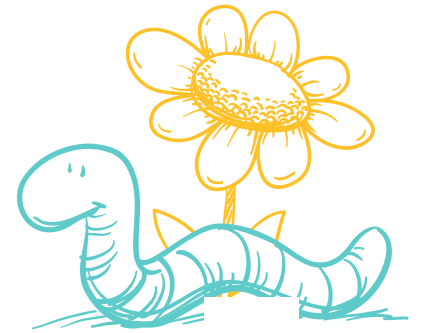




The Nursery Rhyme

MISSION STATEMENT:
to provide affordable
quality child care
for a diverse community



Celebrating School Readiness and 2021 Summer Camp

Celebrations at Day Nursery are the best; especially when it comes to celebrating PreK accomplishments and graduations. We were thrilled to have been able to do these again this year and just as the planning began, word was received that parents could be inside the facilities again.

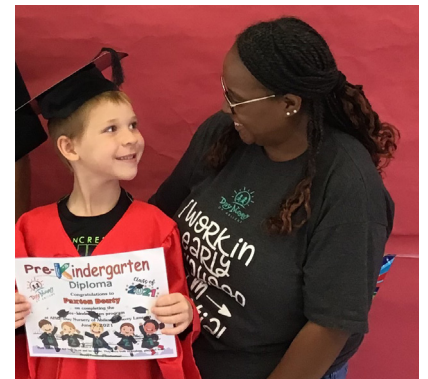
We are grateful to each of our talented staff for their efforts to prepare children for kindergarten and to the AISD teachers who work alongside the staff in three of our centers that have PreK partnerships. We value this collaborative partnership of more than 15 years. Working together we are preparing young children for school and beyond.

It's also been grand to plan a "normal" summer camp experience for our schoolers. After only limited outings last year, the "Summer Camp Adventure 2021" is in full swing



with lots of planned outings and field trip enrichment activities. Some in separate groups and some altogether for our own movie theater experiences at the Orange Street and a fun-filled day at the FBC Family Life Center just to name a few. It's been so much fun so far and with a few more weeks to go! Adventures and celebrations include, Friendship week, Western Days, Camping, Wildlife, Celebrate the USA, Olympics, Storybook week, On The Farm, DNA Rocks, STEM, Space Adventure, Arts and Culture, and Aloha Summer. As summer ended these kiddos went back to school.

See more inside this issue for a selection of pictures that capture the fun of these and other happenings in the Day Nursery centers!



Honorable Mention

The Day Nursery of Abilene appreciated the opportunity to be included in the fall "Voices in the Field" publication put out by Texas child care advocates, Children at Risk. The publication focuses on the impact of the pandemic on the Texas child care industry and how many providers are working to assure the continuance of child care in the State.

It can be found online <https://childrenatrisk.org/txecenewsletter-sept21/>

A Message from Cynthia Pearson

PRESIDENT / CEO

The famous question that children always ask... "are we there yet?" What we are all asking in these current times is more like "are we back to 'normal' yet"? Well hopefully...soon!



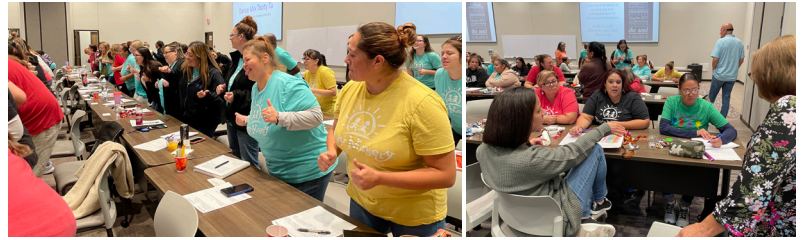
With all the dealings of COVID in 2020, we remain hopeful that life at the Day Nursery of Abilene and in our child care centers will be on the road to "back to normal". One of the things that brought us hope was allowing parents to finally be come back into the centers in the late spring of 2021. Day Nursery welcomed them back in with open arms and they were over the moon to be back too! With that saying, we continue following added health and safety protocol, including additional handwashing (of parents too), sanitizing and even offering onsite vaccine clinics in each of our child care centers this fall too.

