

FEBRUARY  
2017



# KTK News of the Day

## Notes from Our Feathered Friends

**Baby Chicks:** With the snow and ice in recent weeks, the babies and teachers are hoping for an early spring! Last month we got out for a few walks on the warmer days; remember to have winter gear in your child's cubby for those outings. The babies have been busy decorating the room for the upcoming holidays with hearts and groundhogs, and they've been blowing us away with the new skills they've been working on. We have more friends sitting unassisted, getting closer and closer to rolling, and dancing to practice putting weight on their legs. We hope you like the changes we made to the baby room during our in-service day. Our new daily sheet system and "What we did today" whiteboard seem to be big hits. Otto officially became a Penguin and is fitting in quite well. This month we welcome Logan to the Chicks room.

**Penguins:** We hope you plan to attend the dinner here at KTK on February 7. It's a great time to visit with everyone and get a delicious meal that is all prepared and cleaned up for you. Then you can go home and enjoy the rest of the evening with your families. We said good bye to Lincoln last month as he graduated to Parrots. Owen is right behind him and is beginning his transition as well. They will be missed. However, we know that they are ready for more structure and more engaging activities with their peers. We also welcome Otto to our room; he has adjusted and is doing well. We have been going up to Kid Corner since it has been too cold to go outside. The older kids are learning how to go down the slide, and the younger ones are watching in awe. It won't be long before they become adventurous and want to try it as well. The Penguins are learning a skill or discovering something new every day!

**Parrots:** We have been surprised by our odd weather this winter, which has allowed us to get outside quite a bit

in January. We also had fun making our shape collage, blowing the pigs' houses down, and doing lots of coloring and painting. In addition, Lincoln has moved up from the Penguins. Our themes for February include Nursery Rhymes, Dental Health, Valentine's Day, and Colors. We will also be wishing Abby a happy second birthday and sending her on to join the Peacocks while we welcoming Owen Wilson-Tepeli to our room.

**Peacocks:** Ms. Sheila and Ms. Fallon have noticed a lot of children interested in fire trucks and dinosaurs. We have decided to dedicate the month of February to those topics. We will also be talking about love and friendship as we decorate Valentine bags (we'll provide a list of all the students in the Peacock classroom so you can send Valentine cards). We are going to make this Valentine's Day wonderful by being together!



**Starlings:** We sure have had exciting adventures in our classroom lately. We have been learning about winter, snow, ice, what animals do in winter, camouflage, gravity, animals of the arctic, naming numbers, and more. We are loving our newly fixed-up classroom, and our family tree has been growing more family photos. We have had piggy petting time and at the very end of January, Gal (Kristi's lizard) shed his skin. This month we will observe Groundhog's Day and expand on his forecast, have fun-filled Valentine activities, have a week of indoor games that we didn't get to last month, and talk about presidents—what they do, where the US president lives, etc. The Starlings learn so much from the things we talk about and explore. Their interpretations, opinions and applications of that knowledge teach Sue and Kristi so much. Soon we will welcome a new friend to our classroom: Declan from the Peacocks will be joining our Starling family.



# Out of the Mouths of Babes

Friends were discussing ninja turtles at the table during lunch. One child said something about "turtles and Master Yoda." Kristi remarked, "Master Yoda is from Star Wars." The child responded, "Oh, yeah. Kristi, who is that rat again?"

## A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

Thank you for being so supportive of our teacher in-service days. As you probably noticed, the teachers worked extra hard to make some big adjustments to their classrooms. Fresh paint, new materials, the addition of new soft rugs, and more have brought an extra warm feeling to our center. The staff appreciate this time so much.

We hope you all can join us for our upcoming Valentine's Day dinner. It is another opportunity to get to know the other families that attend KTK, chat with the teachers, and let the kiddos mingle. Kid Corner will be open for everyone to use before or after dinner. No need to bring anything this time around; the teachers will take care of the yummy dessert, and as always, Jessica's food will be nothing but amazing!

