

Center Spring Newsletter

□ A Message from Our Executive Director



It has been about four months since stepping into my new role as Executive Director, and I can confidently say that change has never looked better. Over the past several months, our building has been refreshed thanks to the incredible dedication of our leadership and teaching team. Together, they have taken on projects throughout the center that help ensure our space reflects the safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment our children and families deserve.

During a recent leadership team meeting, we paused to reflect on just how far this organization has come. Not long ago, like many programs, we were navigating the challenges of the pandemic and operating in a constant state of survival. Today, we are proud to say that My Place is not only stable—it is thriving.

Through the commitment of our staff, the support of our families, and the generosity of our community partners, My Place has grown into something truly special. What began as a small program has become a vital support system for families throughout Schuylar County and an important place where children can learn, grow, and belong.

On a personal note, I am also excited to share that I will be welcoming my own bundle of joy this August—another little one to be part of the My Place family. This journey makes the work we do even more meaningful to me, as I continue to experience firsthand the importance of strong, supportive, and high-quality care for children and families.

As we move into the spring season, I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead such a passionate team and to serve a community that believes so deeply in the work we do. The future of My Place is bright, and we are excited for all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,
Cassandra Ball
Executive Director
My Place: A Play & Learning Center

□ A Message from Our Center Program Director



As we welcome spring, I want to take a moment to thank our families for your continued partnership and support. Open communication is incredibly important to us, and we encourage you to stay connected with your child's classroom teacher throughout the day using ProCare. This helps ensure we are all working together to best support your child.

We kindly ask families to complete and return all digital forms and paperwork sent home in a timely manner, as these items are essential for keeping us in compliance with OCFS regulations. Please also remember to provide updated physical and immunization records whenever your child receives a new physical and/or immunizations.

A friendly reminder that tuition is due the week of care. Any balances remaining after 30 days may be subject to a late fee, and balances outstanding for 60 days will result in the forfeiture of your child's enrollment spot.

Early childhood literacy continues to be a priority at My Place. We send home Scholastic book orders throughout the year, which are a wonderful and inexpensive way to build your child's home library while also supporting the center. Every dollar spent earns points that we can use toward books, classroom materials, furniture, and more. We also have a lending library located in the lobby—families are welcome to borrow books and return them when finished.

This winter was a busy one behind the scenes. We completed several repairs throughout the center, came together as a team in January to deep clean the entire building, and refreshed our space by painting the lobby, hallways, and gross motor rooms. In February, all of our floors were deep cleaned and waxed, helping keep our environment safe and welcoming.

I am so excited for spring to arrive and to witness all the changes, growth, and new experiences that our My Place kiddos will get to explore in the months ahead.

Thank you for being such an important part of our community.

Warmly,
Noel Wheaton
Center Program Director
Noel.Wheaton@myplace-aplc.org

□ A Message from Our School Age Director



As we welcome spring, we are reflecting on what a busy and fun winter we had at the after-school program. One of the highlights was our two-night Talent Show, where our students had the chance to share their amazing talents with family and friends. Thank you to all of the families who came out to support our performers. Events like this truly would not be possible without the incredible community that stands behind our program.

Our teachers have recently been trained on Character Strong curriculum and are now implementing. We are focusing on building strong connections, working together as a team, and showing kindness to one another each day. These lessons help create a supportive and positive environment for all of our students.

The summer flyer is now out, and registration forms are being accepted. Be on the lookout for more information about our 2nd Annual Summer Carnival, this year it will be bigger and better than ever! □

We are excited for the season ahead and all of the growth that comes with spring. □



Infant Team Message

Bre A - Lead Teacher
Ammanda - Teacher Aide



This April, our Infant Classroom is embracing the joys of spring through themes like Easter, Growing and Blooming, Earth Day, and Little Nature Explorers. As the season of growth begins, some of our older infants will be taking an exciting step forward as they transition into the Waddler classroom! While we will miss them, we are so proud of the milestones they have reached and the growth we have witnessed. At the same time, our younger infants will continue developing at their own pace with individualized support. Throughout the month, children will engage in hands-on, sensory-rich activities that may get a little messy at times, but these experiences are an important and developmentally appropriate part of learning, exploration, and discovery!

As we continue through cold and flu season, we want to be mindful of the spread of germs within our classroom. Infants are still building their immune systems, so exposure to common illnesses can happen more frequently. We kindly ask families to monitor their child for any signs of illness and keep them home when they are not feeling well. Working together helps us maintain a safe and healthy environment for all of our children and staff.

Waddler Team Message

Ashley - Lead Teacher
Mackenzie - Assistant Teacher
Rhonda - Teacher Aide





It's finally SPRING! It couldn't get here soon enough! The waddlers cannot wait to get back outside daily and go on our adventure filled buggy rides again! It was definitely a very brisk winter. We made due with all our fun indoor activities like our parachute, bubbles and ribbons! We unfortunately said goodbye to a handful of friends as they were ready to move to toddlers and bursting for new experiences. But! we also said hello to a new friend that moved to us from the infant classroom! We love welcoming new friends! As we move into spring, we will be focusing on more nature activities and learning what nature has to offer us. Here's to new adventures and more sunshine!

