



April 2022

Chestnut Grove
Child Development Center
3701 Sweet Air Road, Phoenix, MD 21131
410-592-9122 / chestnutgrovechild.org

Upcoming Events

Parents, please add these important dates to your schedules. Specifics will follow closer to the events.

APRIL 8 (FRI): Dad's Visit for 4's classes ****

NEW DATE due to forecasted rain on Wednesday
**** Rain-date info will be emailed if necessary on Friday.

April 8 (Fri):

- 3's Easter Bonnet Parade - all are welcome to stay and enjoy our 3's parade
- 3's & 4's Easter Parties

April 9-18: Spring Break. School closed.

April 19-22: 2's Dad's Week

April 26-29: 2's Mom's Week

April 30 (Sat): Spring Fair - 11am - 3pm.

More info below.

May 4 (Wed): Mother's Day Celebration for the 3's

May 6 (Fri): Mother's Day Celebration for the 4's

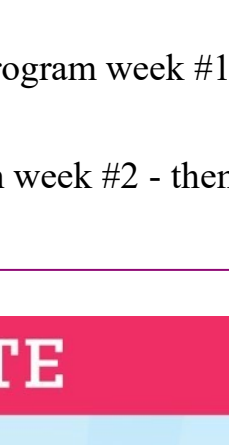
May 9 - 13: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 25 (Wed): Last day of classes.

May 31 - June 3 (Tues - Fri): Summer program week #1

- theme is *Outer Space*.

June 6 - 10 (Mon - Fri): Summer program week #2 - theme is *Dinosaurs*.



SAVE THE DATE

2022

Spring FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH

11AM - 3PM | CHESTNUT GROVE CDC

Volunteers Needed!

The Spring Fair is a great outing for the family — but not without *your* help. Please donate an hour or two to help with one of the many fun parts of the fair. You'll still have plenty of time to enjoy good food and fun with your family, and to scope out prize opportunities.

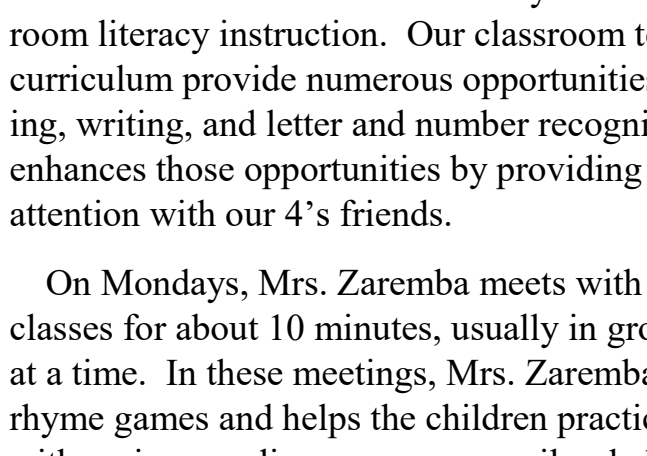
Check your child's mail pouch (at each classroom) for Spring Fair ticket order form and related info. The Spring Fair is our primary fundraiser each year — thanks for supporting our school!

Volunteer sign-up:

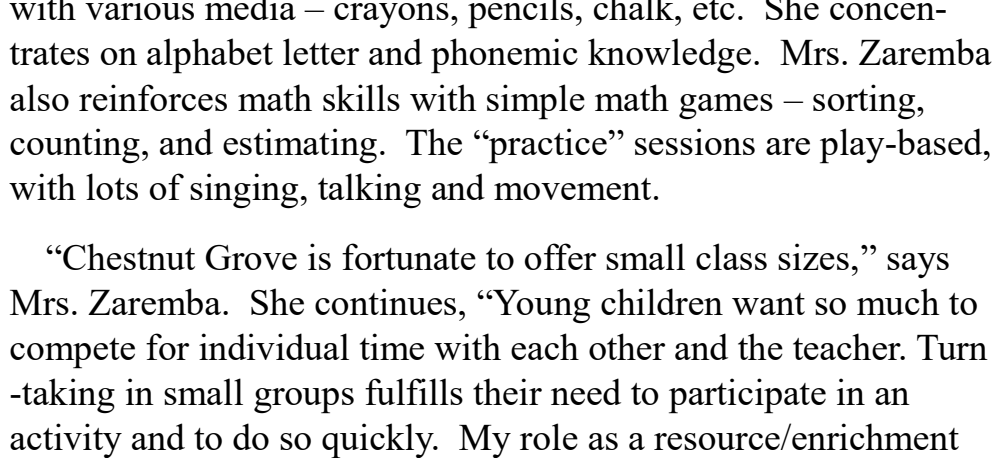
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0445ABAE2DA6F58-spring1>

