



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

Monthly Quote

“If you have health, you probably will be happy, and if you have health and happiness, you have all the wealth you need, even if it is not all you want.”

—*Elbert Hubbard*

Events

Family Picnic	Aug 1 st
Permission Slip Due	Aug 15 th
Field Trip to NCG	Aug 19 th
Spirit Week	Wk Aug 24 th

August Birthdays Happy Birthday

Ms. Sheri	Aug 8 th
Juniper C	Aug 9 th
Alexander S	Aug 11 th
Colton S	Aug 14 th
Brooklynn R	Aug 18 th
Miss. Emily	Aug 20 th
Miss. Hannah G	Aug 23 rd
Alba A	Aug 24 th
Alijah B.	Aug 29 th
Sophia H.	Aug 29 th
Blake F.	Aug 31 st

Picky Eater? Try These Solutions

You want your children to eat healthy, nutritious meals, but you don't want the dinner table to become a battleground every evening. Here's some advice for feeding your family without unnecessary struggle:

- **Start early.** Get your children used to eating fruits and vegetables as soon as your pediatrician says you can. Helping them develop a taste for good food when they're young will influence their choices positively when they're older.
- **Stick to a routine.** Eat at the same time every day so kids know when to expect their meals. Limit between-meal snacks so children aren't full when they sit down to the table.
- **Introduce new foods gradually.** Offer something different along with foods that are familiar. Be patient as your child gets used to a new food; you may have to serve it more than once before he or she accepts it.
- **Set the right example.** Be willing to try new foods and meals yourself, to show your family that everyone should experiment. Don't reject something you don't like immediately; try a little of it, and resist the urge to say, "I hate this," even if it doesn't appeal to you.
- **Get kids involved.** As soon as they're ready, ask your children to help decide on your mealtime menus and preparation. They'll be more likely to eat a taco they make themselves, especially if they have some choice over what they put in it.
- **Keep mealtimes short.** Don't expect your children to try something new when they're bored or restless. Try to keep lunch and dinner down to 10-15 minutes so they don't feel trapped and resentful at the table.
- **Don't force kids to eat.** Encouraging them to eat good food is important, but insisting they eat something they don't want can backfire, leading to them eating less, or overeating unhealthy foods they prefer. You want to teach your children to make good choices, not make every food decision for them.



Important Information:

If your child will be attending Morrish Elementary and will be participating in our latchkey program, please stop at the front desk to add their name to the list as well as their schedule. The bus garage will be notified the 3rd week in August with everyone's schedule. As always, children must enter the bus from the building (with all other children) and enter the building at the end of the day when exiting the bus. This is a school district policy.

Parents in the infant and waddler room: Please make sure that bottles are labelled with your child's name, date and number of ounces.

Sippy cups are to be labelled and taken home at the end of each day. Please do not leave them sitting on top of your child's cubby.

We will be doing our annual field trip to the apple orchard/pumpkin patch. More details will come in September.

All food items that are kept here must be labelled with your child's name on them. Items that are kept in the kitchen that need to be warmed up for lunch must have your child's name and date on them.

Our bye-bye buggy is kept outside by the front window. This is for infants, waddlers and one year olds. Please help us to keep the children off of the bye-bye buggy when entering and leaving the building. It does have a weight restriction and can be damaged. Our babies like to use this to go for a walk and get some fresh air.

Schedules for the following week are due by the end of the day on Thursday. Children's schedule that has not been turned in will default to the current week's schedule. Days cannot be change after the weekly staff schedule is complete on Friday morning. Days may be added if there is availability but days cannot be changed.

Monthly Celebrations and Causes

American Artist Appreciation Month. Visit a museum or art gallery and enjoy some old favorites, or find some new ones.

National Breastfeeding Month. Sponsored by the United States Breastfeeding Committee to improve the nation's health by working to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding as a proven primary prevention strategy, protecting both infants and mothers from a host of chronic and acute diseases and conditions and building a foundation for lifelong health and wellness.

Neurosurgery Outreach Month. Sponsored by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons to stress the need for awareness about concussion and other sports-related head and neck injuries.

National Scrabble Week, Aug. 9-13. Fun fact about this popular and addicting word game: The seven-letter word most likely to appear on a Scrabble rack is etaerio, which means "an aggregate of fruit, such as a raspberry."

National Safe at Home Week, Aug. 24-30. Serious injuries occur more often at home than at work. Focus on home safety this week by identifying common and hidden hazards in and around your home and protecting your family from them.

Lughnasa, Aug. 1. A Gaelic festival marking the beginning of harvest season.

National Mustard Day, Aug. 2. A celebration of the popular condiment, held every year at the National Mustard Museum in Middleton, Wis.

National Bowling Day, Aug. 11. Hit the lanes!

World Elephant Day, Aug. 12. Elephants are kind, gentle, powerful, and vulnerable, and surprisingly respectful of humans. This day seeks to support conservation efforts aimed at protecting them all year round.

National Aviation Day, Aug. 19. Observed on the birthday of Orville Wright (1871), the first human to fly in a powered aircraft.



Family Picnic

Our Picnic, Petting Zoo and Pony Rides along with all the other activities are scheduled for Friday, August 1st from 9am to approximately 1pm. Schedules were passed out at the end of July for the children's classrooms. This is something that we do every year for our families here at Brandi's Place. There is no charge for this event.