And the silver lining of all of the dealings with the fluid situation of the pandemic? We have learned a lot and our industry received heightened awareness too. The importance of early care and education programs has been exemplified! It's unfortunate that it took a world-wide pandemic, but that fact is that it's been duly noted and with momentum to continue strengthening the industry through legislative agendas both statewide and at the federal level too. These are positive outcomes!

Although we still hope to say "goodbye" to this pandemic for good, and "hello" change, greater appreciation, and value for the early childhood industry! We'll continue moving forward to meet the premise of our mission to provide affordable quality child care for a diverse community!



Professional Development: Columbus Day Training 2021



Day Nursery of Abilene staff attended an all-day training session on Columbus Day to provide a review of the latest updates on personnel and safety policies as well as the quality requirements of staff as a Texas Rising Star (TRS) child care program. The best part of the day was the featured keynote presenter for the day, Mr. Stephen Fite who presented an invigorating, participatory workshop on the power of rhythm and using music, movement and making brain connections. Mr. Fite has entertained preschool children for years through his music presentations in Abilene and has trained thousands of early childhood professionals since 1985. The talented staff at Day Nursery walked away with great ideas for their classrooms and even wrote a total of 20 different "piggy back" songs to use in their classrooms.

Program Highlights

School-Ready Celebrations



Summer Camp Adventure 2021



Infant/toddler Fun and Learning Experiences



Reading Time with Representative Stan Lambert



MAKING A DIFFERENCE... ONE CHILD AT A TIME!

Generosity of our donors, Apr. 2021 - Oct. 2021
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Kam Zinsser

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Robert, Elsie & Roberta Watters Endowment Fund

The Day Nursery of Abilene is grateful to each and every donor including those who made the 2021 Abilene Gives campaign a success this year!

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

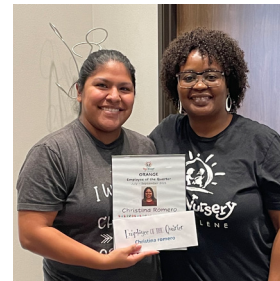
Employees of the Quarter



Colleen Graves
Vine St.



Dora Rosales
Cedar St.

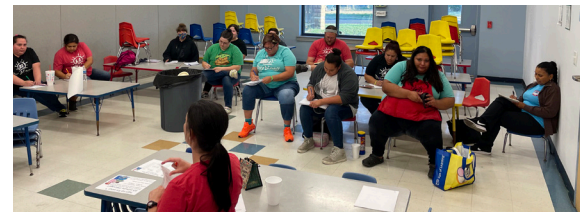


Christina Romero
Orange St.



Marisol Arrazola
Sherry Ln.

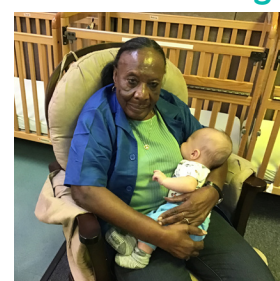
Staff Training



Vaccine Clinics



Foster Grandparents return to Day Nursery!





FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

After being without our Foster Grandparents for more than 18 months because of COVID, our centers were thrilled to welcome them back and the children were over the moon excited!! We even had a couple of new grandparents join us! They all attended a refresher/training session at the administration office earlier this week and are now back in action! Day Nursery LOVES our Foster Grandparents!

"SAVE THE DATE"

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS 2021

As you plan your yearend giving, please consider a gift to the Day Nursery of Abilene in the "Spirit of Christmas". Your contribution impacts the lives of 600 children in care in the four child care centers and makes a difference... one child at a time. Watch for a special-designed card to come in the mail in December. This year there will be another component too, virtual messages by our kiddos. Stay tuned!



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OUR CHILD CARE CENTERS:



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OF ABILENE
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Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 673-1110 phone
(325) 677-0235 fax

Vine Street
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1442 Vine Street
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 672-7351

Orange Street
Center
1450 N. 17th
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 232-7387

Sherry Lane
Center
3434 Sherry Lane
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 673-1781

Cedar Street
Center
650 Cedar Street
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 670-0002

Administration
Office
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Abilene, TX 79601
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