



Barlina House Preschool



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Mrs. Donna and Mrs. Tracey
Monday, Wednesday, Friday Class

News From the Director,
Cathy Kuntz

Can you believe it is March already? The time is going by so fast. The children are doing so well, and we are very proud of them. They are very confident in class and help each other all the time. We also enjoy listening to their interesting conversations.

We will complete our alphabet letters by the end of this month. Once we complete the letters, we will begin working on a number book. The number books will be sent home at the end of the school year. We will be practicing writing and recognizing numbers from one to twenty. Our calendar time helps with number recognition and placement. Everyone gets a turn being the teacher's helper, which involves helping with the calendar and weather information. This is a very important job.

I hope all the children enjoyed our space unit. Everyone chose a planet to create and painted the planet using marbles. We ended up with some great looking planets. In addition, we all worked on a floor puzzle that shows all the planets of the solar system. When we were done, everyone was able to pick a planet that they liked the best.

Our dinosaur unit will be for two weeks because the children love to learn about these creatures. You will be seeing all the fun things we will be creating. Everyone will create their own dinosaur using recycled materials and will also make papier-mâché eggs with a tiny dinosaur enclosed. This is always a bit messy to do but lots of fun.

We will also be traveling around the United States and planning our spring break. Using a map, each child will pick a state, and we will learn something interesting about that state. This will be informative and fun.

Thanks again for allowing us to teach your wonderful children and be a part of their lives. Enjoy.

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.