



We're dedicated to helping you be happy, healthy and successful in your journey of being a parent!

Monthly Quote

“Just don’t give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there’s love and inspiration, I don’t think you can go wrong.”

—Ella Fitzgerald

Events

- April 17th Egg Hunt & Party
- April 18th Egg Drawing for Parents
- April 18th Good Friday Center is OPEN
- April 20th Easter Sunday

**April Birthdays
Happy Birthday!**

- April 5th Anna C.
- April 8th Autumn S.
- April 9th Addison S.
- April 13th Grace G.
- April 16th Madison P.
- April 18th Olivia M.
- April 19th Yousuf K.
- April 19th Zachary A.
- April 20th Franklin D.
- April 22nd Brooke C.
- April 22nd Breanne C.
- April 24th Jack B.
- April 25th Gwen M.
- April 26th Devan E.
- April 28th Katie W.
- April 29th Owen S.
- April 29th Liam R.
- April 30th Darlynn W.

**Brandi's Place was voted
"Best of the Best"
two years in a row!**

We would like to thank our families and friends for voting Brandi’s Place the Best Early Learning & Child Care Center in Genesee County. We love working with all of your children and are dedicated to giving each child the academic advantage they deserve in life as well as a nurturing atmosphere. Our ultimate goal is to have each child and parent ready for kindergarten.



We are truly blessed with the best families!

Important Information

As the weather changes, this is a great time to check your child's extra clothing in their cubby bins. They should have weather appropriate clothing that is their correct size. We are having problems with there not being extra clothing provided and Brandi's Place does not provide spare clothing. Bins should be checked at least once a week to make sure that they are filled. At this time, please be sure to check you child's diapers and wipes. If your child does not have any in their hallway cubbie, supplies are getting low. Teacher's try their best to give ample notice for when supplies are going to run out. If a child runs out of supplies, Brandi's Place will have to call parents during work hours. To avoid any interruptions, please make sure they are well stocked on their supplies.

In the coming weeks, we are asking that parents take their winter gear home. If your child has items in their lockers/cubbies, the teachers will know that you would like them to continue to wear it. Anything that you don't want your child to wear will need to be taken home. Remember, that children do go outside in the morning and afternoon (weather permitting). As always, children **MUST** have a dated doctor's note stating that they cannot go outside. The note must contain a start and end date and be signed by a licensed physician.

As a reminder, please notify the front desk if your child will **not** be in attendance for doctor appointments, sickness, vacations, etc. A courtesy call is greatly appreciated as we are staffing for your child to be here and the teachers are waiting for their arrival. Directors will notify the teachers of their absence.

Each classroom has a quiet/nap time. Children should have a blanket from home to cover up with or lay on even if they don't nap. This allows them to cuddle up with a book, watch a video or listen to the teacher read to them during their quiet time. Blankets should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Blankets are to be taken home on **EVERY** Friday,(or their last day for the week) washed and brought back on Monday.

Please do not allow children to bring special toys from home unless it is a special share day. It is a distraction in the classroom and there are too many children that are missing toys at the end of the day. Teachers are not responsible for misplaced or broken toys.

Monthly Celebrations and Causes

Mathematics Awareness Month. Mathematics helps us understand complex issues in a wide range of fields and find creative answers to far-reaching questions about how to improve everyone's lives. This year's theme: "Mathematics, Magic, and Mystery."

National Autism Awareness Month. Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. The Autism Society has been observing National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s.

Stress Awareness Month. A national, cooperative effort to inform people about the dangers of stress, successful coping strategies, and harmful misconceptions about stress that are prevalent in our society.

National Environmental Education Week, April 13-19. The 2014 theme, "Greening STEM: Engineering a Sustainable World," explores the application of engineering to sustainable solutions for a healthier planet and healthier people.

April Fool's Day, April 1. Play a fun (and safe) trick on a friend, co-worker, or loved ones.

National Walk to Work Day, April 4. Walk all, or at least part, of the way to work, aiming for 15 minutes each way.

World Art Day, April 15. Celebrate art around the world on the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci.

Easter, April 20. Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

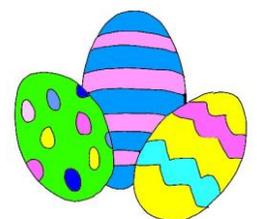
Earth Day, April 22. Spend the day cleaning up and focusing on environmental awareness.



Easter Egg Hunt & Party

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Thursday, April 17th. The children will be participating in an egg hunt held out on the playground (weather permitting). Each classroom will have a designated time on the playground. They will then have an Easter Party inside their classrooms after. Sign up sheets will be posted.

Please note that the classroom parties begin around 9am and are on the teacher's schedule for the activities that they have planned. If your child is not in attendance and you are visiting for the party, please keep in mind that the party will extend through snack which is served at 10:15 and usually will go until lunchtime. Please plan accordingly.



Backyard Safety Tips

The backyard is a place where quality time with the family can be spent all year round, but accidents can take place anywhere so it is important to make sure that you have taken all possible safety precautions to make sure the backyard remains a safe area for relaxation and play.

