



# Parent newsletter February 6 2012 Blaine edition



## Jack and Jill Childcare

Two North Metro  
Locations

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happening at Jack & Jill!  
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Page 1 of 4

*Jack and Jill's Vision is C.L.E.A.R. We are educators providing children with  
Care, Leadership, Education, Attention, and Respect*

### Happy Valentine's Day!

On Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> each class will be having a Valentine's Day Celebration! Children will be making Valentine's Day treat bags and we encourage everyone to dress in red, pink or hearts. If you wish, you may bring in Valentines or treats for the children in your child's class. You do not need to label the envelopes with names. All treats will be put in the child's bag and sent home with them. (no treats will be eaten at Jack and Jill.) Thank you for your participation in making this a fun celebration for all of our Jack and Jill children!

### An Active Child Mean and Active Mind

Another focus that Jack and Jill Childcare will continue to work on in the year 2012 is keeping the children's bodies and minds active. Recently a study was shared on FOX 9 news about the importance of active play in early childhood centers. The study stated that "several day cares often find themselves focusing too much on learning and don't have adequate play areas." As a program, we believe that children learn best through social play. This means that learning can and does happen at all times of the day, even during active times! Jack and Jill Childcare values active play for our children because it helps to stimulate and prepare their brains to be ready to continue to learn.

Did you know that Jack and Jill has mandatory large muscle play for each classroom twice each day? It is also our policy that all toddler and preschool classrooms go outside daily year round as the weather allows. We even spend most of the winter months outside! When we cannot use the playground, the children have the opportunity to use our indoor large muscle room too!

Our Music in Motion program for our preschool children is just another example of how Jack and Jill Childcare puts an emphasis on staying active! Ms Mary from QC Dance teaches weekly dance and movement classes for all preschool children and encourages them to move their bodies in fun new ways. This program is unique to Jack and Jill and we are thankful for the opportunity to have a professional dance teacher work with the children.

Continue to watch your child's daily notes for fun new things that they are doing at school to stay active! You can watch the FOX 9 news story noted above on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/JackandJillChildcare](http://www.facebook.com/JackandJillChildcare)

### Thank You!

Thank you to all of the families for the amazing staff appreciation gifts that were received. In addition to the personal gifts that you may have given to your child's teacher, because of the money donated, each of our staff members received a Target gift card of significant amounts based on their years of service at Jack and Jill. Thank you for your gifts during this holiday season! We are truly thankful for each our families and each of the children that we care for each day. Personalized thank you notes are to come as well!



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## Jack and Jill Childcare

### UPCOMING DATES & LOOKING AHEAD

**Monday, Feb 20**  
President's Day  
CENTER OPEN

**Thursday, March 8**  
**5:30-6:00 pm**  
Turtle Parent Meeting

**Friday, April 6**  
Good Friday  
**CENTER CLOSED**  
Note this is a make up  
holiday for New Years  
Day

**Saturday, April 28**  
Family Fun Day & Open  
House

**Monday, April 30-**  
**Thursday, May 3**  
Spring Parent Teacher  
Conferences

**DATE TBD**  
Spring Photos Date To Be  
Determined



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### Staff Development & Training

On Saturday, January 14th, all of our staff members participated in four hours of training as part of our program's requirements for continuing education. Our Public Health Nurse, Barb Stoll, did a training session with all of our teachers on OSHA Standards on Bloodborne Pathogens. This included germ and infectious disease prevention. We also reviewed our program policies on diapering, potty training, hand washing for teachers and children, and cleaning and sanitizing schedules to help prevent the spread of germs.

After this training, our infant staff members continued with their quarterly sign language training. This was a two hour training teaching the teachers new vocabulary and how to best share it with the babies and the families.

Our preschool and toddler staff members continued with their quarterly Spanish training with Early Childhood Educator Amy Timm. Our teachers had the opportunity to brainstorm new ways to incorporate Spanish vocabulary into daily activities. They also worked on new vocabulary for our upcoming themes and how to best share them with our families.

### Inclement Weather and School Closings

We have had a beautiful winter so far but it looks like snowy days may be coming soon. It is our goal on snowy days to keep our families, children, and staff members safe. If there is a large snow storm, Jack and Jill Childcare may close in accordance with the local school districts. Because we are located between several school districts, the closing will be based on driving conditions around each center. A posting announcement will be made on WCCO and will flash at the bottom of the screen with the other school closings. It will read "Jack and Jill Childcare" and indicate which location. We will also send an email blast to all families as soon as the decision has been made.



### Parking Lot & Side Walks

As the cold weather continues into the next few months, we want to make sure that everyone stays safe in the parking lots and the sidewalks. Please help us by slowing down when entering and leaving the parking lots each day. Please also remember to come to a complete stop before exiting onto the main street.

We have had several complaints from local businesses of our parents not fully stopping. Also, please remind your children to stay close to you when coming and going from the car on the sidewalks and to use walking feet. We work hard to make sure that the sidewalks are free of snow and ice, but we want to make sure everyone stays safe. Thank you!

### Communicable Illnesses & Cold & Flu Season

It is that time of year where germs are in the air! It is typical for children in a childcare setting to start to get sick around this time of year because we are outside less often and germs are contained to a smaller area. In effort to help keep everyone healthy, all of our staff members have done thorough cleaning of all toys and furniture in classrooms. All of our floors and carpets were also commercially cleaned and sanitized. This heightened focus on cleaning and sanitizing will continue for the next several months.

