

The Children's Center Connection

April 2022



Each April we honor children during the Week of the Young Child (WOYC). This year we celebrate WOYC April 4-8. We are featuring the work of Eric Carle. Special events and classroom activities are scheduled throughout the week.

Round, green papers were sent home on March 28th with instructions for creating a collage. It will be assembled in a group display. Children and staff are encouraged to wear theme related outfits each day. An Eric Carle story walk will be installed outside around the church for families to enjoy.

The Week of the Young Child is an opportunity for child care programs, communities and states to focus on the needs of young children and their families. A highlight of additional activities are on page three of the newsletter. Check the classroom lesson plan in your child's classroom for more details.

Parent and Staff Survey Results

We appreciate all the feedback we received from our annual parent and staff surveys. There was a 56% response rate overall. Almost all families rated each area as agree or strongly agree. Here is a brief summary of the findings and next steps.

1. Many extra comments were about the resumption of specials like art and music. We definitely plan to have enrichment classes over the summer. We are hopeful that COVID community transmission is low in the fall and that we will be able to fully relaunch our Expressive Arts program.
2. While the majority of responses were "strongly agree", ratings skewed slightly lower for families being informed of programs, events, rules, changes, etc. One parent suggested that there be better communication when a classroom teacher is absent. We plan to create new classroom lists on the center's email to facilitate better communication.
3. There was no clear consensus on masking for either children or staff. The CDC is still encouraging masking in child care settings. While community transmission is currently low, we think it best to wait and see what happens as masking is reduced in other settings and people resume typical activities. We plan to reexamine the data and recommendations and make a decision after Easter.

Each classroom will receive an aggregate report specific to their classroom. We use all the data to inform our annual continuous improvement plan.

Staff Professional Development Day

Our teachers are very excited to virtually attend the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference on April 29th. They have the opportunity to connect with like-minded early childhood professionals to share challenges and discover solutions and to learn from the nation's leading trainers, authors and advocates. We appreciate your support of this opportunity to further our professional growth.

Important Dates

April 14
Egg Hunt &
Easter Bunny
Visit

April 15
Good Friday
Center Closed

April 27 & 28
Picture
Days

April 29
Staff Professional
Development Day
Center Closed

May 30
Memorial Day
Center Closed

June 3
Penguin
Graduation
Center Closes at 4PM

Welcome New and Returning Staff

Join us in welcoming new staff members! Ms. Lerese returned to the center and is helping where needed in the middle of the day. Ms. Cheyenne is currently helping in the Chicks classroom and Ms. Naughtica is working three afternoons a week and helping in many classrooms.

Church Restroom Renovation Project

FBC is renovating all the restrooms on the church side of the building beginning mid-April. This is a much needed improvement to the 100-year old structure. The initial phase includes restrooms on the Fairmount Hall and then will move to the muscle room area. The next phase includes restrooms on the Shelburne side and then the work moves to the back of the sanctuary. When work happens downstairs, we will close the muscle room and serve all meals in the

Spring Portrait Days Are Back

Lifetouch Photography is back to take children's pictures for The Children's Center on Wednesday, April 27th and Thursday, April 28th. Siblings will be photographed individually and together. Class photos will also be taken. The Penguin class will be photographed in cap and gown for a graduation portrait. Look for more information about soon.

Outdoor Play, Helmets and Mr. Tom's Trikes

It's spring! Each day we take the children outside, sometimes to catch raindrops! Please be on the lookout as you drive through the parking lot. Many classes take walks around the church building and children travel along the fence to the play areas.

This is a good time to take home winter items from your child's cubby and replace them with spring clothes and rain boots.



It's also time to bring back the riding helmets (labeled with your child's name). Mr. Tom, head of maintenance, took advantage of the winter weather and repaired and refreshed many of our tricycles. We will unveil the refreshed tricycles right after Easter.

It's also time for new sunscreen forms! The cost for center provided sunscreen for the season remains at \$10.00 per child. We use Rocky Mountain Sunscreen. Please complete the sunscreen form that is available at the Portico Entrance or office and return it to the office.

