

Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center

NJ's First Nationally Accredited Early Childhood Program



April 2014

Staff News

Sunbeam Teacher, **Leanne Adase**, and Duckling Teacher, **Andrea Kent**, along with other classroom teachers, specialists, administrators, and environmental educators participated in a Voices...from the Land workshop taught by staff and volunteers from the Educational Information and Resource Center (EIRC). They spent two days investigating ways to support children's interest in and respect for nature by using natural artwork, poetry, photography, technology, publishing and performance art. Andrea and Leanne are planning to collaborate on a project based on this experience.

Lindsay David, Sunbeam Assistant Teacher, completed Infant/Child CPR and Pediatric First Aid training in March. Employment at R-LDCC requires both of these certifications to be earned and maintained.

Cheryl Devine, Director, went to a full day of professional development focusing on educational leadership skills.

"Building" Memories

As a participant in the Grow NJ Kids pilot, R-LDCC had to complete a questionnaire on how we support families. We then had to select two areas that could be strengthened. At our February professional development day the staff decided to plan an additional family event to provide children and parents opportunities to play together. The result:—

Building Memories: an evening of play designed for the families of Sunbeams (on 4/28) and Ducklings (on 4/29) to build and make memories together! Parents and children are welcome to stay from 5:30 to 6:30 and enjoy all sorts of building activities that we'll have set up for you. Some snacks will be available as well. Watch for a sign-up sheet in your child's classroom (so we'll know to expect you!)

R-LDCC Tax I.D.

23-7416784

Easy Ways for Families to Help R-LDCC

We'd like to remind friends and family members about **GoodSearch.com**, a website which makes raising money for R-LDCC incredibly easy! GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo!-powered search engine which donates about a penny per search to the nonprofit of your choice (we hope it's Rutgers Livingston Day Care Center, Piscataway, NJ!) Download the toolbar this month for extra \$\$\$, and use GoodShop whenever you shop online. Selected merchants will donate a percentage of your purchases to the charity you designate.

Bring us your used ink cartridges; we receive a cash incentive for each one we recycle. There is a collection box in Sue's office for your donations.

Please continue to save Box Tops for us! You can go online to www.boxtops4education.com for ideas, hints, recipes, etc. So far this school year we've earned \$96.50 by families remembering to clip Box Tops from products they already buy anyway. You can put your contributions in the collection box on top of the mailboxes.



facebook



If you've "liked" R-LDCC on Facebook, consider taking a moment to post a review. Of course, we'd most appreciate **positive** reviews, but please be honest, too!

Join us on April 26 for a "Bubble Bonanza" (weather permitting!) on Busch Campus for Rutgers Day!



Fun in the Sun

Nice weather means more time outside in the sunshine! It's hard to believe that something that feels so good can be potentially harmful. Too much sun exposure can cause serious burns and can even lead to skin cancer. Young children burn easily; children with darker skin can spend a longer time in the sun, but anyone can burn. To protect your child from the sun's rays, apply a sunblock to all exposed skin before bringing your child to the Center

each morning. Make it part of your daily routine, since children can get sunburned even on cloudy days. The teachers will reapply sunscreen for afternoon outdoor play on days the UV index is 5 or above when they head out to the playground. We also suggest that your child wear a hat to keep the sun off his/her face and scalp and to protect the eyes.



Looking Ahead:

Sunbeam Graduation and Spring Celebration

*Sunbeam families are invited to join us on **Thursday, May 29** at 6:00 pm for the children's program, followed by a light supper. Pick up your Sunbeam by 4:30 on May 29 and return with family (and friends, too!!) by 6:00.*

All the children in the class are invited to participate.

DUCKLING NEWS



The Ducklings were very busy last month, learning about Dr. Seuss, and learning about recycling! We read lots of Dr. Seuss books, and did lots of silly Dr. Seuss activities, all to celebrate his birthday and Read Across America week. We had so much fun listening to all of the parents that came in and read to us, and we love to read the book we made full of pictures to remind us of the fun!

We have been talking about recycling the past two weeks, and worked hard on creating a piece of artwork to add to the Sunbeams' Recyclemania Art Show on April 8. We were very excited to both attend, and be a part of, the art

show! Throughout the month of April we will be talking a lot about spring, and the different things that happen during this beautiful season.

