

THE LUNCHBOX PRESS

NASA Goddard Child Development Center

GCDC's philosophy is to meet children's developmental and individual needs and to create a stimulating environment in which children learn through exploration and discovery.

Upcoming Events

April 1

Enrollment Intention Forms Due

April 3-7

Week of The Young Child Celebration

- 4th Crazy Hat Day
- 5th Pajama Day
- 6th Tie Dye Day
- 7th What I want to be when I grow up
- 8th Parent Child Kite Day, Ice Cream Social, Dance Party

April 18-21

Learning Gardens

April 27

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting

April 17-21

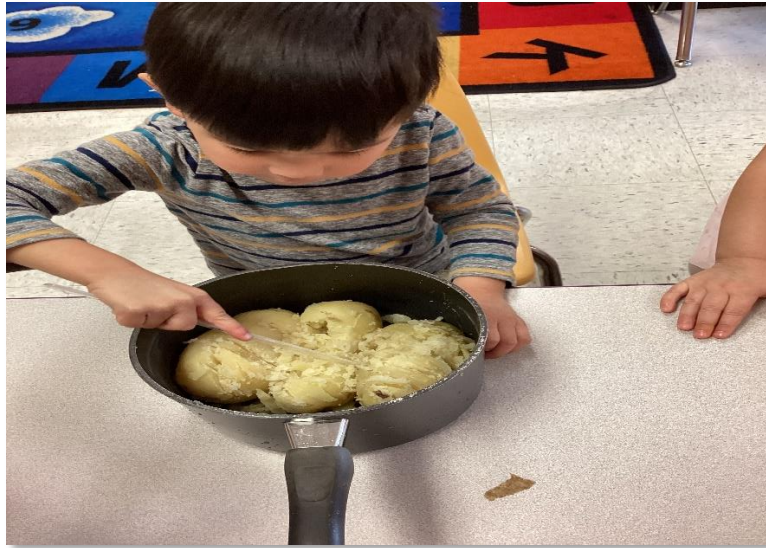
Earth Day Projects

April 28

Sunscreen Forms Due

April 20

GCDC Association Board Meeting



Fine Motor Skills: What You Need to Know

By understood.org

If your child struggles with tasks like writing, drawing, and using scissors, you may have heard people mention the term fine motor skills when describing the challenges. But what are fine motor skills?

Fine motor skills are the ability to make movements using the small muscles in our hands, wrists, and fingers. Kids rely on these skills to do key tasks in school and everyday life.

Read more about fine motor skills and how they can affect learning.

What Are Fine Motor Skills?

We use fine motor skills to make small movements. These movements come so naturally to most people that we usually don't think about them. Fine motor skills are complex, however. They involve the coordinated efforts of the brain and muscles, and they're built on the gross motor skills that allow us to make more significant movements.

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Volunteer Opportunities

- Coding Bee Bots Lesson Plan Pre-K
- Library Catalog
- 2 Gardner's per classroom
- Toy Shed Organization
- Fun Run Chaperones
- Fun Run Pace Setter
- Toy Cleaning
- Toy Sanitizing
- Newsletter Editor
- Field Day Planners
- STAW- Volunteers



Continued from Page 1

Fine motor skills aren't specific learning skills like reading or math are. But they directly impact how well kids can learn and show what they know. For instance, kids need fine motor skills to circle an answer in a bubble on a test or write an essay or response.

Kids need to use fine motor skills to do many school-related tasks. These include:

- Holding a crayon or pencil
- Drawing pictures and writing neatly
- Stacking blocks and stringing beads
- Using scissors, rulers, and other tools

Kids also need fine motor skills to do daily tasks like getting dressed and brushing their teeth.

Kids develop at different rates. But there are milestones they generally meet at certain ages. This includes **fine motor milestones**. For instance, at ages 5 or 6, kids can typically copy shapes and letters, and use a fork and spoon with control. At 9 or 10, they can typically draw and use tools like a ruler without becoming too frustrated.

Difficulties with fine motor skills often aren't identified until preschool when teachers see that kids are struggling.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yyearfpl> to see simple ways to help strengthen your child's fine motor skills at home.



