

# *Stepping Stone News*

April 2018 Edition

## *A Message from the Directors*

**Hello SSCC Families! What a MARVELOUS March we had at Stepping Stone Children's Center. March was filled with so much fun and learning opportunities. We had loads of fun during our Dr. Seuss Inspired Spirit Week and we also joined others readers across the world for Read Across America Day to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday!. We would also like to say Thank You for all the donations that made our Easter Egg Hunt a success!**

**We have so many exciting activities and events planned for April. Our first fundraiser of the year will be held this month. Believe Kids is the catalog we will be promoting and selling. In this catalog you will find all kinds of sweet treats and gifts. In April we will also have Picture Day, Spirit Week, and the St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon. In addition to these events, we will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child. During this week we will celebrate all the talents and skills of the children in care. On Friday, April 20th we will be having an Ice Cream Social for "Family Friday". Parents are invited to come in for a sweet treat during afternoon snack.**

**As always, we thank you for your continued support of Stepping Stone Children's Center!**

## *What's Happening in April*

April 2nd: QACPS Closed  
April 12th-16th: QACPS Half Days  
April 15th-20th: Week of the Young Child  
April 18th & 19th: SSCC Picture Day  
April 23rd-27th: SSCC Spirit Week  
April 27th: St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon

## *Upcoming Events/Closings*

May 11th- Mother's Day Luncheon  
May 28th- SSCC Closed (Memorial Day)  
June 15th- Father's Day Luncheon  
July 4th- SSCC Closed (Independence Day)  
August 24th- SSCC Closed (Sta" Professional Development Day)



*One of our Lucky Charms!*



*Everyone is a reader!*



*Around the World Feast*

## *Education*

**The holiday we will be observing in April is Earth Day. Along with this holiday, our theme "Month of the Young Child" will be observed and celebrated. The letters of the month are Q & R, and the color we will use is Purple. The shape of the month is Oval, with numbers 15 & 16 as this month's focus.**

**This is an exciting learning time in our 3's and 4's classrooms! Spring is finally here and we will be taking our learning outdoors to enjoy the sunshine. In all of our classes we will be starting new units of study so as always, keep an eye out for a reminder to bring things in from home.**

**The Berry Buddies and Little Guppies will be starting the ball study! The teachers will be asking you to bring in a variety of different balls so that we can discover that all balls are different weights and sizes and some are different shapes and textures. We will practice throwing balls, rolling balls, creating ramps, and even making art projects with balls! We have found that children love balls so we will be using them to investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions and test our ideas. We will talk about what balls are made of and test which balls will bounce and which ones will not. We will even cut some balls in half to look at what is inside! What you can do at home: collect balls around your house and use all of your senses to investigate what they smell like, look like, and feel like. You can even find some "ball" shaped food and taste it!**

**The Island Adventurers and Terrapin Turtles will be starting the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle unit! The teachers are really excited about this study and the children love learning about what things can be recycled and what things can be reused. The teachers will be asking for your help to bring in items to investigate. We will be asking for things like empty food containers, wrappers, and toilet paper tubes. We will also take a walking field trip to the recycle sorting bins down the street and fill them up with "trash" that we have sorted. Be aware, when you throw that empty water bottle away your child may yell at you to put it in recycling! What you can do at home: If you visit a dump frequently, take your child along and show them where their trash goes! Or if you go on a walk with your child, point out pieces of trash and ask your child questions about recycling and where we can recycle trash.**

*Classroom Spotlight- The Little Guppies*

Happy April! In March we participated in a Dr. Seuss week where we had a different activity planned each day of the week to correspond with one of his books. We even dressed like those book characters! Along with the other 3's and 4's we took a trip around the world where we learned about different countries and tasted foods specific to those countries. In the month of April, we have a full week of activities planned to celebrate the week of the young child and our annual St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon. We will also be starting the balls study with the Berry Buddies and investigate all different types of balls. We have been working on holding our pencils and tracing our names and getting familiar with scissors. We look forward to the warmer weather and some fun outdoor learning!



### *Infant and Toddler Minute*

Talking with infants and toddlers is so much more than “baby talk.” Early language and communication skills are crucial for children’s success in school and beyond. The list below describes 10 practices that early childhood educators can use to support the development of language and communication skills of infants and toddlers.



