The following is an excerpt from the book "The Hurried Child" by David Elkind, available in the CELC Library for families to borrow.

"Hurried children are forced to take on the physical, psychological, and social trappings of adulthood before they are prepared to deal with them. We dress our children in miniature adult costumes (often with designer labels), we expose our children to gratuitous sex and violence, and we expect them to cope with an increasingly bewildering social environment. Through all of these pressures, the child senses that it is important for him or her to cope without admitting the confusion and pain that accompany such changes. Like adults, they are made to feel they must be survivors, and surviving means adjusting — even if the survivor is only four or six or eight years old. This pressure to cope without cracking is a stress in itself, the effects of which must be tallied with all the other effects of hurrying our children."

It is critical that parents see that their role is to manage the influences, the exposures and the content that infiltrate children's world. Parents must understand the value of unstructured time by limiting activities, outside lessons and electronic media. Most importantly, parents need to set and enforce limits, to foster resilience and independence and responsibility in our children.

It appears that Spring is on its way! With that I will remind families that our play yard can be very muddy this time of year. We recommend that children have a pair of boots to wear during outdoor play. As you know, we provide outdoor play twice daily, weather permitting.

Registration materials for Summer 2011 and the Academic Year 2011-12 are due back to the center by April 1. I will begin the process of placing children for Summer and Fall, and will be notifying families of their placement in the next few weeks. If you know of anyone who is interested in enrolling have them call the center office. We have applied for a waiver through New York State Office of Children to allow School age-children, up to age 7, to attend our summer program, we have not received word on our application yet, but I will let families know as soon as I hear.

Here's hoping warmer weather is coming our way!

Amy
President: Melissa Rose  
Vice President: Rose Martini  
Treasurer: Judy Notar  
Personnel Liaison: Sarah Barnes  
Secretary: Jona Patalino  
Special Events: Thomas Knauer  
Fundraising: Traci St. Thomas

The Clinton Early Learning Center Board of Directors normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Kirkland Town Library. Parents and teachers are welcome to attend any open session.

PRESIDENT

The next board meeting will be Monday, April 11, 2011.

*Parents interested in volunteering for the fundraising committee should contact Traci St. Thomas (939-4396, Patrickntraci413@aol.com.) You may also see Amy or Denise in the office.

*The Board of Directors will have an opening for the upcoming school year. Interested parents should contact Melissa Rose (381-3252, marose@hamilton.edu).

Center Closings

The Center will be closed on Friday, May 6, 2011, for our In-Service Day training off-site.

The Center will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 30, 2011.
A Word from Toddlers

Academic Highlights of Last Month: The alphabet was the focal point in the Toddler Room for the first half of March. One week foam letters were floating in our Discovery Table and the next week we sifted through soy beans to find our names. We blot painted letters to climb up the coconut tree on the bulletin board and the whole alphabet was painted on our windows. Catching letter fish using a magnetic fishing pole was a favorite activity. The Toddlers recently began listening to books on CD. We loved to listen to Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. The tune is so catchy that the Toddlers danced through the whole story! We took many long walks across the campus searching for the letters in our names. Please continue to reinforce letter recognition at home by pointing out familiar letters in environmental print.

Ahoy there Matey! Our Pirate theme was perfect for stimulating imaginative play while offering opportunities for cooperative play. Pirate hats, bandanas and Jolly Rogers were a few of the props added to our Dress-Up Center to foster creative play. We "Walked the plant" and practiced maintaining our balance as we jumped into the ocean. Two Toddler Pirates were able to sit in the wooden boat and make it rock, which was another fun large motor venture which required teamwork and cooperation. Some gold coins were buried in sand and others were hidden in GOOP. Digging for these buried treasures helped to strengthen our small motor skills. The Toddlers then MOOved on to the Farm. We grew grass in the Discovery Table for the animals to eat and the tractors to plow. Our paper plate pigs can be seen hanging on the Toddler kitchen window. We counted fluffy chicks and placed them in nests and we matched adult farm animals with their babies. "The Chicken Family" song helped us to learn the names: hen, rooster and chick. We also loved singing "Old MacDonald" and making the farm animal sounds. We even learned the sign language for each animal! Our favorite Circle Time activity was most definitely "The Chicken Dance!"

Highlights for Next Month: Boats and Buses, Trains, Goodnight Moon

Birthdays: Christopher: March 31st

Thank Yous: The Patalino Family for the tea set. Thomas Knauer for the amazing sewing of the Toddler Handprint Quilt.

Quotes: Dominic was helping to stir the GOOP. Denise asked him what he was mixing up. "Trouble" was Dominic's response.

Logan was playing in the sand and said, "HA HA! I'm a pirate. You are not a pirate. You are a worm!"

—Sue and Michele
We had a fiesta, went down to the farm, learned about shamrocks, rainbows, and fire safety. Eli B. and Zack enjoyed playing and separating rice and beans in the sand table.

