



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

MONTHLY QUOTE

At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities.

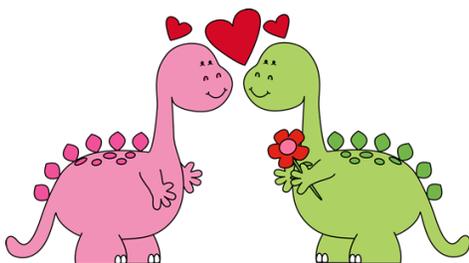
--- Jean Houston

Events

Feb 13 th	Valentine's Day Party
Feb 13 th	PJ Day
Feb 16 th	President's Day Center is OPEN

February Birthdays Happy Birthday

Feb 6 th	Jack K.
Feb 8 th	Ethan L.
Feb 22 nd	Andrea L.
Feb 24 th	Jacob O.
Feb 28 th	Logan M.
Feb 28 th	Lainey O.



Showing Gratitude This Valentine's Day

Perhaps more than any other popular holiday, the actual origins of St. Valentine's Day seem to be lost to history. There are several different options for both the Saints as well as the story, but today it is really an opportunity for those in love to express their feelings for each other.

While it is often seen more as of a special day for adults, there is absolutely nothing wrong with getting your children, even young children, in the Valentine's Day mood and sharing their love and appreciation for the people in their lives.



Homemade Valentine's Cards

Teaching children about love and gratitude is not a one day program, but this is a great day to get creative about showing how important people are in your child's life.

You can start by providing your kids with construction paper, sparkles, scissors, glue and crayons and letting them create their own Valentine's Day cards. You can even buy an assortment of pre-cut hearts, cupids, arrows and flowers that they glue onto their card designs.

Mom and dad, or the children, can print a special personal message of gratitude and appreciation in the card. Parents can talk to children about why they are appreciative of the individual that the card is designed for to help develop the concept.

Important Information

If your child needs medication, a medicine form must be filled out and on file in order for us to administer it. Children that do not have a medication form on file cannot be given any medication. At no time can children come in with cups with medication already in them.

If your family is having someone else pick up your child, they **MUST** have a picture ID; this is for the safety of everyone. Unfortunately a child cannot be released if there is no picture ID. Please have your family members or friends bring this in with them when they come in to pick up your child.

Please keep in mind that there are kids in the parking lot during pick up and drop off times. We also have two buses that come in the morning and the afternoon. Please be patient as cars and buses are coming and going. Please slow down and do not speed in the parking lot. Drive very slow and keep a close out for children, moving cars and buses. We do ask that cars do not move when buses are stopped in the parking lot loading and unloading children. This is for the safety of everyone.

Please make sure that your children have all their winter gear everyday (hats, mittens, boots, etc). Weather permitting, children will go outside everyday. All items should be labeled with your child's name and/or initials in all their pieces.

Monthly Celebrations and Causes

American Heart Month. Heart disease kills ~630,000 Americans each year and is the leading cause of death for both men and women. American Heart Month urges Americans to live a healthy lifestyle and join the battle against heart disease.

Black History Month. Marking the February birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, Black History Month remembers the struggles and contributions of African-Americans. This year marks key anniversaries of the Emancipation Proclamation (Jan. 1, 1863) and the March on Washington for civil rights (August 1963).

National Hot Breakfast Month. A healthy breakfast is important to good nutrition and health. It stabilizes blood-sugar levels, contributes to a balanced metabolism, and puts you in a better mood to confront the day. Start these chilly February mornings with a hot breakfast to get your day off on the right foot.

Responsible Pet Owners Month. Remember to spay or neuter your pet to prevent overpopulation, visit the veterinarian regularly, give your pet plenty of exercise, and offer your pet the kind of unconditional love he or she gives you.

Groundhog Day, Feb. 2. Will the groundhog see his shadow? Is winter almost over?

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12. Birthday of the 16th president of the United States, born in a log cabin in 1809 in Kentucky.

Darwin Day, Feb. 12. Birthday of British naturalist Charles Darwin, whose theories on evolution changed the world.

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Show the people you love how much you care for them, with cards, flowers, and kindness.

George Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22. The hero of the American Revolution and the first president of the United States was born this day in 1732. Celebrated on the third Monday in February as Presidents Day.



What's New??? Check out the Front Lobby

We now have a TV that flips pictures of all the children that have been in attendance at Brandi's Place and the fun activities that we do on a daily basis. There are 100 plus pictures and we add new ones each week.

We have posted our "Best of the Best" awards for 2013 and 2014. We are very proud of these awards and thank each of you that voted for us. Our goal is to be the best center in Genesee County and to serve each family with the best care possible. Our staff loves each child and is here to assist in meeting your child's needs.