We have been getting a lot of inquiries about the center from people looking for care, and a lot of them have been referrals from you. Although we have limited space available, we are starting to expand our waitlist, so keep letting your friends know about us. Remember, you get a \$25 referral credit added to your account when a family that you refer starts!

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Outside, we were trying to collect some large ice pieces for our indoor sensory table. Two friends were working together to pry a chunk off of the table top. One child said to the other, "We need more gravity!"



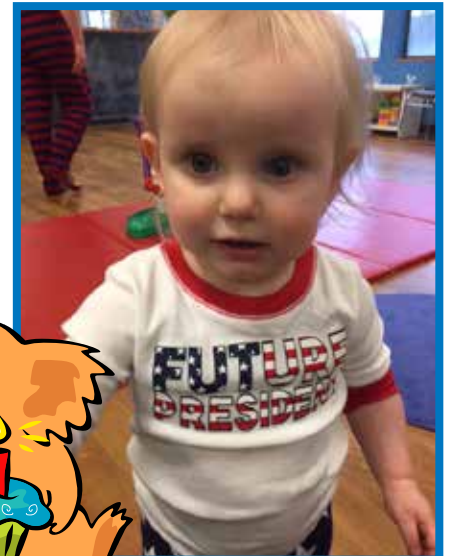
## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 2: Groundhog Day
- Feb. 5: Super Bowl
- Feb. 7: KTK Valentine's Dinner
- Feb. 14: Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17-19: Zor Shrine Circus
- Feb. 18-19: Winter Fest, Elver Pk.
- Feb. 18-19: Mad City Model Railroad Show
- Feb. 20: Presidents' Day
- Feb. 28: Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)



## February Birthdays

- Feb. 4: Abigail
- Feb. 4: Beckett
- Feb. 9: Tessa
- Feb. 15: Hadley
- Feb. 19: Theodore
- Feb. 19: Wyatt
- Feb. 20: Declan



# 10 fun ways to teach your child the value of money

By Evonne Lack (Source: [babycenter.com](http://babycenter.com))

## 1. Hit a yard sale

Yard sales are usually piled high with kids' stuff. Younger children will love picking out a book or toy at this "outside store." And older kids will quickly discover that their allowance money stretches much further here than it does at the mall. Afterward, you can bask in the glow of snagging a great deal.

If your family likes to sleep in on Saturdays, take the kids to the local thrift shop instead. Both are also wonderful opportunities to talk about reusing and recycling.

## 2. Visit the bank

Taking your child to the bank is worth more than just a free lollipop. Watching bank transactions helps kids understand what cash actually is. Let your child be involved as much as possible. Even preschoolers can hand a check to the teller.

As your child gets older, consider opening an account for him, and help him learn to track his savings. Many banks and credit unions have special no-fee accounts for kids, complete with educational materials and online activities.

## 3. Enlist your child as a bill assistant

While your kid watches from his booster seat, you swipe your credit card, push a few buttons, pump the gas, and abracadabra – it's off to swim lessons. Can we really blame kids for thinking of a credit card as magic and infinite?

Break through the mystique by letting your child help you pay the credit-card bill. "This will let him see the whole picture," explains Sharon Lechter, coauthor of *Rich Dad, Poor Dad*. Go through the charges, and remind him what you're paying for ("Remember when we had to stop for gas on the way to swim lessons?").

Preschoolers and kindergartners can put the check and bill into the envelope and stick on a stamp. Older children can help record the check number in your checkbook or online accounting system.

Have your child help you with the other bills, too -- utilities, rent, cable. Not only will he enjoy being a part of things, but he'll gain a whole new perspective on how money flows. There may be some nice side benefits as well; once your kid knows how much electricity costs, he may be more cooperative about turning out the light when he leaves a room.

## 4. Shop at a farmers' market

At the supermarket children don't see any sign of the farmer. Taking them to a farmers' market instead is a great way to help them understand the connection between work and money. Let your child be as involved as possible. As he helps you choose a bunch of carrots and hands the cash to the farmer, he'll get to see the market economy in action.

Explain that the farmer grew the blackberries himself, so he gets to decide how much they cost – and the customers then decide if they want to pay that amount. You can also explain that with the money the farmer earns, he can buy supplies to grow more blackberries.