Tiny Sprouts Team Message

Tee - Lead Teacher
Angela - Teacher Assistant



Welcome to the **new Tiny Sprouts Room**, formerly known as Tiny Tots or Three-school! Our classroom has officially blossomed into its new name and this time it's here to stay! We are so excited for all the wonderful new things ahead for our Tiny Sprouts room.

HOORAY for spring finally being here! Let's hope warmer temperatures are right around the corner. Spring is such a special season of blooming and growth, and I cannot wait to watch our Tiny Sprouts bloom right alongside it during their time in our classroom.

This season, we'll be focusing heavily on social and emotional learning this will include sharing, learning to recognize and talk about our feelings, and exploring calming techniques we can use throughout the day. After our long, cold winter, we are eager to get outside for fresh air and outdoor exploration as much as possible. Even though winter kept us indoors quite a bit, we made the most of it! We had so much fun learning about and observing the snow, feeling different temperatures, and spending that extra indoor time strengthening our friendships and building important social-emotional skills together.

We're looking forward to going on field trips to explore our community and expand our learning beyond the classroom walls. There are so many exciting adventures ahead!

Miss Angela and I are ready to create lasting memories, nurture growing minds, and celebrate every milestone along the way. We are so thankful to share this special time with your little ones and cannot wait to see all the learning and growing that will take place in the Tiny Sprouts Room! ☐

Toddler Team Message

Bre - Lead Teacher

Sam - Teacher Aide

Destiny - Teacher Aide



HELLO SPRING!! We sure are ready to welcome a new season with lots of fresh air, sunshine and warmer weather to our learning and play! We cannot wait to get back onto the playground, explore our community with walks and buggy rides, and enjoy all that comes with the new season. Although it has been no fun being stuck inside during these past colder months, we have really made the most of it! From our crafts and hands-on sensory play to our music and movement, gross motor activities, circle time learning, and so much more! While it is never easy to say goodbye, we are very proud of the friends that have made their way to the Preschool and Tiny Sprouts room. They have all grown so much, and we hope they have so much fun on their next adventures! At the same time, we were very thrilled to be welcoming some new faces into our Toddler room from the Waddlers and Tiny Sprouts classroom! This spring is going to be so much fun as we continue expanding our learning, exploring new experiences and growing together as a classroom!

Preschool Team Message

Mikayla - Lead Teacher
Maddy - Assistant Teacher
Bri - Teacher Aide
Kelly- Assistant Teacher

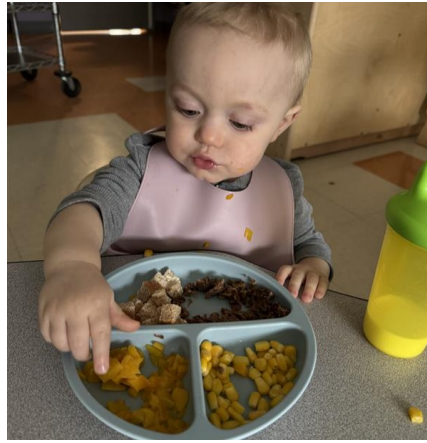




Our preschool room is so excited to welcome spring and all the fun that comes with it! We are looking forward to spending more time outdoors, going on walks, and talking about the different things we see in our community as the seasons change. We are also happy to welcome a few new friends into our preschool classroom. As we move into spring, we will continue focusing on building strong social-emotional skills, practicing problem-solving strategies, and engaging in lots of hands-on sensory play. In our preschool room, we place a big emphasis on recognizing and understanding our emotions, helping children learn how to express their feelings in positive ways. We can't wait for all the growth and learning ahead!

□ Kitchen Update

Wilson - Cook



We are excited to share some new and upcoming updates from our kitchen! We have recently partnered with The Burdett Exchange to incorporate local meats into our menu while also supporting a wonderful local business.

We are also currently exploring options with Plow Break for fresh produce and are hopeful to partner with them in the future to offer CSA boxes to our families.

Our new Spring/Summer menu will begin on April 6th (please see attachments below). We truly appreciate the feedback we received from families as we continue working to provide nutritious and enjoyable meals for our children.

