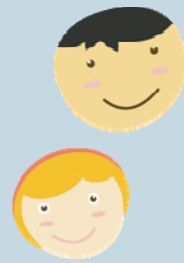


# From the Director

Dr. Patricia Johnson



March  
2010  
Issue 01

# The Fruit Basket

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center

Greetings:

On February 26, 2010, the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center celebrated its six-month anniversary. We are happy to report the enrollment/admission of 51 happy, healthy little ones to date. There has been an overwhelming demand for infant services, so a toddler room has been converted to a new infant room, licensed for eight, and already there is a waiting list.

The center is a lab school for the Early Childhood Education majors, and we are pleased that six student teachers are spending 10 weeks with us this semester. Ten Teacher Education practicum students are enjoying their work applying practice to the theory being learned in Early Childhood courses.

The dads and granddads conducted their first meeting in late February to organize a Fathers' Council. They shared wonderful ideas geared toward becoming more involved in the center and coming together as a group to network for the purpose of getting to know each other better. Head Start parents also conducted their first meeting in late February. Plans for the center's Advisory Council have not been abandoned but are on hold until the Missouri State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) teams have completed their campus visit.

The children and staff extend sincere appreciation to members of the Daughters of the Dust Book Club for starting a book drive for the center. These ladies, many retired educators, purchased more than \$600 worth of books for the children's Learning Lab. The children showed their love by making Valentine's Day cards and sharing chocolate kisses and hugs with each of the ladies.

Collaborations with ARCHS, the Child Day Care Association, Washington University and the YWCA Head Start program continue to support and strengthen our program foci.

Plans are being developed for a summer institute for children ages 6 to 12 years. The institute will promote literacy, science and math while keeping children safe and well nourished. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to take advantage of the summer institute, please contact us.

Dr. "J"  
Director



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## The Busy Bananas

Mr. Herman

The Bananas are BUSY, BUSY, BUSY! We are patiently working on sharing and using soft touches with our friends. February kept us inside, but March is bringing warmer weather with more opportunities to get outside. The children are excited about the possibility of enjoying the warm weather. We will continue working on our letters and working as a group. To prepare our 2-year-olds for preschool, we will be working on participating during group time and transitioning from different play areas. The children are consistently working on potty training with a few on the verge of completely moving over. Please continue working with your children at home on these matters and feel free to ask any questions.



## The Raspberries

Ms. Kelly

Hello everyone,

The Raspberries (as we affectionately call ourselves) are so excited to be learning and exploring in the infant room. During the month of February, we learned about colors (red, orange, yellow). While learning about red, we awakened our sense of touch by squishing red grapes, and for the colors orange and yellow, we rolled and felt the bumpy surfaces of oranges and lemons.



In the month of March, we plan on learning more about our senses. We'll start out by learning about our sense of vision, as we engage our eyes by tracking toys. For our sense of hearing, we will listen to different types of music. We will engage our noses by smelling different scents, and for our sense of touch, we will feel different textures. We will also have a new student teacher during the month of March; we can't wait to see who it will be.

Wow! The Raspberries will be doing lots of learning and growing. We look forward to sharing with you all of the happenings in our classroom next time. The newest Raspberry to join our bunch is Reina. We welcome her with open arms!

## From The Nurse

To ensure the safety of the children, I recommend sick children stay home 24 hours if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- Fever above 100 degrees Fahrenheit;
- Signs of possible illness such as uncontrolled coughing, difficulty breathing, wheezing, persistent crying or lethargy;
- Diarrhea, such as loose or runny stools, a stool that runs out of a diaper;
- Vomiting; once a youngster has vomited, most health providers recommend or require that your sick kid cannot return to school or daycare for a minimum of 24 hours;
- Any rash, accompanied by a fever or behavior change.

## The Purple Papayas

Ms. Latasha /Preschool 3-5 Years

### Papaya News

The Purple Papayas have arrived, and we are very busy. During the month of March, we are discovering numbers all around us. The first week of March we learned about the numbers on a clock; the second week we focused on measuring, using standard and nonstandard tools. The remainder of the month we will focus on shapes and patterns.

Each week we have fun with a specific color, number, shape and letter. The Purple Papayas are having an exciting time identifying triangles, the number three and the kindergarten-bound Purple Papayas are being challenged on name writing, letter identification and pre-reading skills.



## The Toddler Tangerines

Ms. Angie

The Toddler 2 Tangerine class has been very busy the past few weeks learning new things and welcoming new friends. We have been experimenting with different art supplies and seeing just how creative our students can be. I have come to the conclusion, the messier, the better. The students have really enjoyed doing different art activities, and they have come a long way since August, when they would try to eat the supplies. The Tangerine class has been working on letters of the alphabet, taking a letter a week, and doing many activities for each. This has been both fun and a great learning experience for our students. Feel free to stop in anytime and join in on all the fun!!



### A Word from the Front Desk:

Ms. Kelly F.

Attention parents, the Office of Accounting informed us today that all fees **MUST** be paid prior to services rendered. Beginning April 2010, if fees are not paid on the Friday afternoon or Monday morning before the service week, a late fee of \$15 will be assessed, and no services will be rendered after a two-week period if tuition is not current.

For parents who receive state subsidy, please be mindful of the expiration dates. If your child's subsidy expires, you are responsible to pay for what the state doesn't cover. Our DVN # is 002144478. Thanks!!!

## The Shining Starfruit

Ms. Angeliques/Preschool 3-5 Years

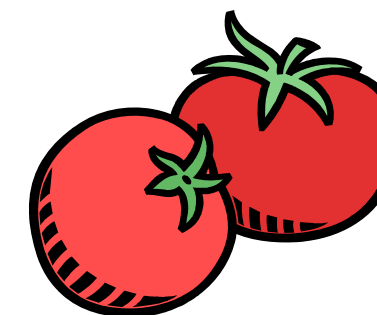
### Starfruit News

The Shining Starfruits have been very busy over the past couple of months. They have met the Letterlanders Annie Apple, Bouncy Ben, Clever Cat, Dippy Duck, Eddy Elephant, Firefighter Fred, Golden Girl, Harry Hat Man, Impy Ink and Jumping Jim. The preschoolers have enjoyed learning each character's song and have begun to memorize letter sounds. The students are also working on handwriting skills and focusing on the letters in their names. We have also been working on jigsaw puzzles, name recognition, counting, painting, gluing and personal hygiene skills. During our time in the Gross Motor Room; we have been using the parachute to supplement our learning in the classroom. We are looking forward to spending more time outdoors.



## The Toddler Three Tomatoes

Ms. Sarah B.



Hello, from the Toddler 3 Tomatoes! For those I have not met, my name is Sarah B. Smith. I am a recent graduate of Harris-Stowe and joined the Clay family in February as a lead toddler teacher. I am having a blast getting to know the children, their families and the Clay staff. The children and I have officially renamed our classroom the Toddler 3 Tomatoes! Next week we will begin some activities that tie into spring and help the children get in touch with nature. We welcomed our new friend Toi to our classroom on Monday, March 8. She is full of smiles and waves hello to everyone. The Tomatoes and I invite you to our classroom anytime as we prepare for the season's change. Have a great day, and we'll see you around Clay town!