



Children Are Our Specialty

CHAOSES

SWEET APRIL SHOWERS DO SPRING
MAY FLOWERS!

APRIL 2016

Happy Spring! Hoping for bright sunny and warm days soon! My group is learning about bees & butterflies but it will be a while before we see them yet. I'm planning a few extra special activities for NAEYC's Week of the Young Child™ April 10 –16, 2016.

Our next training is Thursday, April 21. It will be held at Blackhawk Tech, Room 1315 Blackhawk Room. Registry certificates will be provided. Chris Woerth of the Town of Beloit Police Department will be presenting a Safety in Child Care training. I am unable to attend as I will be on vacation, but I do have the Registry certificates from the February training and I will make sure they are available to you that night.

CHAOS members are invited to our special Provider Appreciation dinner and celebration on Thursday, on May 12th. We will meet at **Charming B's** Milton from 6:30-8:30. Join us for dinner from Olive Garden, cake. Our training will be Natural Solutions for Child Care, using dōTERRA®, products.

Think warm spring thoughts!

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Children Are Our Specialty

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Meeting Dates (All Meetings in BTC Room
1315)

Thursday April 21st: Safety in Childcare

presented by Chris Woerth of the Beloit
Police Department 6:30-8:30

Thursday May 12th: Provider

Appreciation: Natural Solutions in Child
care at **Charming B's in Milton** 6:30-8:30



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Week of the Young Child

April 11th through 15th

Monday: Music Monday

Tuesday: Taco Tuesday

Wednesday: Work
Together Wednesday

Thursday: Artsy Thursday

Friday: Family Friday

Work Together Wednesday

TRY THIS: Practice organizing blocks by size! Try building a block tower with large blocks on the bottom and little blocks on top!



Music Monday

TRY THIS: Find the beat to connect music, movement, and math. Practice clapping, drumming, or stomping to the beat of the music while counting.



Artsy Thursday

TRY THIS: Bring art outdoors! Offer dark and light paper, chalk and pastels, and suggest children create their own versions of the day sky!



Taco Tuesday

TRY THIS: Measure your ingredients while making your tacos! Ask children if they'd like the same or different amounts of each ingredient.



Family Friday

TRY THIS: Invite parents for a Family Friday breakfast, where children can prepare and share breakfast treats with their families!



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April Showers Bring May Flowers

Gardening with children

There are many crops suitable for the young gardener, here are the "top 10", which are relatively easy to grow, have short growing seasons and are fun to harvest.

1. Sun Flowers
2. Lettuce
3. Radishes
4. Snow Peas
5. Cherry Tomatoes
6. Nasturtiums
7. Bush Beans
8. Carrots
9. Potatoes
10. Pumpkin



Tips for Gardening with Children

Give them their own garden beds.

Whether you use raised beds, containers or ground plots, be sure to give each child his or her own separate plot. Keep it small! Put their plots right in the middle of the action, with the best soil and light. Set them up for success.

Engage them through the entire process, from seed to table.

Children learn better when they understand the context of their activity. They will learn that gardening can be fun. They are contributing to the family well-being. Besides planting and nurturing their garden beds, be sure they alone do the harvesting and preparation of their crop for the table, no matter how modest the offering.

Start from seeds

While it's a convenient shortcut to buy starters, children will learn more by seeing the growing process as it begins, from seed. The care given to sprouting seeds and nurturing the young seedling are a valuable part of the gardening experience.

Show off their work

When giving 'garden tours' to friends, be sure to point out the children's beds. Take a photo of their harvest and send it to the grandparents. The attention given to their work is the best motivator for children to stay involved with a project.

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EASY SUMMER LUNCH & SNACK IDEAS!

Ham and Cheese Kabobs

Thread alternately, as desired, 3 cubes ham, 3 square stacks cheese, 1 slice cucumber, 1 grape tomato and 1 piece yellow pepper onto each wooden skewer.

Serve kabobs with thin pretzel crackers and ranch dressing.



Creamy Avocado & White Bean Wrap

Mash cooked white beans with avocado. Add a creamy mayo, ranch, or cream cheese spread of your choice. Spread onto tortilla. Can top with shredded lettuce, shredded cheese and even bacon bits.



Greek Yogurt Popsicles

Puree fruit of choice in blender (strawberries blueberries etc)
Add ½ cup of half and half, 3 tablespoons of sugar, 1 container of Greek Yogurt, and 1 tsp of vanilla. Pour mixture into molds, insert popsicle stick and freeze for 4 hours.





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Provider Health Topic of the Month: Keeping Relationships Alive

Tips for Keeping Your Relationship Strong when You're Both Crazy Busy!

1. Compare Schedules

One of the first things that you want to do when you're both crazy busy is compare your schedules. Look for any gaps where you both have an opening at the same time. When you find those gaps, reserve them for time together. Even if it's just a quick breakfast, it's a way to stay connected. Taking advantage of available time slots you find is one of the tips for keeping your relationship strong.

2. Send a Text

When you can't find time to be together, you can still text. It only takes a minute to send a text. It's a great way to say "I miss you" or "Thinking of you today." It can totally make your partner's day to receive a text like that.

3. Plan Mini-dates

When you don't have time for a full date, plan a mini-date. What's a mini-date? It's just a smaller version of a regular date. Instead of dinner and a movie, maybe you would grab some quick burgers together or meet for a cup of coffee before you both go to work. It isn't quite the same but it sure beats not seeing one another at all.

4. Synchronize Your Schedules

Give rearranging your schedules some thought. Can you switch your work hours up so you're off at the same time? These are things that are worth thinking over. Even if you only discover something minimal such as being able to go to the gym together, it can help.

5. Leave Each Other Notes

As sweet as a text is, there's no substitute for a handwritten note. It doesn't have to be a long, sappy letter. A few little lines to share how much your partner means to you are more than enough. That's usually the kind of note that gets kept and reread often. They may even surprise you with leaving a note for you to find, too.

6. Treasure the Time You Have

Instead of feeling sad about the time you don't have, try being happy about the time you do have. It may only be seeing each other once a week but it could be worse, right? Shifting your thoughts can really help. Make the most of your time together. Do things you both love and have fun together.



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March 2016 CHAOS Minutes

Future Trainings

- Little Steps Big Changes: 6 week program @ Stateline YMCA
 - Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow
4/30 from 8 to 1
Brookfield Suits Motel (1200 Moorland Rd.)
 - WFCCA Conference
Speakers: Debbie Clement and Top Copeland
5/5/-5/7
 - UWW Early Childhood Conference
4/6 – 4/7

March Training Topic: Week of the Young Child

Purpose: To Celebrate our little learners

Monday: Music Monday

Tuesday: Taco Tuesday

Wednesday: Work together Wednesday

Thursday: Artsy Thursday

Friday: Family Friday

CHAOS minutes recorded by Kathy Hoover- Secretary