## 5. Clip coupons

Before you recycle all those annoying circulars that arrive on your doorstep Sunday mornings, why not have a coupon-clipping fiesta with your child? Even if you're not a coupon clipper yourself, it's worth making the effort to teach your child about savings and discounts. He can help identify coupons that might be a good match for this week's grocery needs (even nonreaders can do this, because most coupons

include pictures), help cut them out, and put them in a large envelope. Next time you go to the grocery store, let your child be in charge of the coupons. Depending on his age, he can be the "coupon envelope holder," the "product finder," the "tracker of money saved," or all three. Afterward, talk about how much money the two of you saved and how you might use that money.

Or, if you can't stand dealing with coupons, use your grocery savings card at a participating market. While you shop, point out the deals marked for cardholders, and show him your family's savings on the receipt after you shop.

## 6. Volunteer and donate as a family

Integral to financial literacy is the understanding that some people have more than others – and that those with more can help those with less. "Families can do very simple things to get children in the habit of giving," says Laura Busque, Outreach Manager for the Ohio Credit Union League. "Try shopping together for food and delivering it to a local food pantry."

You can also match your child's interests with causes – if he's an animal lover, buy supplies for the local animal shelter or volunteer together to help feed the animals.

## 7. Encourage your child to make a little money

Earning money is not only educational but empowering for kids. The good old-fashioned lemonade stand remains a fine choice – and it has the added benefit of encouraging teamwork. "A lemonade stand is a perfect thing for siblings to do together," says Lechter. "The older one can handle the money, and the younger one can hand out the cups. And the older child can 'mentor' the younger child, which will help them both feel good."

Other money-making ideas for kids include selling outgrown toys and clothes at a flea market, helping to host a family yard sale, and doing chores above and beyond the usual around the house for extra pocket money.

## 8. Take a class

Many credit unions and banks offer seminars for children. You may think your kid will just roll his eyes at the idea, but give him a chance. "I never cease to be amazed at how interested kids are in learning about money," says Mark Hodowanic, who helps teach seminars at TopLine Federal Credit Union. Check to see what your bank or credit union offers.

## 9. Set a family savings goal

Is your child dying to go to Disneyland? Does he have to have a trampoline? Agree on a long-term goal and start a fund in a jar, suggests Sam Renick, author of *It's a Habit, Sammy Rabbit!* This makes the family work as a team, and, Renick says, "brings joy into saving." Your children can help deposit your loose change in the "pot" and can contribute part of their allowance from time to time.

## 10. Play games

The next time your child asks for computer time, let him try some of the online games that teach money skills. Many credit union sites have games and other activities, like printable coloring pages. For starters, check out Money & Stuff, Fat Cat, and the U.S. Mint site.

Of course, these days it's easy to forget about board games – remember those? But a good game of Monopoly or Life, even though it deals in fantasy, help hammer in ideas of earnings, savings, and loss.



# Happy Valentine's Day!



## News from the Kitchen

Happy February – I hope everyone is having a great start to 2017!

This month we will be having a Valentine's Day dinner for all KTK families. We will have two pasta dishes to choose from, breadsticks and salad. Milk, water and desserts will also be provided. I hope to see you there!

With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, I found a fun recipe your kids will love. It's Valentine Heart Milk Ice Cubes! It's an easy thing to throw together, and you likely have all the ingredients in your kitchen already (with the exception of the ice cube tray).

All you need is:

- Milk
- Red food coloring
- A heart-shaped ice cube tray (any ice cube tray will work)

Here's what to do: Combine milk and a few drops of red food coloring in a small bowl. Fill the ice cube tray and freeze overnight. So easy, right?!?

Drop an ice cube in a glass of milk, and as the cube melts, you'll have a beautiful treat your kids will adore. What a pretty pink glass of milk!

I hope you and your family have a wonderful, love-filled Valentine's Day!

P.S. Save this recipe for other holidays, too! Grab any shape of ice cube tray and a food coloring to match the holiday. Green shamrock ice cubes would make a festive St. Paddy's treat!