Our petting zoo, pony rides and activities will be set up in the field to the west of the building. We will have tents and tables for eating set up on the west side of the parking lot for lunch time.

Brandi's Place will also be doing a 50/50 raffle that day. 100% of our earnings will go directly back into our activities fund which helps us to fund these types of events. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk starting Thursday, July 31st and throughout the day on Friday, August 1st.

We hope you can join us for this fun event.

Field Trip

Our Young 5's and Latchkey Classrooms will be taking a field trip on Tuesday, August 19th. Three year olds are welcomed to go if a parent accompanies them. We will be visiting the NCG Theaters in Grand Blanc to see "How to Train Your Dragon 2." We will be leaving the center at 9am. We are asking that children/families meet at the center at 8:50am so that we may leave on time. The theatre is expecting us to arrive around 9:15am. They will have our items all ready when we arrive.

The cost for the field trip is \$9 per person. This will include a 48oz popcorn, 16oz drink (Sprite or Lemonade) and the movie per person. Drink choices are on the bottom of the permission slip. These cannot be changed once they are turned in. The movie theatre will be notified at the end of the day on Friday with numbers and drink choices. These will be ready for us when we arrive.

The theatre is not open at this time and is accommodating us for this field trip. Brandi's Place will be the only group at the theatre at this time. Adults may NOT enter and pay separately as we are entering as a group and only one payment may be paid per management at NCG Theatre. They will not accept any other payments other than the payment that a director makes for Brandi's Place.

Permission slips will not be accepted after Friday, August 15th. Refunds will not be given after this date as well. Please note; if your child uses a car seat/booster seat these will need to be left with their names on it the day of the field trip. Children cannot travel without them.

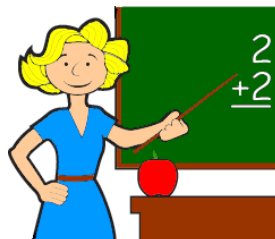
****PERMISSION SLIPS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER!****

Young 5's Program

Our Young 5's program will be kicking off this year on September 2nd (day after Labor Day). This will also be our date to kick off our Beginning Preschool and Preschool Programs for the upcoming year. Children are moved according to age and developmental appropriateness.

Children moving into the Young 5's program will receive a letter home explaining the program and its requirements. Please keep in mind that this room mimics a kindergarten classroom and prepares the children as well as the parents for the kindergarten and elementary years. It is our goal to make sure that each child and parent is ready for the next step.

Please see the front desk if you would like more information regarding beginning preschool, preschool and young 5's.



Food Substitute

Please keep in mind that breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snacks are served here. However, parents will need to bring in substitutes for any items that a child cannot have or may not like. These items can be brought in daily if needed to be refrigerated or may be left in their cubby. We will be happy to warm up any items at lunch time if needed. Brandi's Place has four menus that rotate weekly. A director can provide you with a copy if needed.

Supply Fee

Supply fees are due annually in September. This year's supply fee will be due on September 18th. Attached is a letter explaining the supply fee and rates.

Tuition Increase

Attached is a letter describing the tuition increase as well as new rates that will begin on September 2nd. New rates will begin with your August 28th tuition as our tuition is always one week in advance.

Lobby Music

Brandi's Place has music playing at the front desk for parents and children's enjoyment. Music consist of classical, various Disney music, children's songs, Kidz Bop and holiday music at the holiday times. We love to see the children come in and sing or dance when they hear the music. We hope that it brightens your day a little bit just as it does ours.

Is your child transitioning classrooms?

Children ready to transition will receive packets in their cubby. This packet will have a sample daily schedule as well as information about the classroom and their learning goals for the classroom. Children transition by age and developmental appropriateness. Children who have birthdays in August and will be moving to the beginning preschool (3 year old room), preschool and young 5's will not move until September 2nd due to our summer latchkey program. Parents will still receive a classroom packet in August. Parents will be able to meet the teacher at any time if they would like to before they transition to the next room.



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September is around the corner...

September is coming up fast and school will be in session soon. This is a friendly reminder to watch for the buses on the road and especially in our parking lot. Buses come directly into our parking lot to pick up our latchkey children at the door. Make sure to keep your little ones at an arms length at all times (in the building and in the parking lot).



From the front desk

Hi Parents,

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Happy Parent™. It is our goal here at Brandi'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!

**Smile, Dance or Sing!
Do what makes you
happy!!!**

Family Camping Tips

Camping is a popular family pastime, and a camping trip can be made more enjoyable for all concerned just by following a number of simple pieces of advice.

Bugs are the bane of camping trips but nature itself holds the remedy to these little irritants. For example, mint is an attractant to some good insects but is a repellent to the kind of insects that can mess up your trip and stop everyone from having an enjoyable time. Ants and flies can also be repelled by the use of diluted peppermint essential oil being sprayed around your camping area. Adding dried sage leaves to your site campfire will keep mosquitoes at bay as they are repelled both by the smoke and the scent.

Solar powered garden lights placed near your tent stakes will prevent you from tripping over them after dark. If you are camping with very young children, a portable camp toilet will undoubtedly make life a lot easier.

