



# APRIL NEWS



ELAP  
North Easton, MA  
April 2011

## April Recap

**WELCOME SPRING!!** During the month of April we all enjoyed a special visit from Solar Sammy. We all got to do some fun experiments with colors. We used our sense to see what happened when colored vinegar was added to a plate of baking soda. We watched the colors change, listened to the fizzling sounds and even took a vote on whether or not we liked the smell of vinegar. At the end of Sammy's visit, each class went outside for a soda explosion. Sammy showed us what happens when you empty a package of Mentos into a bottle of diet coke. It was super cool!! The toddler classrooms took a field trip across the street to the Easton Children's Museum. They had a great time exploring and creating throughout the museum. Some friends even came back to school with painted faces they did themselves!! We ended the month with a pizza lunch. Many friends who do not usually stay for lunch bunch added the hour for this extra special treat. We added so many friends join us for a delicious lunch! Be sure to sign up for next month's pizza lunch early as spots are limited.

## AAP UPDATES RECOMMENDATION ON CAR SEATS

*Children should ride rear-facing to age 2, use a booster until at least age 8*

In a new policy published in the April 2011 issue of *Pediatrics* (published online March 21), the AAP advises parents to keep their toddlers in rear-facing car seats until age 2, or until they reach the maximum height and weight for their seat. It also advises that most children will need to ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until they have reached 4 feet 9 inches tall and are between 8 and 12 years of age.

The previous policy, from 2002, advised that it is safest for infants and toddlers to ride rear-facing up to the limits of the car seat, but it also cited age 12 months and 20 pounds as a minimum. As a result, many parents turned the seat to face the front of the car when their child celebrated his or her first birthday.

"Parents often look forward to transitioning from one stage to the next, but these transitions should generally be delayed until they're necessary, when the child fully outgrows the limits for his or her current stage," said Dennis Durbin, MD, FAAP, lead author of the policy statement and accompanying technical report.

"A rear-facing child safety seat does a better job of supporting the head, neck and spine of infants and toddlers in a crash, because it distributes the force of the collision over the entire body," Dr. Durbin said. "For larger children, a forward-facing seat with a harness is safer than a booster, and a belt-positioning booster seat provides better protection than a seat belt alone until the seat belt fits correctly."

New research has found children are safer in rear-facing car seats. A 2007 study in the journal *Injury Prevention* showed that children under age 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or be severely injured in a crash if they are riding rear-facing.

"The 'age 2' recommendation is not a deadline, but rather a guideline to help parents decide when to make the transition," Dr. Durbin said. "Smaller children will benefit from remaining rear-facing longer, while other children may reach the maximum height or weight before 2 years of age."

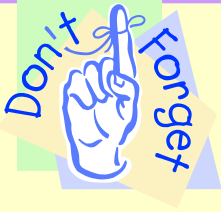
Children should transition from a rear-facing seat to a forward-facing seat with a harness, until they reach the maximum weight or height for that seat. Then a booster will make sure the vehicle's lap-and-shoulder belt fit properly. The shoulder belt should lie across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not near the neck or face. The lap belt should fit low and snug on the hips and upper thighs, not across the belly. Most children will need a booster seat until they have reached 4 feet 9 inches tall and are between 8 and 12 years old.

Children should ride in the rear of a vehicle until they are 13 years old.

Although the Federal Aviation Administration permits children under age 2 to ride on an adult's lap on an airplane, they are best protected by riding in an age- and size-appropriate restraint.

"Children should ride properly restrained on every trip in every type of transportation, on the road or in the air," Dr. Durbin said.

A car seat guide for parents is available at [www.healthychildren.org/carseatguide](http://www.healthychildren.org/carseatguide)



## Friendly Reminders

- Please call the school to inform us if your child will be out due to illness or vacation.
- Extra clothes MUST be kept at school for the occasional accident, spill or unexpected mess. All clothes and personal belongings should be LABELED!!
- Please be on time at pickup. Our teachers have families of their own and other obligations after their duties here are complete. Families who are habitually tardy picking up will be billed.
- Summer camp registration is well underway. We will be running just one toddler group and one preschool group so be sure to register today!!
- Limited spots remain in some of next year's classes. Register Today!!!

## Birthday Wishes

- Ryan Linhares – April 5<sup>th</sup>
- Sienna Rich – April 5<sup>th</sup>
- James Carpenter – April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Madeline Pray – April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Bridget McDonough – April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Jayden Poku – April 18<sup>th</sup>
- Harrison Fitzpatrick – April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Aliya Briggs – April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Aubrey Thibault – April 26<sup>th</sup>



## Berry Tasty Muffins



### Ingredients:

- 1 1 c. flour
- 2 1 c. oatmeal
- 3 3 tbsp. sugar
- 4 1 tsp. salt
- 5 4 tsp. baking powder
- 6 1 c. blueberries, washed
- 7 1 egg
- 8 1 c. milk
- 9 ¼ c. vegetable oil
- 10 nonstick cooking spray

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 400° F (200° C). In a large bowl, mix together the flour, oatmeal, sugar, salt, and baking powder. Mix in blueberries. In another bowl, break the egg and use a fork to beat it just a little bit. Then add the milk and vegetable oil, and mix. Add egg mixture to the dry ingredients in the large bowl. Using a mixing spoon, mix about 25 or 30 times. Don't mix too much! Your muffin mixture should be lumpy, not smooth. Line a muffin tin with paper liners or lightly spray with nonstick spray. Spoon in the muffin mix. Fill each muffin cup about 2/3 of the way up. Bake for about 20 minutes. When muffins are finished baking, remove from muffin tin and cool them on a wire rack.