Bake Sale sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0445ABAE2DA6F58-spring2>



Left: 4's friends in Mrs. Bobo's class celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing their green and rainbows. Below: other 4's friends explore and learn in a variety of ways.



Literacy Enrichment Helps Prepare Preschoolers for Kindergarten

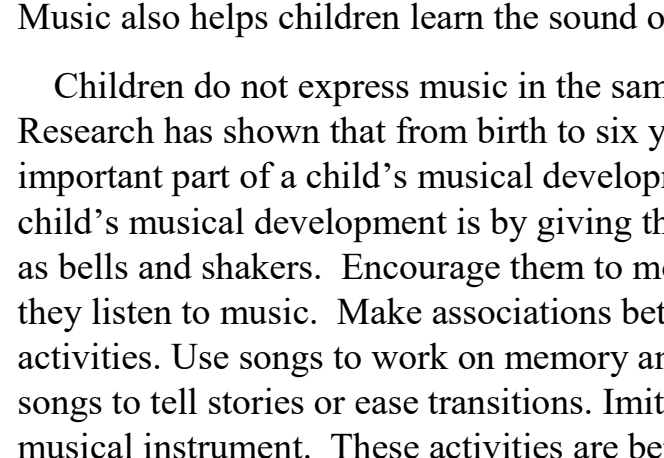
Have you met Mrs. Zaremba? She's at Chestnut Grove each Monday – typically wearing a friendly smile and a silly hat!

Mrs. Zaremba works with our 4 year-olds to reinforce classroom literacy instruction. Our classroom teachers and their curriculum provide numerous opportunities for listening, speaking, writing, and letter and number recognition. Mrs. Zaremba enhances those opportunities by providing a bit more individual attention with our 4's friends.

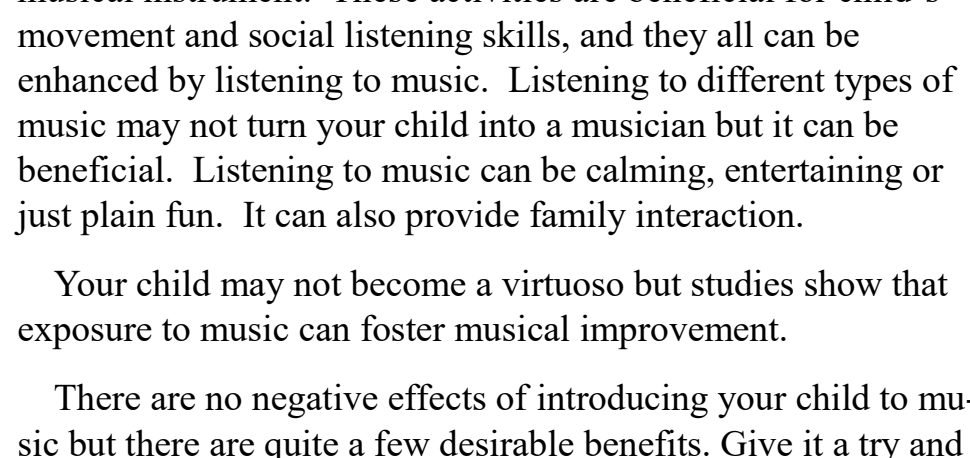
On Mondays, Mrs. Zaremba meets with each child in the 4's classes for about 10 minutes, usually in groups of 2 or 3 children at a time. In these meetings, Mrs. Zaremba plays name and rhyme games and helps the children practice writing their names with various media – crayons, pencils, chalk, etc. She concentrates on alphabet letter and phonemic knowledge. Mrs. Zaremba also reinforces math skills with simple math games – sorting, counting, and estimating. The "practice" sessions are play-based, with lots of singing, talking and movement.

