



# Leelanau Children's Center Quarterly Newsletter - April 2019

**CHILDREN MATTER.** Because children matter, the Leelanau Children's Center provides high quality early childhood educational programs and advocates for children, parents, and families.

It's a time of transition here in Leelanau County, right between Spring and Winter. In this newsletter, we're focusing on an activity that's wonderful at any season - Reading!



## The Single Habit That Helps Raise Smart, Kind Kids



Reading with children is such an important part of what we do every day at LCC. Throughout the day teachers are found reading in large and small groups, to individual children, and transcribing and reading back ideas and stories that children want to have written for them. We select books that will draw kids in with themes, concepts, and humor that they can relate to and enjoy, but that also lead to critical thinking, challenge stereotypes, build on current learning, facilitate conversations about diversity and inclusion, and talk about big feelings.

Many areas of development are supported when our teachers read out loud with toddlers and preschoolers. A child's thought process can be prompted by using intentional questions, asking children to explain their ideas, and encouraging children to share their previous experiences and knowledge related to the story.

### READING HELPS KIDS



- **Widen their vocab:** The more you read to your child, the more the neurons in their brain will grow and connect!
- **Get into the reading habit:** "the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children." - Becoming a Nation of Readers
- **Bond:** Reading with your child offers a time of physical closeness and emotional bonding.
- **Increase their empathy:** Reading exposes children to different worlds and people.

Our hope is that the children who attend our programs will eventually be able to demonstrate knowledge of print, show great interest in a variety of books, recognize that print and illustration has valuable meaning, and begin a lifetime of engaging with stories and books. Let us know if you would like to share your favorite book with us or be a guest reader.

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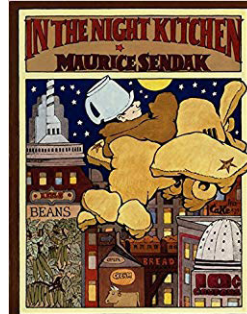


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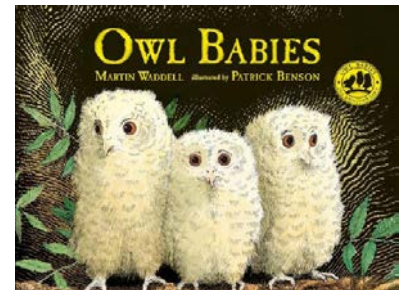
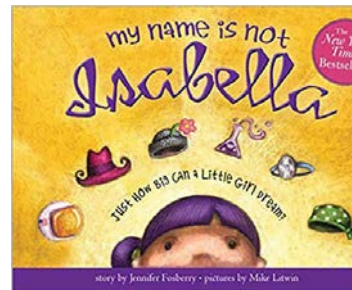
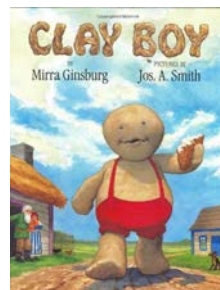
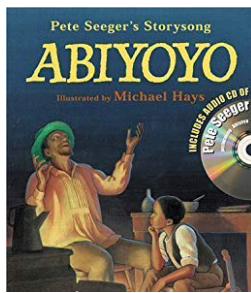
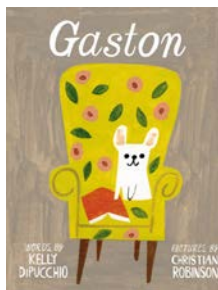
## Our Favorite Read-Aloud Books!



The Chickadees love to find the animals that are hidden under the snow in **OVER AND UNDER THE SNOW** by Kate Messner and they spend time talking about the animals they find. What they are, where they live, what they eat, and how they survive the winter.



"IN THE NIGHT KITCHEN by Maurice Sendak. Most kids are not exposed to this book but I love it because the sweetness, repetition, and empowerment seem tasty to kids." - M. Brown



"GASTON by Kelly DiPucchio. The kids love to recite the names that are repetitive and we have fun discussions about the differences within the families." - Rachael, Manitou

"Peter Seeger's story song **ABIYOYO** and **CLAY BOY** by Mirra Ginsburg. These both capture kid's imaginations, have a bit of suspense, and are fun to act out and retell."  
- Aaron, Fox Island

The Owls are enjoying **MY NAME IS NOT ISABELLA** by Jennifer Fosberry. It's about a little girl who loves to pretend that she is different famous women in history, and her mom goes along with her as she changes her name from one to another.

