



A note from the office:

April 2025

We are egg-cited about spring!

A few reminders from the office:

- Please bring two blankets for nap time to help us meet the HHS requirements!
- Check your mailbox regularly for important updates about your bill, announcements and other fun information!
- With the warm weather that spring brings, please make sure to bring weather appropriate extra clothes for your child's cubby and bring a jacket!
- The vans to the schools leave at 8:00am, so please make sure your child is here before then. If we leave after 8:00am, we cannot get all of the children to school on time!

School-age parents: We will be putting out our summer sign-up sheets, so please watch for those on the front doors and sign your children up if they will be attending this summer.

Spring pictures will be **April 1st-3rd**. Please check the attached calendar or the posters on the door for the date each room will have pictures. If you want sibling pictures done, please let the office know so we can add you to the list for Wednesday.

Staff Spotlight: Miss Becky has been a great team player and is willing to go to other classrooms when we need someone to cover. She has been going above and beyond in the Disney room, while we have been searching for the perfect teacher to join her.

We hope everyone has a great month! Here's to spring and warmer weather.

Miss Erica & Miss Whitney

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Evangelina

Mason

Evelyn

Kynzlee

Vivian

Miss Alejandra



Backpack Connection Series

About this Series

The Backpack Connection Series was created by TACSEI to provide a way for teachers and parents/caregivers to work together to help young children develop social emotional skills and reduce challenging behavior. Teachers may choose to send a handout home in each child's backpack when a new strategy or skill is introduced to the class. Each Backpack Connection handout provides information that helps parents stay informed about what their child is learning at school and specific ideas on how to use the strategy or skill at home.

The Pyramid Model



The Pyramid Model is a framework that provides programs with guidance on how to promote social emotional competence in all children and design effective interventions that support young children who might have persistent challenging behavior. It also provides practices to ensure that children with social emotional delays receive intentional teaching. Programs that implement the Pyramid Model are eager to work together with families to meet every child's individualized learning and support needs. To learn more about the Pyramid Model, please visit ChallengingBehavior.org.

More Information

More information and resources on this and other topics are available on our website, ChallengingBehavior.org.



ChallengingBehavior.org

How to Teach Your Child to Take Turns

Alyson Jiron, Brooke Brogle & Jill Giacomini

Taking turns can be hard, even for adults. It can be frustrating to wait for something that you really want. Think about the last time you waited in line for groceries or gas. How did you feel when you didn't know how long it would be until your turn or when someone who wasn't waiting got a turn before you? Young children often feel especially frustrated in these types of situations. Objects become "mine," and everyone wants to be "first," which can make playtime challenging for children and parents. Why does this happen? Children are not born knowing how to take turns. Taking turns is a skill that children must be taught and given many opportunities to practice. If a child is not taught how to take turns, she will continue to play with only her interests in mind and demand turns when she wants them. A child who knows how to take turns has learned valuable skills about how to make friends, empathize, wait, negotiate and be patient. Teaching your child how to take turns takes time, but can also be a rewarding experience that will benefit your child for a lifetime.



Try This at Home

- **Play games that require turn-taking.** Board or card games are a perfect way to teach older preschool children to wait for a turn. Outside games, such as basketball or catch, are also ideal games to practice taking turns. For young children, use very simple turn-taking games such as rolling a toy back and forth.
- **Build turn-taking into play time.** You can make just about any toy or activity into an opportunity to practice taking turns. Take turns doing activities such as stacking blocks, sliding down the slide, using the swing, racing a car down a track, scooping sand into a bucket, or wearing a crown.
- **Use a timer or a song to measure a turn.** Waiting is hard and children want to know when to expect their turn. Show children how to manage taking turns by using a sand timer or singing a song. These tools can help them to predict when their turn will end or begin and makes it less likely that they will become frustrated and use challenging behavior. You can say something like, "I see you want a turn on the swing too. Let's sing a song and when we are done it will be your turn. Do you want to sing the Itsy-Bitsy Spider or Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star?"
- **Incorporate turn-taking into your everyday routine.** There are many ways to include turn-taking into the activities you already do on a daily basis such as choosing a TV show, cooking, or picking books to read. Simply pointing out to your child that you are taking turns helps to reinforce the skill. You can say, "You put in the chocolate chips and I put in the walnuts. We are taking turns! This is fun!"
- **Practice waiting.** Help prepare your child for turn-taking by giving him opportunities to practice waiting. For example, play "stop and

go" games at the park, with toy cars, or in the pool. The more comfortable your child is with the concept of waiting and self-control, the more successful he will be with taking turns.

- **Celebrate successes.** Encourage your child with positive language when you see him waiting during a difficult situation or taking turns with a friend. You can say something like, "You are waiting for a turn on the swing. Waiting can be hard. You are doing it! High five!" or "I love the way you and Ben took turns using your special car. I bet you feel really proud!"



Practice at School

There are many opportunities to practice taking turns at school. Teachers often intentionally create opportunities for children to practice taking turns as well as learn from watching others take turns. For example, a teacher may set out only one train to use on the track. Children must then practice taking turns and learn to work together to enjoy the same toy at the same time.