When it comes to your lawn, you should remove tree stumps and get rid of concrete footings so as to cut down the chances of people tripping over them. When cutting the lawn, debris such as rocks can turn into flying projectiles so the yard needs to be cleared. If you have children, any potentially hazardous tools or chemicals, need to be stored well out of their reach in a locked garage or shed.

Fencing is important too, serving to protect children from outside dangers and keeps toddlers away from ponds, hot tubs, swimming pools or away from strangers and traffic. Fences can also help to protect your pets by keeping other animals away and making sure that they remain in their own yard.



Balance Work and Your Family Life with the Right Priorities

Are you worn out with trying to succeed at work while wrangling responsibilities at home? Try these ideas for creating strategies to help you balance work and family life:

- **Decide what you want.** Think about what you really want from life for you and your family. How does your job fit into that? Are you working for self-fulfillment or merely for the paycheck?
- **Decide what's important.** Based on your values, figure out which tasks are absolutely essential and which are less so. Don't just say, "My family comes before work." Set priorities for deciding what activities come first. Review your priorities regularly.
- **Transition between the two worlds.** It usually takes 15 to 20 minutes to shift gears from work to family. Clear your head on the way home by listening to music you enjoy as you travel, or meditating, or reading a book on the train or bus. Once home, take a 15-minute break to change clothes and make the shift.
- **Be realistic.** There is always more to do than time available, so figure out what you can and can't do. You may need to adjust your expectations of both your work life and your home life.

Spring Break & Good Friday

Brandi's Place is OPEN during Spring Break. Our latchkey children may attend for the full week if needed. Please let a director know if you latchkey child will be in attendance. There will be plenty of fun activities planned. We will also be opened on Good Friday, April 18th. Tuition will be adjusted for latchkey children that will be here the full days. If your child will not be here, your tuition will remain the same. Our next scheduled day off for a holiday will be on Memorial Day.

CD Player

For the safety of everyone, please do not allow your children to play with the CD Player at the front. We have children's music or soft music playing for everyone's enjoyment. We have moved the CD Player to the top of the counter to prevent children from touching it. We don't want this pulled down on anyone.

Swartz Creek

Kindergarten Roundup

Kindergarten Roundup for Fall 2014 will be taking place throughout the month of April. Postings are on our information board located in the hallway next to our parent restroom. Our home school for Brandi's Place is Morrish Elementary. Please see the front desk if you have any questions or need help with the forms. We will be happy to help you with any information that we can.

Labels for Education

Keep those labels coming in... we just turned in our first batch for the year and have earned a lot of points. Last time we used our points for playground and MAE's Meadow equipment/toys. This time we used our points to get two giant igloo coolers to use during the summer months. We will be able to use them for the playground, picnics and several other things. These were FREE with the use of our points from the labels. We don't even pay shipping and handling! Thank you for bringing your labels in. Keep up the great work!!!

Congratulations to our winners!

March was a busy month! We would like to congratulate our winners from the Frankenmuth Fundraiser... The Pratt Family won 1st place and received 3 free days of childcare, the Jarrett Family won 2nd place and received 2 free days of childcare and the Fawcett Family won 3rd place and received 1 free day of childcare. The fundraiser was a big success! We had Mike the Magician come visit the children on March 28th and we have many more fun activities in the planning stages... including our parent picnic. We would like to thank each and every family that participated. Every order counts and is appreciated by everyone here at Brandi's Place.

We would also like to congratulate Miss. Emily's Class (waddlers) for winning the door contest. Every door looked great and the teachers and children worked very hard. Thank you to everyone that voted for the doors. The teachers would like to thank everyone that took the time to look at each door and vote.



Hop into learning! Remember to Read, Read, Read!

Annual Egg Drawing

On April 18th we will have our annual egg drawing for our parents. This is a one day event. The basket will be located at the front desk. Parents will be able to pick **ONE** egg, per family. The eggs contain anything from candy to coupons for a certain amount that will be taken off of your tuition. The amounts range from \$1, \$5, 10% and 15% off your tuition. Discounts will be applied to your account at the time your family draws and will be available for use on the following billing cycle.



Hi Parents,

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Happy Parent™. It is our goal here at Brand's Place Early Learning & Child Care Center to help you be happy, healthy and successful in your journey of being a parent.

It is our pleasure to bring you this monthly publication filled with a little bit of humor as well as communication and parenting tips. Enjoy!

We hope you all have a safe and "Hoppy" holiday!



Safety Tips for Baby Baths

When new parents are giving their baby a bath for the very first time, there are some safety tips that are very important for them to keep in mind. Many new parents look forward to bathing their baby, but there are a number of hazards that they need to be aware of.

One good tip is to make sure to use no more water than is actually necessary and to make sure to keep their hands on the baby at all times. Any and all unsafe objects should be placed well out of reach of the little one, and safety knobs and locks should be installed. Non-slip mats should be used, and a good deal of care should be taken with the temperature of the water. There should be adult supervision of the bath at all times and new parents are also advised to make sure that they know CPR just in case of emergency.