Mia and Lulu took care of the sick animals at the Littlest Pet Shop veterinary clinic. In the sand table the leprechaun left some gold. Gabe and Jonathan helped find the gold before the leprechaun came back for it. Sophie and McKenna drew pictures of flowers, the sun, birds, and butterflies to get ready for Spring! Scooping and measuring the rice was Adam’s favorite. He also enjoyed building houses and mountains for the farm animals.

Having fun was what Camila, Coleston, and Eli D. did when they used fruit loops to make rainbows. Every animal on the farm was given a nice place to sleep in the barn from Teagan. In the dress-up area, Owen and Tycho put out the fire with the hoses and earned their fire fighter badges. During circle time, Madeline liked figuring out what color was “Missing” in the “What’s Missing?” game. In the play dough area, Reilly and Anna made shapes in the different colors of the rainbow.


Highlights for Next Month: Bears, Weather—Rain and Clouds, Opposite, Let’s Sign and Pirates


“Um Patrick didn’t have a bathroom and I always need a bathroom!” said Eli B.


Lulu was building in the block area. Coleston asked her what she was building and she said “A church.” Eli D. asked “What is a church?” and Lulu said “It is where they have lots and lots of priests and nuns.” Eli asked, “What is a nun?” Lulu said, “A nun is a human who lives in a church.” —Heidi, Alison and Brittany
Academic Highlights:  ROAR...March has certainly come in like a lion and we are all eagerly awaiting the lion’s exit and the lamb’s arrival. Is her anything sweeter than watching two friends cozy up together under a cape wearing high heels, safari hats, and carrying tissue paper flowers? This was how Emma and Delia greeted the arrival of spring. We also had several visitors this month wearing red wings with black spots, aptly named: spotty. Spotty the ladybug got lots of attention from all our friends. We all rose to the challenge to create a proper habitat for Spotty. Spotty has since been released into the wild. Bippity Boppity Boo...guess who? It’s Barry bouncing his way in looking for friends, fun and the latest additions to our room. Here comes Ethan. He enters the room each day deceptively quiet, but simmering with excitement while he searches the room for something fun. He oftens finds his bliss in our discovery table. If there’s a doll house in the house, you’ll be sure to find Avery and Mulan (Ella in her favorite dress up outfit) deeply engrossed in their play acting. And when it comes to pink, nobody does it better than Lorrena, except Beatrice, she dazzles us each day in her dreamy color matched, often sparkly outfits. We had a lot of fun this month with science. We experimented with ramps. We wanted to see which items would roll and would they roll better if we made the ramps higher or lower. What happened when we added bubble wrap to the rolling surface. Andre, Ian, and Beatrice had fun making their predictions and testing them. Kylee was the champion when it came to rolling the button down on its side. Grady, Lydia, and Corey all enjoyed playing ABC Bingo and Thane had tons of fun with our Legos this month while Emily always eagerly does the classroom projects. Finally, when it comes to quiet activities, Siena is our champion. She adores puzzles of all kinds and does a great job with them. Thank you to the parents who drove for our KAC Ballet field trip.

Highlights for Next Month:  Poetry, Library, Earth Week, Trees,  Birthday:  Avery – April 10th

Quotes:  Grady:  “Sydney, do you know where Target is?” Sydney—“Yes.” Grady:  “Good! When you go again, will you buy me an umbrella because its raining outside.”

Ethan:  “I used to have a baby sister, then she grewed up.  Her name’s Kaitlyn.”

Delia:  “I’m Mister Cot Man.”

Lydia:  “Who will be my prince?”

Corey:  “The mud’s like sticky, viscous, tar!”

Ella, while coloring numbers said, “Do you know we are all god’s friends!”

Emily:  “Valerie, I want you to catch me a bird so I can grow it into my best friends.”

Emma:  “I’m a hundred google.”

—-Susan, Valerie & Anna
Thank you!

The Notar Family for the donation of white butcher paper for the entire Center.

Alison Legacy for the donation of the book for the Center library.

The Borton Family for the donation of farm toys, dress-up clothing, and craft supplies.

Joe Stanco for the donation of the floor piano and musical instruments.

Center Reminders

**BLUE CARD INFORMATION:** If you change your contact phone numbers, please advise the Center of your new numbers. In case of an emergency, we need to ensure that the contact information on your blue card is current. Thank you!

Donation Request

The Preschool Room is looking for a microwave. If you happen to have one to donate, please let the office or a Preschool Teacher know. Thank you!

Community Events

April 18-21, 2011: Spring School Break Activities (9:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.) - open extra days this week. View more at http://www.museum4kids.net/SpringBreak.htm.

Children's Museum: Easter Egg Hunt, April 23, 2011, 9:40 a.m.-9:55 a.m. for 1st group of children ages 1-3, 10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. for 2nd group of children ages 1-3, 10:20 a.m.-10:35 a.m. for children 4-6, 10:40 a.m.-10:55 a.m. for children ages 7-9. Adults $9, Children 2-17 $7, children 2 and under and members are free. Children receive an Easter bag, play on the 1st floor with the Easter bunny until their age group is called to hunt on the 2nd floor.

April 29, 2011: Earth day evening family fun (6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.). View more info at: http://www.museum4kids/Spring Break.htm.