



Hi. It's Me!

By Kathleen Barbuti

Frequently you hear people say that no two snowflakes are alike. While some people may respond that this phenomenon is difficult to prove, science supports the claim.

As snowflakes fall through the atmosphere, temperature changes occur. As snowflakes experience these fluctuations in temperature, their forms change. Each flake responds in its own way, and therefore each ice crystal takes on an individual shape.

When bringing children into our family, it is also true that no two babies are identical. Siblings may resemble each other or look like their mom or dad, but each little human is different and for proven scientific reasons.

DNA is what makes each human unique. DNA among family members is similar, but not identical. Therefore, each human is not a clone of his or her parents, but a unique individual – one of a kind! This individuality leads to the possibility that parental expectations may need to be reconsidered.

“Being open to your child’s unique interests, viewpoints, temperament, and talents, demonstrates your acceptance of them and strengthens their self-esteem.”

Dreaming of a star lacrosse player? Your child may prefer dance. Can’t wait to dress your daughter in Hanna Anderson? She might prefer cowboy boots! Think your child should enjoy food from every culture? He might want only mac & cheese for the first five years.

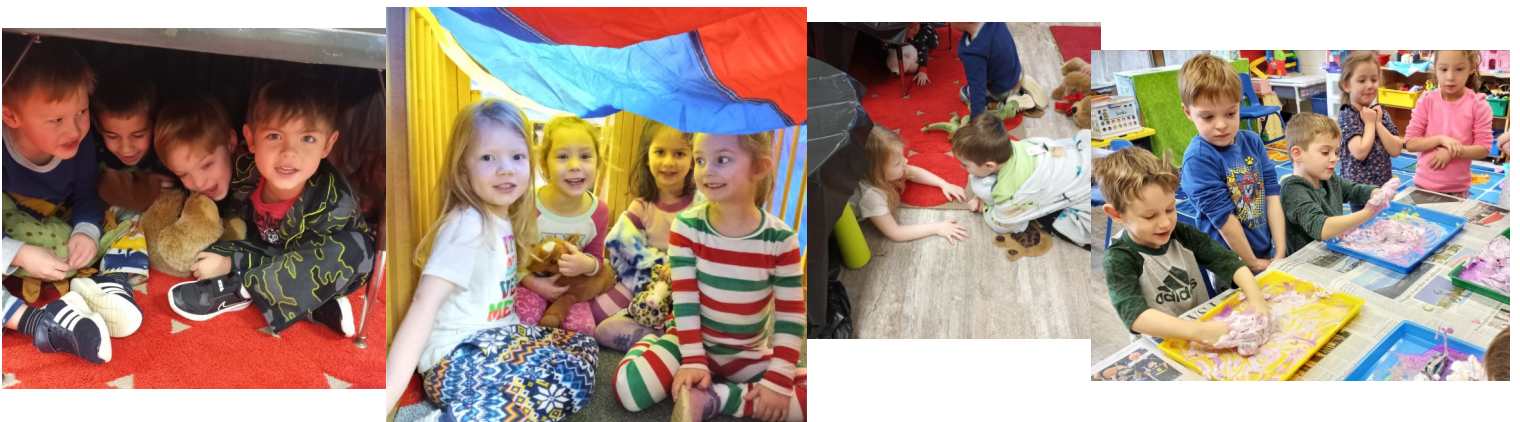
There may be many frustrating moments between you and your child as he or she asserts independence and forms a unique personality and set of interests. But choose your battles! Watching your child grow into themselves is one of the perks of parenthood. One of the perks of childhood should be having parents who support you no matter your interests and choices.

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Upcoming Events

- Feb 20 (Mon):** School closed in observance of Presidents’ Day.
- Feb 21 - 24 (Tues - Fri):** Dads’/ Special Guest Week for 3’s.
- Feb 22 (Wed):** Eric Energy Science Show for all preschoolers. 3’s Dads/Special Guests are also welcome. 10am in Library.
- Feb 28 - Mar 3 (Mon - Fri):** Dr. Seuss Week.
- Mar 7 (Tues):** Staff Development - First-aid training; 12:30pm.
- Mar 9 (Thurs):** Game Night for 4’s & Dads/Special Guest, 6pm - 7:30pm in the Smith Center.
- Mar 17 (Fri):** Special St. Patrick’s Day Storyteller for 4’s.
- Mar 30/31 (Thur/Fri):** Easter parties and 3’s Bonnet Parades.
- April 1 - 10:** Easter Break. Classes resume Tues., April 11.

Thank You
 to all who registered
 for the 2023-2024
 school year!



Above: Friends in our 4’s classes enjoy Hibernation Day in the Big Room, and creativity gets gushy in Mrs. Bobo’s class.

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Being open to your child's unique interests, viewpoints, temperament, and talents demonstrates your acceptance of them and strengthens their self-esteem. Positive self-esteem is an important foundation for future success.

WAYS TO ENHANCE AND SUPPORT THE UNIQUENESS OF A CHILD

- ◆ Allow children to pick their own extracurricular activities (for instance, they may be more interested in music or theatre than in sports)
- ◆ Encourage your child to choose their own clothing each morning and dress themselves. You may bring them to school in some strange outfits and colors, but that is fine.
- ◆ Give your child a safe place to express feelings. This shows that you take their feelings seriously.
- ◆ Body autonomy should be encouraged for their uniqueness and safety.
- ◆ Give children a chance to decide what they eat, what books to read, who they interact with and how they interact with them. This is of course within reason.
- ◆ Introduce children to a variety of activities, foods, cultural events and venues, and people. Be supportive of your child's interests and of their desires to explore their unique choices.



SAVE THE DATE

2023

Spring FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH
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!



*What would you do if you were 2?
Children in our 2's classes find plenty of fun and engaging activities to share with their new friends.*

Summer Program Dates

We're planning for 2 weeks of our Summer Program this year. Look for registration forms in just a few weeks. Though we don't have themes in place yet, here is basic information so you can plan ahead:

- ◆ Week 1: May 30 - June 3 (Tues - Fri)
- ◆ Week 2: June 5 - 9 (Mon - Fri)
- ◆ Children must be 3 years old by 9/1/2023, or in Chestnut Grove's 2's Drop-Off Program.
- ◆ Attendees must be potty-trained & no kindergarten experience.
- ◆ No sibling discounts
- ◆ Space will be limited.

We'll email registration forms toward the end of February.



Above & Left: It's fun to be in the 3's program at Chestnut Grove!

Kindergarten Time

It's almost time for kindergarten registration for our 4's. Each school has their own version of registration, usually taking place in March or April. If your school is not listed below, check the school websites or call for details.

Jacksonville Elementary: Registration will take place April 27 & 28. Please call their office for a registration packet.

Carroll Manor Elementary: Registration scheduled for May 12 & 13. Call the office for a packet and schedule your registration appointment here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4caca82babfe3-cmes2#/>

Youth's Benefit Elementary School: Registration opens in early May. Visit <https://registration.hcps.org/> to begin your registration and to schedule an appointment.

St. James Academy: Visit <https://sja-md.client.renweb.com/oa/index.cfm?memberid=5429>



Above: Coincidentally, we practiced an emergency on-site evacuation drill on Feb 8 — the day before we used lock-down safety measures due to nearby emergency police action.