

05.13. 2022

BI - WEEKLY

CONNECTION

Child Care E-Newsletter

A Message From The Director

What Happens Behind the Scenes

Our brains develop faster in the first 5 years than at any other point in life.

Early childhood educators lay the groundwork for the future of our nation's children but are historically undervalued and underpaid. These professionals must be valued, respected, and well compensated for the essential and important roles they play in the support of children, families, and our economy.

Earlier this year, White Birch Center increased all wages for employees, but specifically for teaching staff. The new starting wage for all our teachers is now \$15 per hour and is based on education and experience. Before this change, Assistant Teachers, described as someone with no previous course work in the field and cannot be left alone with children, were getting hired at a starting rate of \$9-\$11 per hour. Similarly, Associate Teachers, described as someone who has 9 or more credits in the field, were getting hired for \$11-\$13 per hour. Lastly, Lead Teachers, described as someone who has 18+ credits or a college degree in the field, were getting hired for \$13-\$15 per hour.

Child care providers are in the bottom 0.04% wage rate in the U.S., and we must continue to spread awareness regarding the challenges that come with taking care of our nation's children.

[More Child Care Wage Info](#)*Leanna Lorden*

Director of Children's Programs

Science At Home

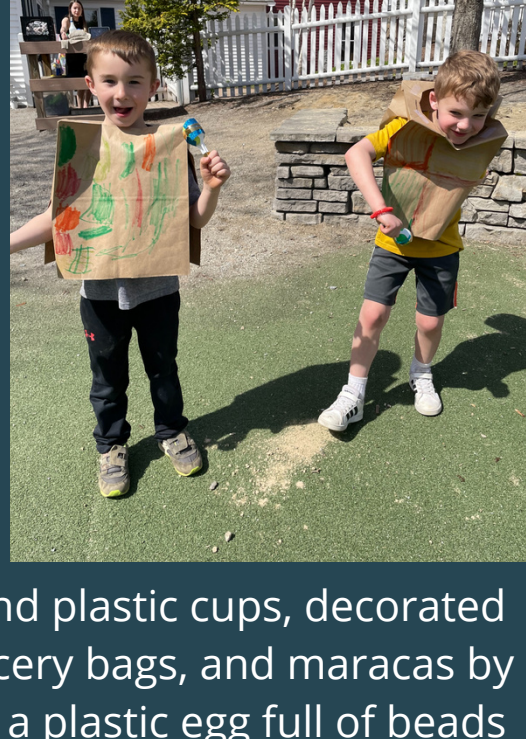
Children become scientists at a young age through daily routines and interactions. They develop understandings of their physical and social worlds based on their experiences. These experiences stem from those that evolve organically and those which are intentionally planned and put forth for our children. The most important thing we can do to encourage this lifelong love of learning and science in our kiddos, is to learn alongside them. Sometimes not knowing the answer to a question our child may ask leads into a world of learning we did not know existed. For science experiments you can do at home, click on the red button below.

[Science Experiments for Home](#)*Jess Webb*

Assistant Director of the Early Learning Program

The Classroom Corner

Last week, for Cinco De Mayo, the Pre-K classroom celebrated in style. Each child took their time making sombreros with paper plates and plastic cups, decorated ponchos made from paper grocery bags, and maracas by tying two spoons together with a plastic egg full of beads in between. Once they were dressed up and ready to celebrate, they went outside to the playground for a Cinco De Mayo dance party. The whole Pre-K classroom had so much fun dancing, and running with each other all over the playground, as well as learned about the unique cultural holiday.



Ideas From The Kitchen

What's Cooking?

Welcome to What's Cooking, where the WBC kitchen will periodically feature a recipe from a staff member of the White Birch Family.

In May, we celebrate and honor the many incredible moms that make such a difference in our lives. For this segment of "What's Cooking", we showcase two recipes from hard-working moms found right here at White Birch. We have one recipe from Ms. Allison, Director of our Extended Education Program, and one from Ms. Jean, our Office Manager. Please click the recipe button below to view them both.

If you are looking for more recipes and interactive things to do with your child, click the C.A.C.F.P Resource button for more fun children's activities.

[Staff Recipes](#)[C.A.C.F.P Resource](#)*Jessica Thompson*

Kitchen Manager

Extended Education Program

Did you know the Extended Education Program provides care during school vacations? April 25-29th was April vacation for Henniker Community School. Our program provided full day care for children from Henniker and the surrounding towns. We spent lots of time outside enjoying the beautiful Spring weather, making various crafts, playing games, and even playing with mud (clean mud that is).

What's clean mud? Clean mud is a squishy substance that has all the qualities of mud, but without the mess! Check out these recipes to make clean mud! We used recipe 2, let us know if you try recipe 1

[Clean Mud Recipes](#)*Allison Saltmarsh*

Director of the Extended Education Program



Staff Highlights

Ashley Zbyszynski became a part of the of the White Birch family in the Spring of 2022. Ashley has been in the field of early childhood for more than five years and has coursework from both NHTI in Concord and Manchester Community College. Ashley and her family live in Hopkinton and are accompanied by several animals such as a dog, chickens, and bunnies. In her free time, she enjoys photography and crafts. Her passion for children began with babysitting at a young age and eventually furthering her career in ECE.