☐ **A special message from Mr. Wilson:**

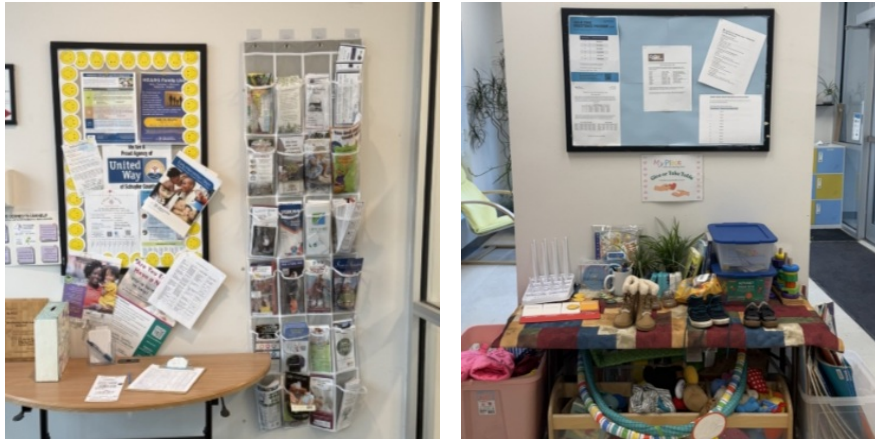
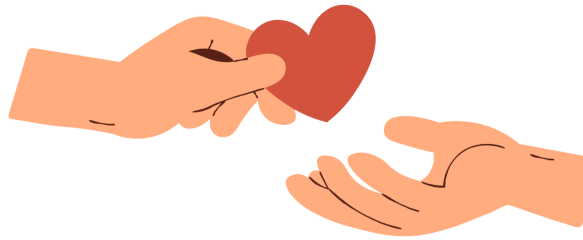
"My Place is the most gratifying work I've ever done. It has been a great honor to serve these children and their families this last year."

☐ **Wellness Team Spring Update**

Noel, Mikayla, Tee, Kaitlyn

Give or Take Table

♥ Give What You Can, Take What You Need ♥



As we welcome spring, the Wellness Team would like to highlight a few resources available to support our families, staff, and community. Our goal is to provide essential resources to families and staff, boost staff morale, promote positivity, and strengthen overall community engagement within our center.

In our vestibule, you will find a variety of resource brochures covering topics such as family wellness, child development, and community supports. Please feel free to take any information that may be helpful to you.

In our lobby, we have introduced a “Give and Take Table.” Anyone is welcome to bring items to donate, and anyone is welcome to take what they need—no questions asked. You’ll also find important community information, including childcare assistance guidelines, local food pantries, and other helpful resources on the bulletin board.

We are always looking for ways to improve and better support our community. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or feedback, please don’t hesitate to reach out, we would love to hear from you.

Garden Committee

Cass, Taylor, Kate, John, Rhonda



The Garden Committee is so excited that spring has finally arrived! After a long winter, we are looking forward to getting outside, getting our hands in the soil, and bringing some fresh growth and new plants to our spaces. Spring is always a special time in the garden as we begin to see everything come back to life, and we can't wait to help make our grounds bright, welcoming, and full of color for the kids and families to enjoy.

We are also beginning to plan for our 1st annual Grounds Keeping Day on **June 6th**. This is a wonderful opportunity for families and community members to come together and help care for the spaces our children use every day. If you are interested in volunteering, we would love your help! Even a little bit of time makes a big difference, and it's always a fun way to connect with others while making our grounds look their best.



▣ Pyramid Model Spring Tip: Catch Them Being Kind

Spring is a wonderful time to focus on positive behaviors as children grow, explore, and interact more with friends.

Using the Pyramid Model, we encourage adults to notice and name positive behaviors right when they happen. When children feel seen for what they're doing *right*, those behaviors are more likely to continue.

Try this at home and school:

- Be specific with praise:
"You waited for your turn—that was very kind."
"I noticed you helped your friend clean up."
- Pair words with warmth: smiles, high-fives, or a gentle pat on the back.
- Celebrate effort, not just outcomes.

These small moments of encouragement help children build confidence, self-control, and strong social skills—just like spring helps everything grow ▣

▣ Spring Fundraising Highlights

Fundraising plays an important role in supporting our program and enhancing the experiences we provide for our children and families. Funds raised help us invest in classroom materials, special activities, staff development, and program improvements that go beyond our everyday budget.

We're excited to share a few upcoming fundraising events and hope you'll join us in the fun:

- **Purse Bingo - April 19th**
A fan-favorite evening filled with fun, prizes, and community connection.
- **Krispy Kreme Fundraising - June**
Yummy Treats just in time for Father's Day
- **Month of the Child - July**
A month-long celebration focused on honoring children, families, and the joy of early learning.
- In addition to these events, our annual appeal was sent to over 200 community members, helping us extend our reach and strengthen community support for our program.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Every event, donation, and shared moment helps us grow a stronger, more enriching environment for our children.

Mark Your Calendars

Important dates

March 20th - First Day of Spring!

April 3rd - **Center is CLOSED**, Staff Development Day

April 5th - Easter

April 19th - 2nd Annual Purse Bingo, tickets on sale now!

May 4th-8th - Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5th - Cinco de Mayo

May 10th - Mother's Day

May 25th - **Center is CLOSED**, Memorial Day

June 6th- First Annual Ground Clean up Day!

June 19th - Juneteenth

June 21st - Father's Day & First Day of SUMMER!

June 26th - Month of the Child Summer Carnival: A Community Give Back event!