Walk for Hunger-Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

The Run/Walk for Hunger is being held on Saturday, June 4th, 2022. The run starts at 8:30 a.m. and the walk at 9:00 a.m. The 5-kilometer Run/Walk-a-Thon through Cleveland Metroparks Zoo raises funds to help the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland feed over 30,000 children a month. Parking is free for Walk participants and families may stay at the zoo after the event without charge.

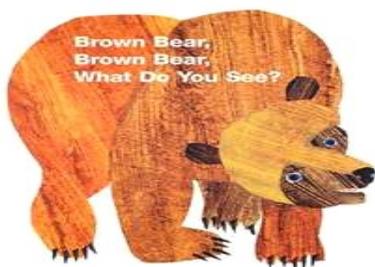
If you would like to participate in the Run/Walk please contact Karen Gill at 216-371-9394. You can also sign up online at www.hungernetwork.org. Our team name is First Baptist Church and Children's Center.

If you are unable to participate in the Run/Walk, please consider making a donation. Our goal is to contribute \$2,500 to this very important cause. You can support the Walk by purchasing items at our bake sale during the Week of the Young Child.



Week of the Young Child 2022-Eric Carle

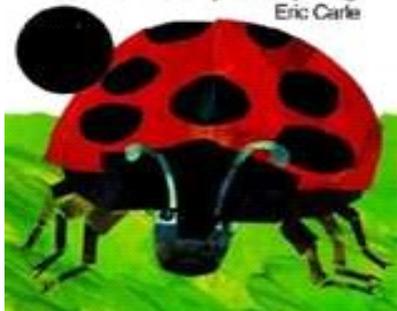
Bill Martin Jr / Eric Carle



Monday

Wear Brown!
Bubble Bears
Scavenger Hunt

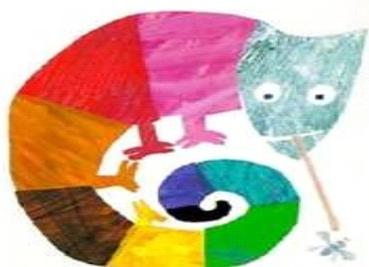
The Grouchy Ladybug
Eric Carle



Tuesday

Wear Red!
Enjoy the Eric Carle Story Walk
Sidewalk Chalk

The Mixed-Up Chameleon
by Eric Carle



Wednesday

Wear mismatched, rainbow or
tie dye colors!
Parachute Play

THE VERY
HUNGRY
CATERPILLAR
by Eric Carle



Thursday

Wear Green!
Visit The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Snack Sale!

Eric Carle The Very Quiet Cricket



Friday

Jammie Day!
Challenge the Obstacle Course
“Pancakes, Pancakes!” for
Breakfast

April Lunch Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 VIP Lukas Mac and cheese, beans and strawberries
4 Sloppy joes, roll, broccoli and cantaloupe	5 Potato corn chowder, wheat roll and apples	6 Orange chicken and rice, mixed veggies and melons	7 VIP SRIJAN Ginger chicken noodle soup, carrots and mango	8 Fish sandwich on a wheat bun, cucumber and oranges
11 Beef macaroni, carrots and oranges	12 Grilled cheese, tomato soup and apples	13 Pot stickers, Brussels sprouts and strawberries	14 GUARDIANS OPENING DAY Turkey sandwich on wheat, carrots and apples	15 CENTER CLOSED
18 Homemade chicken tender, roll, spinach and cantaloupe	19 Chicken and dumplings, carrots and apples	20 Cheese quesadillas, peaches and cucumbers	21 VIP OLIVER Pepperoni pizza, broccoli and grapes	22 Chicken patty on a bun, beans and oranges
25 Meatball subs, green beans and apples	26 Matzo ball soup, w/ chicken and carrots and melon	27 Cheese ravioli w/ alfredo sauce, green beans and melon	28 Mac and cheese, salad and honeydew melon	29 CENTER CLOSED



Organic fat-free milk is served with lunch for children on the second floor.
Organic whole milk is served to children on the first floor.

Menu is subject to change.