



**MARCH**

# 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 1 (Fri):** Dad's Visit for 3's class

**April 6 (Wed):** Dad's Visit for 4's classes

**April 8 (Fri):**

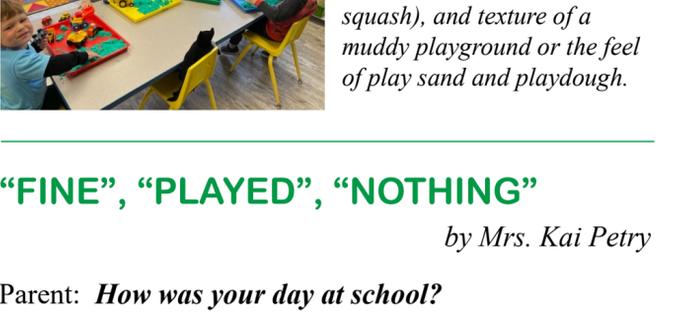
- 3's Easter Bonnet Parade - all are welcome to stay and enjoy
- 3's & 4's Easter Parties
- Rain date for Dad's visit for 4's classes

**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:** Spring Fair - 11am - 3pm. More info below.



2's play is all about exploring with the senses, for example the sights, sounds (squish squash), and texture of a muddy playground or the feel of play sand and playdough.

## "FINE", "PLAYED", "NOTHING"

by Mrs. Kai Petry

Parent: **How was your day at school?**

Child: **Fine.**

Parent: **What did you do?**

Child: **Played. Nothing.**

So how do you kick-start that conversation and get your child to share information about their day?

First of all, consider timing and your child's mood before you start. Your child may need time to process their day before being ready to share. It takes energy and effort for children to think back on their day and put their experiences into words. They might just need to "chill". Give them a snack first or save your discussions for dinner time. Sometimes time in the car or taking a walk or bedtime are more relaxed, calm times to share.

Ask open-ended questions. These are questions that can't be answered with yes or no. They usually begin with *What*, *How*, and *Why*. Examples:

*Tell me about the best part of your day.*

*What was the hardest thing you had to do today? Why?*

*How were you able to help at school today?*

Then try to stretch and extend the conversation by repeating bits of your child's responses. This is known as **active listening** and lets your child know that you heard what they said.

Child: *I played on the swings.*

Parent: *You played on the swings!?*

The trick is to repeat the information in a matter of fact but interested way so as to get your child to open up and add more information. Try to tap into their emotions too, "You sound excited about playing on the swings." Also phrases such as "I agree", "I see what you mean," "I don't believe it", "Wow" – not only go a long way in extending the conversation but help the child feel respected and heard. Respond to your child like you're talking to an extremely interesting, highly intelligent person (because you are).

Parents also need to do their homework. Learn as much as you can about your child's teacher, their classmates and their day-to-day schedule. Then use that information to help get conversations going. You'll amaze your child with your magical ability to know about things like circle time and classroom helpers.

Sometimes "FINE" is fine. But it's important to establish a good foundation of communication. It will help your child learn how to summarize memorable moments and get comfortable discussing what is important to them. Hopefully, this will be a benefit to them as they reach those tricky teen years.



Recent activities in Mrs. Charlow's 3's class: exploring careers in medicine and celebrating Dr. Seuss Week with their favorite Dr. Seuss stories.

## Kindergarten Registration

It's kindergarten registration season. If your preschooler is heading to kindergarten next year, please contact your area school for registration details.

**Carroll Manor Elementary School** - Call 443-809-5947 or visit <https://carrollmanores.bcps.org/>

**Jacksonville Elementary** - Call 443-809-7880 or visit <https://jacksonville.bcps.org/>

**Mays Chapel Elementary School** - Call 443-809-4134 or visit <https://mayschapeles.bcps.org/>

**Youth Benefit Elementary School** - Visit [ybes.ss18.sharpschool.com](https://ybes.ss18.sharpschool.com) to register online. Meet & Greet on the 1st Friday in May - call 410-638-4190 for details.

**St. James Academy** — Details on admissions are available at [www.saintjamesacademy.org](http://www.saintjamesacademy.org).



The 4's classes enjoy a game of Red Light/Green Light on the playground with Mrs. Barbuti. Other 4's activities: 'selling' mud pies and pieces of ice, bird-watching, building towers and Crazy Hat Day during Dr. Seuss Week!

## 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.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2022 Spring FAIR**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>**  
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.

Keep an eye on your email for a link to our Spring Fair Volunteer SignUpGenius. The Spring Fair is our primary fundraiser each year — thanks for supporting our school!

## Registration Update

Our thanks to all who have registered with us for the 2022-2023 school year. We will be in touch soon with emails confirming your placement. Health packets will be mailed in March for children new to the school. If your child is currently attending classes at Chestnut Grove, no new health forms are required unless there are health or allergy updates.

Registration is going well, but we have plenty of space available in our 4's program. If you know of someone considering preschool for their 4 year-old, we'd appreciate the referral. Thank you!



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