The Bottom Line

Children are not born knowing how to take turns. It is a skill that they must be taught. Taking turns can be hard. In order to learn how to take turns successfully, children need lots of practice, help and encouragement from parents. When children learn how to take turns they also learn other valuable skills such as:

- Being a good friend
- Self-control
- Problem-solving
- Patience
- Communication
- Listening
- Negotiation



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Weekly Themes:

3/31 - 4/4	Spring
4/7 - 4/11	Insects
4/14 - 4/18	Easter
4/21 - 4/25	Earth Day & Recycling
4/28 - 5/2	Dinosaurs

Stay in touch :



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Teacher Fun Fact

What would you bring to a spring picnic?

Miss Erica: Pasta Salad
Miss Whitney: Potato Salad
Miss Jessica: Sandwiches, Watermelon & Juice
Miss Yesenia: fruit
Miss Soraya: Dessert
Mr Chad: Sandwiches
Miss Machinisa: Watermelon
Miss Lexi: Pineapple
Miss Jana: Snicker Salad

Miss Shelby: Strawberries
Miss Angela: Watermelon & Chips
Miss Becca: Taco Dip & Cheesecake Strawberries
Miss Daisy: Pizza or Watermelon
Miss Katrina: Fruit Bowl, Blanket & Sandwiches
Miss Clarissa: Pineapple, Grapes & Pickles
Miss Anna: Lemonade
Miss Zoe: Snicker Salad

Photos of the Month



Health & Fitness Tips:



EASTER EGG SNACKS

Give snack time a twist during the spring holiday! Wash those empty Easter eggs you have and surprise your kids by stuffing them with healthy (and not so healthy) snacks! You can serve them in an empty egg carton, or you can hide the eggs around the house for them to find. (Just make sure all eggs are found :))

Here is a list of ideas for your Easter egg snacks:

- Strawberries, Blueberries, Grapes & Apples
- Carrots, Cucumbers & Peppers
- Sugar Wafers, Jelly Beans & Candy
- Salami, Pepperoni & Cheese
- Nuts, Dried Fruit, Crackers & Cereal

Packing a school lunch? Surprise your child with a couple of Easter eggs filled with their favorite non-perishable snacks.

Tired of all the Easter candy from the Easter Egg Hunt? Substitute the candy with nuts or crackers in a few of the eggs.

There are so many fun ways to incorporate Easter eggs into snack time.

MOVE MORE MONTH

April is Move More Month. The motto is whatever gets you up and moving - for better physical & mental health.

Children need 60 minutes of aerobic exercise at least 3 days a week, 60 minutes of muscle strengthening at least 3 days a week, and at least 3 days of bone-strengthening activity a week.

Check out the graphic for 25 Ways to Get Moving at Home.



Care-A-Lot

Here comes the sun!

We are saying bye-bye to some of our babies that are going to be moving up to the Disney Room! We know that our friends are going to learn so much when they move up and they will have so much fun!

We will be counting and playing with blocks, making Easter bunny art, singing *5 Little Monkeys* and reading, "I Love You More" this month!

Asher has started eating baby food and he loves it! **Ajani** is able to rotate his body around the room!

April showers will bring happiness for everyone!
Miss Jessica

Bees

Welcome to this semi-warm month!

This month the kids will learn about Easter and warm weather. We will be learning about Easter eggs and decorating them. In math, we will be building with blocks and counting our towers. We will make bunny art and read the book, "Easter Colors". It will be a great month in the Bee room!

Layla is working on potty training and she is getting used to it! **Genevieve** has made herself comfortable by playing with her friends.

We hope this month brings joy outdoors!
Miss Yesenia, Miss Soraya & Mr Chad

Butterflies

Happy spring!

We are excited to learn about Easter and the Easter bunny this month! We will be having an Easter egg hunt and doing an Easter bunny art project! We will learn about spring and make flowers before we count them! We will also read, "Caterpillar Spring, Butterfly Summer" to learn how caterpillars become butterflies!

Kylen is starting to say more words and tells us how he feels. **Desirae** helped a friend when they were sad by patting their back.

We hope you have a hoppy spring & Easter!
Miss Lexi & Miss Jana

Caterpillars

Welcome to spring!

This month we will be making handprint art and fingerprint flowers. We will also be tie-dying shirts and making homemade chalk! In math, we will count butterflies and in music we will sing *In Summer* from Frozen. It will be a month of fun and learning in the Caterpillar Room!

Evangelina can count all the way to 20! **Owen** can say all of the shapes and colors! We have such talented kiddos in our room!

Have a fantastic month!

Miss Angela

Disney

We are so happy it is spring!

We would like to welcome Miss Shantel to the Disney Room! We're so excited to have her join our baby room team, and we know she will be a great addition. Welcome **Traviesa, Ajani & Astavian** to the Disney Room! It is always so much fun to have new friends join our class!

This month we will be stacking blocks and singing *10 Little Dinosaurs* to work on our counting. We will do a mess-free flower painting activity and decorate our room for spring!

Sawyer is always on the go and moving all over the room. He does really well sharing toys with his friends. **Victor** is very curious to see what his friends are doing at all times. He is so sweet and always has a smile on his face.