"Chestnut Grove is fortunate to offer small class sizes," says Mrs. Zaremba. She continues, "Young children want so much to compete for individual time with each other and the teacher. Turn-taking in small groups fulfills their need to participate in an activity and to do so quickly. My role as a resource/enrichment teacher at CG provides that opportunity."

Mrs. Katharine Zaremba, M.Ed. ECE (Literacy Enrichment Teacher) has been working at Chestnut Grove for 27 years teaching 3's and 4's, and also as an assistant. Her daughter, Krystyna Graff and grandchildren, Anastasia and Aleksander are both alumni of CG.



Left: A few friends from Mrs. Charlow's 3's class prepare for a cold day on the playground. Below: Our curious 3's preparing a feast in the kitchen, playing with Hot Wheels, and sorting play insects.



The Power of Music

by Ms. Kathleen Barbuti

Preschool has become more and more important in the past few years. We want our children to experience interaction with others and to develop social and emotional skills. We also want them ready for entrance into a kindergarten class. We wish them to develop and build a positive self-esteem and a sturdy foundation for academic success. There are many facets which influence this type of development.

The total environment of the young child strongly affects their positive growth in many areas. However, there is one area which often is not considered. That area is music.

Lately, many scholars and doctors have been investigating the power of music. Some studies have shown that early music exposure can enhance benefits of perceptual skills. These skills affect language and literary abilities and spatial reasoning. This can affect skills necessary for Math and fine motor coordination. Unlike language, Music can activate sections in the brain that control motivation and emotion which can help to create bonds between individuals and groups. This can be important throughout one's lifetime.

Oftentimes with a newborn, parents discover that softly singing or humming to them can be soothing and comforting. While many will admit that children's songs and chants are a part of childhood, they may not realize that there is more to the importance of music in a child's life.

When children enjoy music with others, they have the joy of feeling like part of a group. Some research done in the 1990s reflects that it helps children speak more clearly, develop a larger vocabulary, and strengthen social and emotional development. Music helps the body and the brain work together as a team. Music also helps children learn the sound of tones and words.

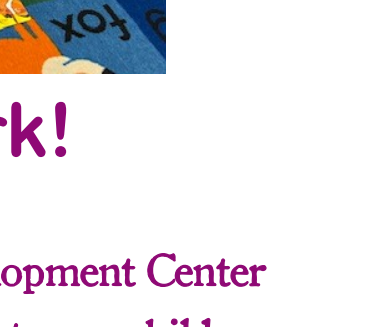
Children do not express music in the same way as adults. Research has shown that from birth to six years is the most important part of a child's musical development. Ways to help a child's musical development is by giving them instruments such as bells and shakers. Encourage them to move their bodies as they listen to music. Make associations between songs and activities. Use songs to work on memory and vocabulary. Use songs to tell stories or ease transitions. Imitate patterns on a musical instrument. These activities are beneficial for child's movement and social listening skills, and they all can be enhanced by listening to music. Listening to different types of music may not turn your child into a musician but it can be beneficial. Listening to music can be calming, entertaining or just plain fun. It can also provide family interaction.

Your child may not become a virtuoso but studies show that exposure to music can foster musical improvement.

There are no negative effects of introducing your child to music but there are quite a few desirable benefits. Give it a try and enhance your child's development at the same time.

References:

"The importance of Music in Early Childhood Development." Anne Steinhoff. [HTTPS://novakdjokovicfoundation.org](https://novakdjokovicfoundation.org)



Left and above: Pajama Week was a big hit with our 2's friends. Thank you to all who donated to our Casey Cares PJ Drive!



Below: Exploring with texture and tools. 2's are always busy!

Summer Program Themes & Dates

We're planning for 2 weeks of our Summer Program this year. Space is limited — please register early! Weekly themes are:

'Outer Space' Week: May 31 – June 3 (Tues - Fri) \$140

'Dinosaur' Week: June 6 – June 10 (Mon – Fri) \$175

Program Details:

- Tuition is due with registration.
- There is no registration fee.
- No sibling discounts
- Child must be 3 years old by 9/1/2022, or in Chestnut Grove's 2's Drop-Off Program.
- Child must be potty-trained.
- No kindergarten experience.

Please check your Sunday email or the school office for a registration form. Email or stop in the office with any questions.



Teamwork!

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