**Enjoy your berry tasty muffins!**

## Upcoming Events

- National Teacher's Day – May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Mother's Day – May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Wayne – May 12<sup>th</sup> & May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Car Wash – May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Pizza Lunch – May 26<sup>th</sup> & May 27<sup>th</sup>
- NO SCHOOL – May 30<sup>th</sup>

# April Classroom News

## Toddler Room 1A

April was great month for us in the toddler room. Some of our favorite activities were making frogs and snakes and creating beautiful flowers. We also enjoyed trying different sweet and salty treats during the 5 senses. We also felt different objects to discover which ones were rough, soft, hard, grainy, etc. We really enjoyed making yellow Jell-o for our color of the month. We loved having PIZZA LUNCH!! Our field trip to the museum was so much fun. We got to explore and create on all floors. Many of us enjoyed painting our faces and acting on stage. We had a blast in our class playing with yellow shaving cream mixed with glue. It turned into a sticky, gooey substance that was lots of fun to play with!! At circle and snack we began recognizing our own names in print. We also talked about the diamond shape throughout the month and searched for them around the classroom. We can't wait for the fun May will bring!!



## Toddler Room 1

This month we loved learning about transportation, planting & Spring/bugs!! We've been painting with yellow & making diamond collages. We just began using scissors to snip pictures from magazines!! Planting flowers, making cars, boats & bugs have been a big hit too! We loved going on a nature walk & a Popsicle picnic at the big playground!!! We enjoyed our special visit from Solar Sammy. Her soda explosion amazed all the kids. Some of them did not even realize it was Ms. Samantha!

Our big hit of the month was our trip to the Children's Museum---thanks to all for coming!!!

We also want to welcome our new teacher, Ms. Leah, she'll be playing with us for the rest of the year, while Ms. Missy is home with her new baby!!

## Room 3

We began April in room 3 with a two week unit; The Birds Are Back. Our class pretended to be Mommy and Daddy birds! We began by preparing our nests with mud (brown paint, hunting in the back field for materials to fill them and having a egg hunt to find an egg to put inside. Finally each child created their baby chick. The math table was busy with egg number matching and memory. At the science table we examined different nests. We listened to different bird calls during computer and watched baby Robins hatch out of their eggs. The class really enjoyed going for a walk to listen for bird calls.

During Butterflies to Caterpillars unit the class made pompom caterpillars. After learning all about the butterfly life cycle, we made each caterpillar a chrysalis to hang in our room. We will take the chrysalises down in two weeks to see if they have gone through metamorphosis. At the math table we worked on pattern pillars and used our felt board to sequence the story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". At the science table worked with butterfly life cycle stamps. At circle time some stories we read were "Waiting For Wings" & "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", Our favorite song was "The Fuzzy Caterpillar".



# April Classroom News



## Room 4

Wow did April fly by. Though we were only in school for 3 weeks, the children spent lots of time playing and learning. We spent the first week talking about dinosaurs. We wondered if a dino would make a good pet and practiced roaring and stomping like them. We made fossils with clay, and eggs from balloons covered with paper mache' materials. Our second week was all about spring, wind and April showers. We decorated paper to make wind socks and used wind from a fan to see different objects fly. We used straws and water color paints to make beautiful umbrellas and works of art. We spent some time looking at seeds of all shapes and sizes. We broke apart daisies from last year's garden and did a little panting with them. We created sticker flowers to put in cups, added soil and the daisy seeds. We also made edible "dirt" cups in which the children made pudding then added worms and Oreos together before eating. YUMMY! We used droppers with water and food coloring to make flowers for our May flower board. Be sure to check it out!

## Room 5

We started our month off with a theme on Dinosaurs. We made dino tracks with paint, we made some really neat dino fossils with sand, glue and uncooked rice. We played a dino bowling game and everyone had a really fun time cheering their classmates on. The next week was a theme on spring. We did raindrop stamping pictures, made yellow duckies and glued on colorful feathers, practiced our cutting skills with a kite project which we hung on the wall for our families to enjoy. Our next theme was on Space. We made planets out of water colors and coffee filters, had fun doing space puzzles, moon dot to dots, the class made stars with glitter, used the letters of their names to build space shuttles, talked about planets while we watched a 3d planet projector (on the ceiling)!!! We ended the month of April with a theme on Bugs/Birds. We talked about the differences between insects and bugs and did a chart, made bumblebees with paint, sand and waxed paper, decorated ladybugs, learned some facts about ants and made ants out of paper towel rolls. We shared facts on Birds. The children knew a lot of interesting things about Birds! They were able to name a lot of birds they were familiar with, we also did bird painting project with feathers. Looking forward to an exciting May!!



## Pre-K

This month we talked about science, the earth and spring. We also reviewed our letters throughout the month. This month we did some really cool science experiments. We used eye droppers with water colors on paper towels to create different colors. We shaved and made our own rainbow crayons from broken crayons we had in our classroom. We also made some awesome lava lamps. Our egg and flower experiments were a big hit. For earth week we made junk art using all kinds of different recyclable materials and decorated paper bags to reuse at the grocery store. For spring week we made beautiful violets and birds by butting and coloring and painting them for our spring bulletin board.