We hope everyone has a great month! We are hoping for much warmer weather!
Miss Becky & Miss Shantel

Ducks

Welcome April!

This month we will continue to learn songs and signs to go with them! We have been learning sign language for each of our emotions. We have also been learning where our body parts are! We do this with a fun song, *Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes*. We will be practicing counting, making sunflower art and singing so many songs this month!

Chloe learned sign language for emotions and knows her ABC's. **Scarlett** is learning shapes and sign language so well! We are so proud of her!

Have a great month!

Miss Machinisa

Dragonflies

Dragonflies are ready to welcome the fresh spring air!

This month the Dragonflies are going to practice sitting nicely on the rug for circle time. We are going to welcome spring by singing new songs during music and movement, including *Rain, Rain, Go Away*. We will make fun art projects, including an umbrella craft! We will also count rain drops during math time.

We want to welcome our new friends! We are excited to learn all about them!

Kyler is doing so good learning to communicate with his friends and teachers. **Amirah** has learned to count to 10 using her fingers.

Welcome to our new friends and we hope our friends moving up have a lot of fun in their new rooms! We will miss you, but we are excited to see you continue to grow.

Miss Shelby & Miss Hennessy

Turtles

April already? We can't believe it!

This month we will learn all about the beauty of spring, insects and their environments, the magic of Easter, Earth Day and finally, we will blast into the past to explore dinosaurs! We will be counting Easter eggs and singing *One Little Bunny* during the week of Easter. We will make insects in a jar for art during our insect theme and we will sing 10 *Tiny Dinosaurs* during dino week.

Please make sure to bring 2 blankets for nap!

Jae'von is a great addition to the class! He is super kind and helpful. **Mara & Brayden** love to play superheroes together to save the day!

We hope your month is full of Easter cheer!
Miss Becca

Alligators

Welcome April! Finally, we can smell spring 2025 right around the corner!

This month we will be learning about spring by observing the changes of the playground tree. We will do spring themed art projects like flowers and umbrellas to hang in our classroom. We will learn about insects and doing fun art with bugs! During our Earth Day theme, we will learn about the Earth and how to take care of our planet. We will play freeze dance and jam to Kidz Bop during music & movement!

Parents, please check the weather and make sure that your child has a jacket or long sleeves, just in case it is chilly when we go outside!

Mason is really good at using his words and his listening ears. **Riley** has been improving on her alphabet and she can now tell what letter her friend's name starts with.

We can't wait to see what spring 2025 will bring us. We are so excited for the nice weather!

Miss Daisy

Frogs

April showers bring May flowers.

This month we will trace our names and numbers. We will also have our PJ and Movie Day and an Easter egg hunt on the 18th. We will count eggs in a math activity and decorate eggs for art! It will be egg-citing! We will also sing *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

Gianna is such a sweetheart! She loves being a teacher's helper. Everyday during circle time she shows us dance moves. **Xiemen**a has been a big helper! She is the line leader and loves to lead the way!

Happy Easter!

Miss Katrina

Lizards

Hello spring!

This month we will be practicing our counting with Easter eggs. During art, we will make Easter hand projects to decorate our room. We will also learn Easter themed rhymes and read, "Pete the Cat and the Easter Basket". It will be such a fun month!

Remi is potty trained and communicates very well. **Alan** is potty trained and asks for help when he needs it.

Have an amazing spring, and get outside for the fresh air & sunshine.

Miss Clarissa

Pre-K

Welcome to the best 2 months of Pre-K!

We are going to continue our tubes and tunnels study by experimenting with pvc pipes to make a marble maze. We will work on alliteration to start building beginning reading skills. You can practice at home by having your children identify which letters match the beginning sounds of words. We will also begin our Reduce, Reuse, Recycle study this month. Please consider donating paper towel tubes, marker caps & egg cartons to help with our lessons! We will decorate Easter baskets, search for eggs and make a bar graph of the colors of the eggs we find. We will practice singing *Kindergarten, Here I come*, in preparation for graduation in May!

When we were discussing that the class should wear green on St. Patrick's Day, **Tula** said, "Green is really not my color." **Desmond** helped his friend build a tunnel slice!

Enjoy this lovely weather!

Miss Anna & Miss Allie

School-Agers

April, already? Hello spring!

We are going to learn about spring, insects, Easter, Earth Day & recycling, and dinosaurs! We are going to make "seed bombs" for Earth Day and we will count with insects for a math activity. Check out our watercolor butterflies that will be hanging in the art area!

Evelyn always has her listening ears on all the time. **Violet** is kind to all of her friends and is always sharing.

April showers bring May flowers!

Miss Zoe

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1  BUILDING BLOCKS - Spring Photos	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 LIZARDS Movie Day TURTLES PJ & Movie Day and Easter Party FROGS PJ & Movie Day and Easter Egg Hunt NO SCHOOL Sioux City Schools	19
20 HAPPY EASTER	21 Visit from the Librarian for 3's, 4's & Pre-K NO SCHOOL Sioux City Schools	22 	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 TURTLES Field Trip	1	2	3