

Growing Green CDC
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Owners

Todd and Lynn Troha

Director

Annette Richter

Office Manager

Kris Kahl

Administrative Assistant

Mary Disney

Cook

Stephanie Gibbs

Room 1

Bryanna Burcham-Lead

Joan Wren-Closer

Room 2

Ewa Krzeminska-Lead

Room 3

Shawna Pennock-Lead

Sherrill Sprague-Assistant

Liz Hansen-closer

Room 4

Halya Boes-Lead

Room 5

Laurie Ann Zimmerman-Lead

Lori Jensen-Closer

Room 6

Miranda Hill-4

Janet Kortright-Lead (GG)

Marilynn Schnuckel-Opener

Kayla Sellman-Closer

Room 7/School-Age

Lauren Bloom-Lead

Emily Piasecki-Assistant

Dede Jurgens-Opener

Floater

Justine Bloxdorf

Amy Johnson

Renisha Light

Ashley Moore

Haley Stefani

Andrew Thompson

Growing Green Child Development Center

Parent Newsletter for February 2016

Voted the Best Childcare Center in Kenosha for 2012/2014/2015
Voted Best preschool for 2014/2015
NAC accredited/5 Star center



Hip-Hip Hurray for Stone Soup!

Note from the Director/Annette Richter

Dear Parents:

January is over! We are working our way, day by day, towards spring! I know we still have cold and snowy days to contend with. This means to keep on sending your child with waterproof gloves, snow pants, boots, warm coat and a hat!

I also need parents to remember to send cot sheets and blankets every Monday. Children prefer to use their own naptime things. Also, we have provisions for a few children, but not the majority of the center. Thank you in advance for this!

It is hard to believe, but we are starting to prepare for our 4K class for the fall. I have information in the newsletter on a parent meeting that will go over the two options available at Growing Green. Any child who turns 4 before or on September 1, 2016 will be eligible to be in one of the classrooms. I sent invitations to all the children, but if you didn't get one, please come and see me.

Did you know that I am writing a weekly post for our Facebook page on Friday? So many things happen between monthly newsletters that I felt weekly posts would be beneficial. Let me know if you like them!

Annette

Wisconsin Early Learning Standards

The Intended Use for WELS:

- Improve the quality of all early-learning environments
- Guide professional development activities and investments
- Inform educators and caregivers in their decisions regarding approaches to curriculum development across all early learning environments

WELS is designed to reflect:

- A developmental sequence of abilities demonstrated by typically developing children between the ages of birth to first grade
- Expectations for the critical knowledge and skills that children learn during the early years

WELS domains are presented as:

- As integrated knowledge and skills
- As interconnected domains; the development of skills in one area is related to and influences development in other areas

WELS developmental continuum:

- Shows how the skills and knowledge demonstrated at very early ages provide the foundation for more complex skills at a later age

2016 4 year old Kindergarten Meeting

Who should attend: Any parents with children who will be four on or before September 1, 2016 and want information on options at Growing Green for 4 year old kindergarten!

Time: 6:45 pm

Date: February 24th/Wednesday

Place: Room 6 at Growing Green

Information covered:

- Eligibility requirements for the collaborative classroom with the Kenosha Unified School district
- Differences between the KUSD 4K program and the Growing Green 4K program

The Importance of Preschool

"There's increasing evidence that children gain a lot from going to preschool," says *Parents* advisor Kathleen McCartney, PhD, dean of Harvard Graduate School of Education, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "At preschool, they become exposed to numbers, letters, and shapes. And, more important, they learn how to socialize -- get along with other children, share, and contribute to circle time. Children who attend high-quality preschool enter kindergarten with better pre-reading skills, richer vocabularies, and stronger basic math skills than those who do not," says NIEER director W. Steven Barnett, PhD. "Every child should have some sort of group experience before he starts kindergarten," says Amy Flynn, director of New York City's Bank Street Family Center. Music and gymnastics classes are great, but what preschools do that less formal classes don't is teach kids how to be students. Your child will learn how to raise her hand, take turns, and share the teacher's attention. What's more, she'll learn how to separate from Mommy, who often stays in a music or gym class. All of this makes for an easier transition to kindergarten. (*Parents Magazine*/February 2007)

Tuition Express Withdrawals 2016



February 1 st	May 9 th	September 12 th
February 15 th	May 23 rd	September 26 th
February 29 th	June 6 th	October 10 th
March 14 th	June 20 th	October 24 th
March 28 th	July 4 th	November 7 th
April 11 th	July 18 th	November 21 st
April 25 th	August 1 st	December 5 th
	August 15 th	December 19 th
	August 29 th	



Growing Green Healthy Snacks

Mini Banana Split



Ingredients

- Scoop of strawberry yogurt**
- Slices of bananas**
- Scoop of mashed strawberries**
- Slices of strawberries.**
- Scoop of vanilla yogurt.**
- More sliced bananas and strawberries**
- Melted chocolate**

Directions

Use silicone liners rather than paper. Then stick in the freezer!

After 2 hours, they were the perfect texture to take a bite out of it (not too solid, and not too mushy). If you freeze longer, leave them out on the counter or in the fridge until they are “bite-able”.

If you would like your child to receive a fever reducer at GG, you can sign an authorization good for 1 month. If after receiving the meds, the child's fever is lowered, they can remain in care. Their temperature must be under 101degrees.

ESTABLISHING HEALTHY EATING HABITS

Parents' Influence on Children's Eating Habits

As a parent, you play an important role in shaping your children's eating habits. You have a big influence over the family environment where meals take place and the types of foods your children eat. Positive experiences about food early on may help your children develop healthy eating habits later in life.

Creating a positive eating environment

Family meals take place in the home (or the “eating environment”). This eating environment can have a positive or negative impact on your children's eating habits. Here are a few tips to help you create a positive eating environment for your children.

Have regular meal and snack times

Having regular meal and snack times every day creates a healthy routine. If your children eat whenever they feel like it, they may not be hungry when it's time for a scheduled meal or snack. They may also overeat during the day.

Eat together as a family

Children who eat meals with their family tend to eat healthier foods like fruits, vegetables and whole grains. They are also at lower risk for becoming overweight. However, children who eat in front of the TV tend to make poorer food choices. Eating meals in front of the TV should be avoided as this can lead to overeating and a higher risk of childhood obesity.

Avoid pressuring your children to eat

Insisting that your children eat certain foods may actually cause them to eat less. As a parent, you are responsible for providing healthy food choices to your children. Your children should be allowed to decide how much to eat based on how hungry they feel.

Make healthy foods the usual choice

Choose foods such as vegetables, fruit, whole grain products, low fat dairy products, lean meats, legumes, eggs and fish. When children see you eating these foods, they are more likely to as well.

February Thematic Units

Week of February 1st: Teeth/Dentists

Week of February 8th: Hearts/the color red

Week of February 15th: Presidents

Week of February 22nd: Dr. Seuss

Week of February 29th: Teacher's Choice



The cutest children in the world are at Growing Green!



Ben and Jasper draw during naptime!



Jace, also known as Spider Man, works on his fine motor skills during Train week!



Ariana enjoys painting with a carrot!



Star War's Fever is raging in room 6!



One of our master builders, Lucas, shows off his latest creation!



Dylan is assembling a yummy graham cracker train!