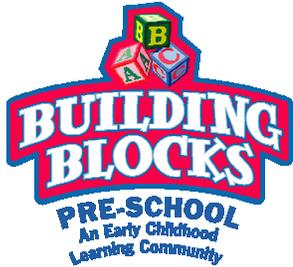


Building Blocks Chronicle

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2010

BUILDING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL—AN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING COMMUNITY



“Spontaneous Play is a developmental progression in which the child adds new, more complex understandings about the world at each stage”

- Arthur Erikson

Director's Notes

This September with a heavy heart I watched our children enter Kindergarten (including my own daughter) to embark on a new adventure!

For all us at birth, it seems like sending our children to kindergarten is in the distant future. As we held our tiny babies we could not even really imagine them as a five year old wearing a backpack waving goodbye as they step onto the school bus. Despite my best efforts, my daughter's first day of kindergarten was tinged with sadness – after all, my baby grew up so fast.

While experiencing feelings from pride to sadness to disbelief I reflected upon the dedication of the Building Blocks Teaching staff to ensure that these children are not only successful during this transition to Kindergarten

but throughout their educational journey.

Thank you to all the Teaching Staff at Building Blocks Preschool for giving all our children (mine included) the best start possible!

Emily Senese

Emily Senese
Director



No Child Left Inside Summit - Sunday, September 26

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Heavner Nature Connections presents the 2nd Annual No Child Left Inside Summit on Sunday, September 26 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Kensington Metro Park Farm Center.

Families are invited to participate in this one of kind No Child Left Inside Play Date. You can

enjoy the farm center, canoeing on Kent Lake, a nature walk along the Huron River, a hayride, storytelling, kids crafts, cider, donuts, and apples. What a great way to spend a fall Sunday afternoon outside together as a family!

Coat is \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per family (up to 4 people) additional family members are \$5.00 per person. Go to www.huronvalleyrec.com to register or pay the day of the event. For questions call 248-

676-8389.

Building Blocks Preschool has been actively involved with Heavner Nature Connections for the past three years and is sponsoring the Kids Crafts along with Got Play?

We would love to see the families of Building Blocks at this event!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the kid's craft activity please contact Ms. Suzanne or Ms. Emily.

Our Staff

Ms. Suzanne - Owner / Executive Director

Ms. Emily - Director

Ms. Jen - Lead Full-Day Preschool Teacher

Ms. Jennifer - Full-Day Preschool Teacher

Ms. Leah - Infant/Toddler Teacher

Ms. Wendy - Infant and Young Toddler Teacher

Ms. Janet - Older Toddler Teacher

Ms. Melissa - Infant/Toddler and Preschool Teachers Aide

Ms. Andrea - School Age Summer Camp Teacher

Ms. Allison - Morning Traditional Preschool, Preschool Enrichment Workshop, and Community Storytime Teacher

Program Information

Snack menu's are posted and it is your responsibility to provide snack for your child's class on your assigned day. If snack is not provided during the month a \$10.00 snack fee will be charged to your account.

If you love us, please refer us! Current families will receive **\$100.00 REFERRAL BONUSES** for families that are referred to our program and enrolled for over

4 weeks. It's our way of saying Thank you!!!!

When dropping off and picking up your child please **park your vehicle** along the fence that outlines the parking lot. It is a fire hazard to park elsewhere.

Remember to press the **FINISHED button** on the computer screen when checking in and out your child daily.

Label your child's coats,

hats, and mittens with their first name or initials.

Check the **lost and found** shelf for lost of missing items. Lost and found items are kept on the porch in a cubbie labeled Lost and Found.

Please **label** Sippy cups and containers brought in for breakfast so we can ensure they make it back to the correct family.

Upcoming Dates

No Child Left Inside Summit - Sunday, September 26 - Mark your calendars for this event at Kensington Metro Park brought to you by Heavner Nature Connections. Building Blocks will have booth at this event!

Building Blocks CLOSED - Friday, October 1 for a Teacher In-Service Day. All staff will attend the Reggio

Emilia workshop hosted by Julianne Wurm at the Highland Library.