**Please also remember, that children must be fever free (101.0), vomit free, and diarrhea free for 24 hours without medication (Tylenol/ibuprofen) before returning to school. If your child is diagnosed with a communicable illness such as pink eye, RSV, strep throat, pneumonia, etc, please notify us so that we can post for our other families.**



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Jack and Jill  
Childcare



## JJ's Jam Summer Camp & School Release Days

JJ's Jam School Age Summer Camp will be here before we know it! We are in the process of finishing up our planning and registration information should be ready by mid-February. We are still looking for feedback from parents of children who have been a part of JJ's Jam Summer Camp in the past! Please email any feedback to [annam@jackandjilledu.com](mailto:annam@jackandjilledu.com). Please also remember to register for Spring Break which is coming up in March.

### Attention Turtle Pre-K Families!

Preschool graduation is coming up fast! That means that the summer program and Kindergarten will be here before we know it! We would like the opportunity to meet with all of our Turtle Families on **Thursday, March 8th from 5:30-6:00** to share with you information about the following:

Preschool Graduation

JJ's Jam Summer School Age Program

Kindergarten Enrichment

Before and After School Care

We know that several families are beginning to make final decisions regarding schools and programs and we would love to assist you in your decision making process. If you have questions before the meeting regarding any of the programs listed above, please contact our school age program coordinator, Ms Anna: [annam@jackandjilledu.com](mailto:annam@jackandjilledu.com)

### Breakfast and Morning Drop Offs

As many of you know, we typically serve breakfast between 8:00– and 8:30 am each day. Our breakfast times are set as such because we want for your children to receive the most learning time possible. We have several children who are arriving closer to 8:30 or after 8:30 and still needing to eat breakfast. When this happens, it creates a significant domino effect for the remainder of the day. It is our goal that all of our classrooms begin their morning learning time no later than 9:00 am.

Please help us by arriving before 8:30 am if you would like for your child to eat breakfast. Each of our classrooms will be finishing their breakfast time by 8:30 each morning and will not be able to serve breakfast to children arriving late. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please speak with Ms Anna in the office. Thank you!

### Valuables in Cars

In the past month we unfortunately had a theft from a parent's car during drop off in our parking lot. As a reminder, please keep your cars locked and your valuables away from plain sight in the parking lots. Children are the most valuable! Please remember that children cannot be left unattended for any amount of time in our parking lots. Thank you!

### Cost of Living Tuition Increase

The February 2012 billing cycle was for a 5-week period. The March billing cycle will be for 4 weeks beginning March 5 through March 30, 2012. As most of you are aware, we deferred our annual cost-of-living increase on tuition in the fall of 2011. A minimal cost-of-living increase will likely occur later in the year of 2012 and you will receive advance notice. Please email directly with any questions: [carol@jackandjilledu.com](mailto:carol@jackandjilledu.com) Thank you.



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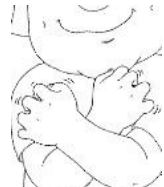

## SPANISH & SIGN LANGUAGE UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2012

We are working hard in all of our classrooms to combine the sign language and Spanish that we are learning to help the children with different learning styles.

We also want to make sure that we are sharing this information with parents so that you can learn along with us!

Some of the signs and words that we learn are age specific (like the sign for more for infants). Other words that we are learning go with our theme for the month or week.

To the right you will find the words that our older toddlers and preschoolers are working on in January.

Coat/Jacket	Boot	Winter	Snow	Ice
Chaqueta (cha-K-ta)	Bota (boata)	Invierno (in-V-er-no)	Nieve (NEE-ay-vay)	Hielo (hee-AY-loh)
	 With both hands held in "s" shape tap together for shoe then the right "5" hand taps left arm above wrist (tall shoe)	 Make two fists and shake them like you're shivering in front of your body (like cold)	 Fingers wiggle as hands move down	 Both hands in "5" shape held stiff with palms down in front of your chest, contract and move slightly toward body
Snowman	Snowflakes	Cold	Polar Bear	Penguin
El muñeco de nieve (moon-YAY-co) (day) (NEE-ayvay)	Copos de nieve (KOH-pohs) (day) (NEE-ay-vay)	Frio (Free-O)	El oso Polar (O-so poh-LAR)	El pinguino (Peen-GOO'E-no)
(No picture available) Sign literally "snow" & "man" <b>Snow:</b> fingers wiggle as hands move down <b>Man:</b> Open and close hand at forehead like brim on cap and pull to chest	 Same as snow. (see above)	 Make two fists and shake them like you're shivering	 Sign literally "White Bear" <b>White:</b> open "5" hand to chest and close making "o" <b>Bear:</b> See below	(No picture available) Place wrists of open hands on waist outward and waddle
Deer	Squirrel	Bird	Bear	Rabbit
El ciervo (see-AIR-voh)	La ardilla (ar-DEE-yah)	El pájaro (PAH-jah-rroh)	El oso (O-so)	El conejo (con-A-ho)
 Use open hands to show antlers. Touch the thumb tips of the open hands to head (similar to above with open hands)	 Tap two fingers like squirrel's teeth opening and closing	 Index finger and thumb open and close like a bird's beak	 cross your arms in front of your chest and scratch	 Wiggle fingers like rabbit ears



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