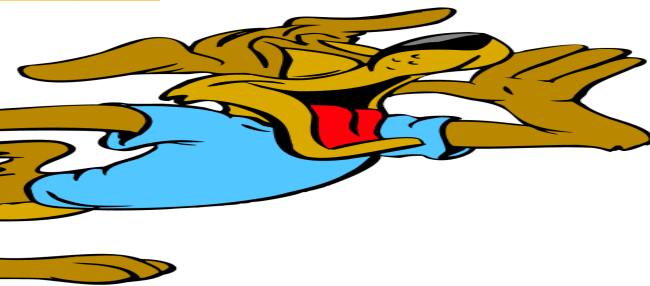


THE FRUIT BASKET



UPCOMING EVENTS

- WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD
(April 23-27, 2012)



From the Front Desk



On behalf of The Clay Center, we would like to welcome everyone back to *THE FRUIT BASKET*.

We cannot stress the importance of signing your child in **AND** out. Those records are needed for safety and Accounting purposes. We take sign-in sheets on emergency drills and use them to document food service so the importance of having legible sign-in sheets is paramount.

Also, please remember tuition is to be paid **PRIOR** to services. Tuition should be paid the Friday before the following week starts, or the Monday of the service week. If you choose to pay monthly, tuition is due the week prior to the month's beginning.

If your tuition is not at a ZERO balance by the 5th of every month, you will be charged at \$15.00 late fee.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



The Clay Center "family" has welcomed two new teachers this year. Ms. Megan Syron, lead teacher for the Cheerful Cherries (toddlers) and Ms. Adrienne Reed, lead teacher for the Sunshine Avocados (infants) joined our staff in January and February, respectively. Joining our staff of part-time teacher assistants were Mr. Don Hutcherson (pre-k) and Ms. Fronshone Adams (infants). As always, we welcomed a new group of student assistants who are demonstrating great potential as future early childhood and elementary education teachers.

Assessment seems to be a major focus for the first quarter of this year. The Center was visited by the NAEYC assessor January 18-19 and awaiting accreditation results; OPEN Initiative has scheduled an assessment visit in March; a Child Day Care Association (CDCA) consultant will be completing the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) on the two rooms with Head Start children in March; and several classrooms were visited by the Director of Grant Management Services from ARCHS in February. We welcome those who can make positive suggestions and recommendations for quality improvement.

February 14-15, HSSU faculty, staff, students, Clay Center grandparents, and community residents spent hours reading to the children in observance of "African-American Read In". Books authored by African-Americans were enjoyed by children, 3 months to 5 years.

This promises to be an engaging year for families, children, and staff. The Clay Center has enjoyed a wonderful "New Year" beginning and look forward to exciting months ahead.

WONDERFUL WATERMELONS



This month the Wonderful Watermelons will be focusing on our 5 senses. Each week we will be focusing on one of the senses in order to familiarize your child with each sense.

We will be doing a lot of sensory activities to make this project interesting for our infants. If the time is available, you are more than welcome to sit in the classroom and explore with us during this period.

PURPLE GRAPES



We are now calling ourselves the "grapes" and we are a very happy "bunch". For the Month of March, we are going to explore music and rhythm. Your child will be introduced to Spring songs, books, and music.

The older infants will be given the opportunity to play various baby friendly instruments. We are very excited about springing into things. You are more than welcome to join us as we celebrate the Month of March.

LOVELY LEMONS



This month the Lovely Lemons are learning about NUMBERS! We are working on saying the numbers 1, 2, and 3 in English, Spanish, and German!

We are also reviewing our A, B, Cs! We learned to sign A, B, and C and we are beginning to recognize them. Lastly, we are learning the signs for "MORE" "EAT" and "ALL DONE." We have pretty much mastered these signs so we will continue expanding our signing.

TODDLER TOMATOES



We are currently calling ourselves, "The All Girls Club," since there are no boys in our classroom at this time. We are just wrapping up what turned out to be an interesting theme, "*Baby...It's Cold Outside.*" Such a theme encouraged the children to explore the winter season and included science projects for toddlers like creating our own snow and experimenting with ice. We will soon be getting ready for "All things Spring". Time is going by so fast as we can easily see in our growing toddlers.

Audra will be transitioning in a couple of weeks and soon after, her best friend Karmen. Many agree that this transition may be harder on Ms. Sarah than the girls...though we are excited to watch them blossom and become a part of the two year old world. As always, we welcome you to visit our Tomatoes Classroom for reading, playing and sharing hugs!

CLAY CENTER BIRTHDAYS



Audra Davis 3/16

Cole Dozier 3/4

Susan Pinex 3/9

Owen Sackson 3/16

Matthias Thompson 3/17



CHEERFUL CHEERIES



During March, the Cheerful Cherries will be learning about the letters A, B, C, and the numbers 1-5. The children will be saying and signing each letter every day. The Cheerful Cherries will also be introduced to counting in Spanish.

Art Activities include sponge art with letters and numbers. We will also be painting four leaf clovers for St. Patrick's Day on March 17th.

Cheerful Cherries love to sing, dance, and be silly.

BUSY BANANAS



The Busy Bananas have been working on the alphabet. We are busy learning the sound of each letter and we enjoy learning new songs about each letter. We are constantly working on shapes and colors and the children enjoy playing a shape game that was created by our very own teacher assistant Ms. Mary. We are practicing while playing in the classroom and we are learning how to walk quietly in the hallway.

I am proud to say that the majority of our children are working hard to become potty trained. We often motivate the children by singing potty training songs and praising the children when they use the potty like a "big girl/boy". Feel free to join us while we are learning, playing, and making friends each day.



**WOODY'S WORLD
(SAFETY TIPS)**

STAY ALERT!!

STAY ALIVE!!

**BE AWARE OF YOUR
SURROUNDINGS AT ALL
TIMES!!**



HAPPY PINEAPPLES



The Happy Pineapples have learned how to count up to the number 10 in the Arabic Language.

They are now preparing to learn how to sing in Arabic in celebration of the time children will move to kindergarten/

We welcome and encourage you to visit the Happy Pineapples for reading, learning, and laughs.

COOL KIWIS



For the Month of March, the Cool Kiwis will be learning about transportation and sports. We will also have some conversation about on St. Patrick's Day.

Our letters of the month are V, W, X, Y, and Z.

The Kiwis have also been practicing their Spanish skills.

We welcome and encourage you to visit the Cool Kiwis.

ASSORTED APPLES



March 5th-9th

Assorted Apples will be working on feelings

March 12th-16th

Assorted Apples will be working on St. Patrick's Day/Good Manners

March 19th-23rd

Assorted Apples will be working on rocks, minerals and fossils

March 26th-30rd

Assorted Apples will be working on all things "Spring"