Fall Field Trip to Spicer Orchards on Wednesday, October 13 - Parent Volunteer drivers are needed for this special field trip. Full-Day and Traditional Morning Preschool Programs as well as the Toddlers will be going on this field trip. Please notify Ms. Emily if you

can provide transportation.

Fall Harvest Festival on Friday, October 6:00 p.m. - All past and current Building Blocks Families are invited to join in the fun!



Fall Harvest Festival at Building Blocks - Friday, October 22 6:00 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE

Please join us on Friday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m. for the Building Blocks Preschool Fall Harvest Family Festival! Children dress in costume and enjoy trick-or-treating with their

teachers. Activities, games, and food for the whole family. Extended family and friends are invited to join us!

Lack of Spontaneous Play in a Structured Lifestyle

As we settle into the routines of the “school year” we lose the care-free spirit of summer and jump full speed into a more structured lifestyle that leaves less room for spontaneous play both indoors and outdoors.

Unstructured play in lives of children in today's world is threatened. Many preschool children are being enrolled in classes such as ballet, soccer, computer, karate, etc. Many preschool programs are providing toys, games and activities that do not support opportunities for exploration and experimentation. There seems to be a radial disappearance of children's games and activities developed from their own experiences. We must stop this trend before play becomes extinct.

Some of the Barriers to children's spontaneous play include:

- Lack of opportunity to get dirty
- Lack of time
- Lack of suitable space and real materials
- Lack of opportunity for mixed age group play
- Lack of opportunity for boisterous play
- Lack of child's choice

So why is PLAY so important? Here are some common denominators that reveal the essence of play:

- Children learn about cause and effect (through pouring, dumping and sifting)
- Children learn to get along with others (though building together, moving and pulling objects together)
- Children learn to use imagination (using found materials, like pine cones, sticks, small pieces of

wood)

- Children learn mathematical and engineering skills (building roads and villages, playing hopscotch)
- Children learn therapeutic skills (caring for others who need health care, worried when a child falls “dead”)
- Children learn control (deciding who goes first?, who is the leader?, who is the follower?)
- Children learn language (telling stories that have been made up, communicating their thoughts and ideas about what must happen next)

Spontaneous play is initiated and controlled by children, not adults. We can adults must protect this right.

For more information and to get involved locally visit www.gotplay.me



www.gotplay.me

Got PLAY? is a grassroots organization promoting new thoughts and ideas showing PLAY as an essential parenting tool to rekindle a sense of self with your child.

Our mission is to teach, restore and advocate that PLAY is essential to all human life.

Two words. One voice.

Got PLAY? Use it fearlessly

**BUILDING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL—
AN EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEARNING COMMUNITY**

340 Harvey Lake Road
Highland, MI 48356
Phone: 248-889-2727

www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com



Become a Fan

Building Blocks Preschool- An Early
Childhood Learning Community

happy birthday

Max ~ September 2

Ms. Jennifer ~ September 12

Bailey ~ September 22

Ms. Leah ~ September 23

Carlie ~ September 23

Reggio Emilia Reflections

Reggio Emilia Parent Talk with Julianne Wurm

On Friday, October 1 Building Blocks Preschool is hosting a parent workshop at the Highland Township Library.

Julianne Wurm author of Working in the Reggio Way: An Beginners Guide for American Teachers is presenting an introductory workshop for parents in conjunction with her two-day workshop for educators.

The Parent Talk with Julianne will educate parents and community members about the endless benefits for young children and their families through the Reggio Emilia Approach. Her book helps early childhood educators bring the reflective, high-quality practices of the Italian Reggio Emilia Approach to American Teachers. This world-renown philosophy is

recognized as the best model of teaching young children.

The Early Care and Education Programs at Building Blocks Preschool are inspired by this approach. Participants in the two-day educator workshop on October 1 & 2 will tour our school as part of the workshop!

The Parent Talk is on October 1 from 5:00-6:30 at the Highland Township Library. Child care will be provided by Building Blocks at the library during the time of the workshop. Register for the workshop and childcare by calling the youth department at the library at 248.887.2218 ext. 4

Please invite your friends and family for this wonderful opportunity.

****All Parents in our community are welcome to come.****