We also have a picture of our timeline. The top picture is our groundbreaking ceremony with the builder Del Pratt and two of his great grandchildren, Kyra Kelley and Matthew Gibson (Brandi's son). The second picture is of Debbie Cramer and Brandi Gibson when we were in the construction phase. The last picture is when the center was complete and is our Grand Opening Sign back in 2004.

Employee of the Month

Our Employee of the Month February is Miss. Taylor! Congratulations to Miss. Taylor. Employee of the Month is voted by the teachers here at Brandi's Place. They have a ballot form that they fill out with their vote and why they think they should be the employee of the month. These votes are counted by the directors and announced. Staff that receive employee of the month get little fun perks throughout the month. Please congratulate Miss. Taylor when you see her!

Brandi's Place has a new app!!!

Brandi's Place is in the process creating a new parent app for your smart phone. This app will include a quick link to call us, an address book with helpful numbers, a Google calendar so you can see events coming up, our newsletters, menus, classroom descriptions, meet our staff tab, forms and links to our facebook and twitter pages. We wanted parents to be able to have this information at their fingertips and at the click of a button. We will let you know when it is up and ready so you may put it on your smart phone if you wish.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE: WHO ARE SAFE ADULTS?

One component of keeping kids safe is helping them understand the difference between a stranger and a safe adult.

Young children may believe that a stranger is a creepy, scary person when in fact a stranger is simply someone they haven't met. By describing a stranger in this fashion, the mailman, the gardener, and the friendly baggers at the supermarket are included since these are people they have already met by may not know very well.

It is also important to teach children that you should judge a stranger not by their looks, but by their behavior. Explain that a safe adult would never ask young children for help, hurt them, embarrass them or make them feel uncomfortable.

The Perils of Perfectionism

Finding work/life balance in today's busy and highly competitive world could never be described as easy. For most perfectionists, however, it is downright impossible. Although many people tend to think of being a perfectionist as a positive thing, true perfectionism is, in many ways, extremely counterproductive. Not only does the need to attend to every last little detail waste unnecessary time and lead to tasks and projects taking much longer than they need to, but it typically means that perfectionists end up allowing work to eat into their own personal leisure time.

Perhaps worse still, even once the job is finally handed over, the perfectionist still never feels that he or she has completed it well enough and so is left with intense feelings of frustration and low self-esteem. Striving for excellence is something that can only benefit ourselves and our employers, but there is a world of difference between this and trying to achieve the impossible. As human beings, we are not built to be perfect; trying to achieve perfection is a certain road to unhappiness. By all means give everything your best show, but know when to stop because your best really is good enough!

Valentine's Day Party

Our Valentine's Day party is scheduled for Friday, February 13th and will begin around 9am. Children have been making their valentine boxes and bags. During the party they will pass out valentines, play games and have a special treat. Per request of the several children, we will be having a PJ Day that day as well. A class list of names have been hung on your child's cubby for their valentine cards as well as a sign up sheet has been hung on all the classroom doors for treats.

Monthly Drawings

This year we will be continuing our drawings for our families. We will be doing monthly drawings instead of doing weekly drawings. A list of drawings has been posted on the table in the front entryway along with the dates/weeks that the drawings will be held. We have some fun things that we will be doing this year. We will continue to do our BIG drawings in December. This will not be announced until December... in the past years we have given away a Kindle Fire, Soaring Eagle Water Park Passes and Hotel Stay and 32 inch LED TV's.

Please keep in mind that families may ONLY place their name in the bucket once for each drawing. If there are any duplicates they will be disqualified from that drawing and all names will be placed back in the bucket and a new name will be drawn.

Families may enter every month for the drawings... good luck and have fun!



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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!

Happy Valentine's Day



THE THRILL OF THE CHASE

When toddlers dart away in public there are usually two reasons: One is that limits and the word "no" are meaningless to them because sometimes adults do not follow through with consequences of inappropriate behavior. The other is attention seeking-behavior. Sometimes darting away in public becomes a game and it gets parents' attention. For a young child, it's really fun to have adults chase, catch and lecture. This is a very common scenario and the leash, time outs and warnings usually do not help.

So what do you do when your toddler darts away in public? The next time you plan to go out, tell the child, "If you run away from me, we will leave". Leave no room for negotiations. Use direct eye-to-eye contact. Then if the child runs, pick him or her up and face him away. Do not engage in conversation. Put your child in the car seat and look at him and say "You ran away from me so we are leaving. We will try again another day". Then go home. Try again another day and repeat if needed. Yes, it is a lot of work, but it will pay off. In the long run, being consistent and setting limits will help your child learn appropriate behaviors.