Now that spring is here, please be sure to check your Duckling's cubby to ensure that s/he has a full change of weather appropriate clothes, including socks and underwear! Also, please check to see if you have any RLDCC borrow clothes at home that you may have forgotten to return. Winter will be back next year, and when it comes, we want to make sure we have the proper borrow attire for the next group of Ducklings!

Thank You!

We celebrated a few special birthdays in March! We would like to thank:

- ©Fina for the stickers, play-doh and paints,
- ©Viraaj for the bubbles, stickers, and googly eyes, and
- ©Ian for the two new math games,

all given in honor of their 4th birthdays!

We would also like to thank Mansha, Viraaj's mom, for the traditional Indian outfit, a beautiful new addition to our dramatic play dress up clothes, and Caia, Okech's mom, for the two new Dr. Seuss books purchased for our library!.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of our parents that took the time to come in and read a story to us during Read Across America week. We all really enjoyed every one!

Dramatic Play

We are still looking to diversify our dramatic play center. We currently have many toys and clothes that promote all different scenarios for the Ducklings to act out, but we are always looking to improve. If you have any traditional, cultural clothing or accessories—kids' size large, or kids' shoes sizes 2-4—you would like to donate to our center, we would be thrilled to have them! In addition, if you have any dress up clothing that is more geared toward boys (suit jackets, dress shoes), we are always looking to add more!



Sunbeam News

Throughout the month of March, the Sunbeams learned about recycling. We learned about the three R's (reduce, reuse and recycle) and ways that the Sunbeams can help to keep our Earth clean and safe! For the past few weeks, we worked on our RecycleMania project. Each child made an art project using recycled items, and all of the projects were displayed at our art show in the Livingston Student Center on Tuesday, April 8th. Next, we will begin to move into a study topic about Spring and Earth Day!



Hellos and Good-Byes

In March, we said good-bye to two of our friends. We wish Alex and Morgan and their families the best of luck! We will miss them!

We said hello to two new friends. Welcome to the Sunbeam Room and to R-LDCC, Carlos, Leo and their families! We are very excited to welcome you to our daycare family!

Many Thanks To:

All the families who came in to read to us as part of Read Across America!

All the Sunbeam families who brought in recyclable items for art projects, and those who were able to come to the Art Show

Daria's Daddy, Bruce, for the donation of scrap paper. Please save paper for us; our artists only need one "clean side!"

Honeybee News

Spring is here! Now that the weather is turning a bit warmer, it is finally time to take home snowpants and snow boots. Keep them handy though, in case Mother Nature surprises us with more snow this month! While the middle of the day is becoming warmer and warmer, our mornings and afternoons are still quite cool. During this slow transition to nicer weather may we suggest:

- Sending your child to school with her winter coat along with a lighter jacket.
- Continuing to bring hats and mittens. Teachers will determine each morning and afternoon which type of outdoor apparel is appropriate.
- Supplying cubbies with one or two t-shirts in case it becomes very warm.

We ask that families send a labeled sun hat (baseball cap or bucket hat) each day. Again, teachers will determine which hat is appropriate each day. Thanks for your cooperation!

We all know the old adage, "April showers bring May flowers." Here are a few things you can try at home with your Honeybee on a rainy day:

- Make a drawing with markers and leave it out in the rain;
- Look for worms;
- Go puddle jumping;
- Sing "Rain, Rain, Go Away" or "Rain On the Rooftop."

Thank You To:

Meredith for giving us bamboo rhythm sticks in honor of her 3rd birthday! We love to play musical instruments!

Aditya's Daddy, Vinod, for his computer expertise!

All the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to meet with Laurie to discuss their child's development during Family/Teacher conferences! Hope you found them informative.

The Honeybees have many opportunities, both planned and spur-of-the-moment, for social activities every day. While most Honeybee-aged children engage in parallel and associative play, some of our friends play cooperatively with one another. Laurie, Maria and Maggie notice the Honeybees growing into more and more sociable human beings every day. One of our goals includes helping them learn about others by developing trusting relationships with nurturing adults, showing interest in peers, demonstrating caring and cooperation and trying roles and relationships through imitation and play.