**2022-2023 GCDC
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Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

You are invited to join the PAC! The Association will be working together to brainstorm ways to support the schools fundraising efforts and enhance the quality of care provided to our children. This month the PAC will focus on the following Action items:

1. Staff Teacher Appreciation Week – STAW
2. Fun Run Fundraiser
3. GCDC 50th Anniversary Celebration

**The April PAC Meeting is scheduled for
April 27@ noon.
Please look out for the virtual invitation
from Martha Wawro**

Look for the **2023 sunscreen permission slip** with your weekly note email from your child's teacher. If you would like your child's Teachers to apply sunscreen in the afternoons, please provide a completed sunscreen form and a new bottle of sunscreen by April 28th. Ensure that the sunscreen bottle is labeled with your child's name.





May 8th - May 12th

Please look for an email from the parent representative for your class with details about how you can participate and support the planned activities for Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.



This month, we will focus on our final Character Pillar Respect. Parents can extend these lessons at home by using the word **RESPECT** in real and relevant ways.

Key Beliefs:

- Show Respect to everyone
- Be considerate of feelings
- Never bully hit or hurt others
- Use good manners and language



Congratulations to Mrs. Lakshini and Ms. Kendra for earning the Environments Award for the month of March. They were recognized for finding ways to document the student’s learning in all content areas, maintaining a neat and orderly classroom and demonstrating attention to detail. As an accredited program, it is important that our classroom environments be carefully planned and managed to ensure children have access to thirteen interest areas. This award is designed to help all staff focus on our classroom environments. For their efforts they both will share the employee of the month parking space up front.

School Reference Forms

It is that time of year when parents of graduating students often request that GCDC Teachers complete various forms in support of applications to other schools. These requests and addressed/stamped envelopes must be submitted to our office.

Once the Teacher completes the forms, the forms are mailed directly to the requesting school. Neither the forms nor the copies are given directly to the parents.

Please allow two weeks for this process.



We understand that families may have many prospective schools for their child; however, we can only support four requests per child.

Upcoming Dates

DATE	Event
5/8-12	Staff & Teacher Appreciation Week
5/11	Spring Picture Day
5/12	Sign up for your Parent Teacher Conference
5/12	After hours Program Tour
5/18	Parent/Child Egg Drop
5/19	Report Cards Released
5/26	GCDC Closed for Professional Development
5/30-6/6	Parent Teacher Conferences



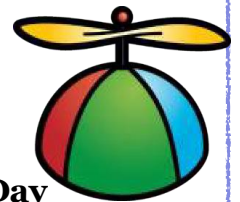
The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. GCDC will celebrate WOYC as follows:



Tie Dye Day

Dress for Mess! Each child will need a new white t-shirt

Crazy Hat Day
Wear your craziest hat!



Pajama Day
Wear your Pajamas to school today.

What I Want to Be When I Grow Up Day
Dress up as what you want to be when you grow up. Please no princess, superhero, or other fantasy costumes. This day is reserved for realistic careers only.



Parent Child Fun Day
Come enjoy a day of dancing, ice cream and flying kites with your child at the Pavilion. See flyer for more details.

March Reflections



PS2: Comets
Preschool Physics



PS2: Comets
Handwriting w/o Tears



PS2: Little Dippers
Textured Rainbow Painting



PS2: Little Dippers
Independent Story Time



GSFC/GCDC Fun Run Fundraiser

Goal \$4000

Date: April 19th Noon start for 2-mile race, other races will be held before noon, right in front of GCDC

How to help:

1. Enlist friends and family to sponsor your child in their race at <https://secure.anedot.com/9fdb39a-4559-42c7-becc-5194bbc9e718/fun-run> Be sure to instruct everyone to include the name of the child for whom they are donating. There will be a prize for the class with the most participation.
2. Volunteer for Race Day help - we need both Running and non-running volunteers.

March Reflections



PS4: Shooting Stars
Paper Airplane Contest



PS4: Shooting Stars
Board Games w/Friends



PS3: Milky Way
Collage Art



PS3: Milky Way
Paper Airplane Contest



Congratulations to Chef Hooper on earning his Food Service Managers Certification. A certified food manager is an individual who has demonstrated the required knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to protect the public from foodborne illness and allergens by successfully completing a certified food manager examination, thereby becoming certified.

March Reflections

March was all about Math! **Constellations** Measured, Counted, Sorted, Voted and Graphed.