"We sometimes use puppets to act out **OWL BABIES** by Martin Waddell. The kids can relate to the baby owls missing their Mom."  
- Sara J., Fox Island

## A letter to our LCC families, friends, and community...

Throughout the winter, the Personnel Committee of the LCC Board has been working diligently on the search for a new Executive Director. We spent the fall exploring what the role of an ED should be for this organization as we move forward and what experience and expertise we want that person to have. After conducting a nationwide search, we were very pleased to have many strong candidates apply. The best candidates were selected for phone screening interviews to better determine whether they would be a good fit for LCC. The phone screening interviews have now been completed, and we are excited to have highly-qualified candidates to move to a formal interview, with members of our board, staff, and community. Our interview committee is gearing up for our interviews which will occur this month.

While the process has been lengthy, it has been thorough, and there are no regrets for taking this amount of time to find the right person. Thank you again to each member of the LCC administrative team, who have all stepped up and taken on extra tasks to keep the centers running smoothly this school year.

We look forward to introducing you to our new Executive Director in the near future!

The LCC Personnel Committee

## Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, April 10, 2019** • Leelanau Grown meeting for interested volunteers/organizers • 9 AM at Leelanau Historical Society's conference room
- Wednesday, May 22, 2019** • LCC's 23rd Annual Golf Scramble • Leland Country Club • starts at NOON
- Thursday, June 6, 2019** • Last Day of LCC for 2018/19 School Year
- Monday, June 24th, 2019** • First Day of LCC 2019 Summer Session



## What's Happening in the Classroom

### Northport

#### Chickadees

- Sensory Activity

Over the past few weeks, we've been exploring all things frozen! We sliced oranges and froze them in water-filled ice cube trays. The kids tasted and explored the orange ice.

- Physical Activity

We froze toy animals in blocks of ice and the Chickadees "excavated" the animals from their frozen blocks with real hammers and other tools. Then we added dinosaurs for sliding and playing on the ice from some pretend play.



#### Owls

- Since winter break, we have taken a closer look at nests, birds, and eggs after some of the children showed interest in this subject. The class made nests with materials in the sensory table, took a closer look at real nests and eggs, read books about birds and made bird feeders for all the birds who stay for the winter. We are now doing a lot of exploration with snow. The Owls have dyed snows, dug tunnels in the snow, chiseled objects out of the ice with hammers, and sung songs about the ice and snow. Since it's in abundance in Michigan, snow seemed like the perfect topic!

### Leland

## April is the Month of the Young Child!

#### The Crib

- The Crib kids created and added edible ornaments and feeders to their playground to find out what sorts of wildlife would come to eat their treats. There has been a lot of discussion and observation of birds and squirrels. They have been wanting to build with a lot of different materials and lately have been building igloos in the classroom and doing a lot of pretend play. The kids really like going out to the big morning music circle with the preschoolers or staying in our classroom to do yoga or dancing with bubbles.



#### Fox Island

- The Fox Island kids have been spending a lot of their free play time building and pretending. Some of the recent play themes have been constructing a library out of large blocks, building a car with chairs and blocks to go on trips (Florida has been a popular destination), and setting up Doctor's offices to care for babies and each other. There has also been an explosion of interest in early literacy activities; letter recognition, symbolic reading, book making, and recognizing common words in the environment.

#### Manitou Island

- The Manitou Island kids have been making a lot of play money out of craft foam, talking about numbers, how money works, and writing their own numbers on the money. They have been using it for games like Store and Restaurant, and we have a special box to keep it in. Kids have also been working on several ongoing, multi-day art projects involving a lot of kid planning and problem solving. Manitou Island recently had parent guests come in to read a special book that their family enjoys at home. One of their favorites was PRECIOUS AND THE BOO HAG. It was an exciting story, and we love it when the parents can get involved in the classroom in this way.

