weather and outdoor play. It still takes us a long time to get dressed for outdoors, and we continue to encourage and have the children do as much as possible independently. We find that mittens are much easier than gloves for the children to put on by themselves.

Plans for March include working on more cognitive skills including sizing, counting and 1 to 1 correspondence.

The children are really doing well with their cutting and are also getting much better at tracing their names. We will soon start having the children try to write their names themselves. The children are also still working on identifying their last names using our helper boxes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at your convenience. If you have not registered for preschool starting in the fall, registration is now open. If you want a specific time or class, signing up early will secure your spot.

The children and teachers are all hoping for warmer weather this month so we can have more time for outside play. Outdoor play is purposefully included in our day for motor skills, cooperation, socialization and fresh air. Also, with the challenges of dressing for our climate during the winter months, self-help skills are learned. There is a feeling of freedom in outdoor play, being able to run and shout and play hard, that allows children to test their strength and independence in a way that is difficult to do indoors. Perhaps that is why an hour spent playing outside in fresh air so often results in children who will later play more contentedly indoors. In fact, children who frequently miss outdoor playtime may also be missing out on its physical and educational benefits. If the temperature is above 20 degrees, we will take the children outside; please continue to send proper outer wear so your child can enjoy their outdoor time.

We all enjoyed our library field trips last month. The library employees, in the youth section, did a wonderful job providing a tour, reading stories and singing songs. After all that there was still time for the children to do puzzles, look at books and play quietly. Our thanks to all the parents for your cooperation in providing drop off and pick up at the library.

This month, we will be going on another field trip. We will all meet at Grand Oaks Recreation Center for a fun-filled day of sports activities. Drop off and pick up will be at the recreation center (regular class times). More information regarding this field trip will be sent home with your child.

Don't forget to register for our Bedtime Stories on March 16th and April 4th. Cost is \$5.00/child and open to all preschool aged children. Other Park District activities include a Mom/Son Luau on March 10th or 11th and Breakfast with the Bunny on April 1st or 8th. These activities and more are listed on the Park District Website (crystallakeparks.org) and also in the Winter/Spring Brochure.

Barlina House will be closed during the last week of March for Spring Break. Classes will resume on Monday, April 3rd.