- 1. Get Chatty: Engaging in conversations with children**
- 2. Be a Commentator: Giving descriptions of objects, activities or events**
- 3. Mix it Up: Using different types of words and grammar**
- 4. Label It: Providing children with names of objects or actions**
- 5. Tune It: Engaging in activities or objects that interest children**
- 6. Read Interactively: Using books to engage children's participation**
- 7. Read it Again and Again!: Reading books multiple times**
- 8. Props, Please!: Introducing objects that spark conversations**
- 9. Make Music: Engaging in musical activities**
- 10. Sign It: Using gestures or simple signs with words**

**Provided By: Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • Available at <http://mtbt.fpg.unc.edu>**

## *Family Fun*

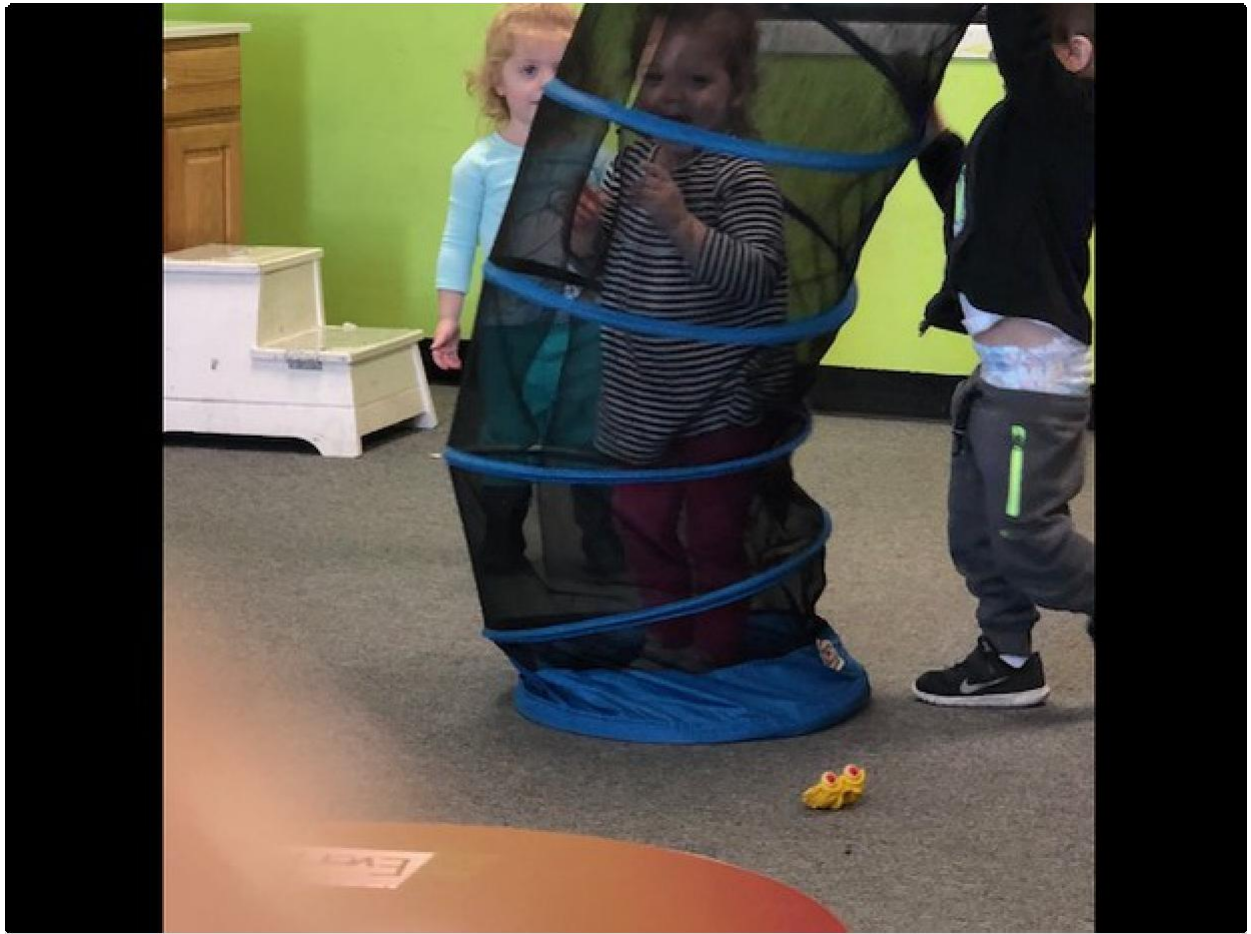
**April 1st- Big Apple Circus, National Harbor**

**Join the Big Apple Circus for their 40th Anniversary celebration at National Harbor March 8-April 1! Each performance promises an action-packed show, filled with thrills, laughs, and a lifetime of memories.**

**April 24th- Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show, Downtown Annapolis: April 20-22. Sailboat rides, boats for sale, entertainment, drink tastings, food and more. \$12-19, children 12 and under free.**

**April 28th- Annapolis Book Festival, The Key School**

**Event features well-known authors, family-friendly comic-con, children's activities and more.**



### *School Age Information*

**Monday, April 2nd: Movie/Pajama Day**

**Thursday, April 12th: Ice Cream Social**

**Friday, April 13th: Show & Tell**

**Monday, April 16th: Game Day**

**Please remember to return your Summer Intent Forms and your child will be attending SSCC!**

### *QACPS Information*

**April 12th- Half Day of School**

**April 13th- Half Day of School**

**April 16th- Half Day of School**



## About Us

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