



# the discovery center

April 2017

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER—MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD! (MOYC)



April is a time when communities and individuals recognize the needs and rights of young children and their families. Since 1971, one week in April has been celebrated nationally as Week of the Young Child. In 1985, Michigan expanded the celebration to the entire month of April, with each week having a specific focus. Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEYC) coordinates the campaign with support from local and state organizations, businesses, and public agencies.

The focus weeks for the April celebration are as follows:

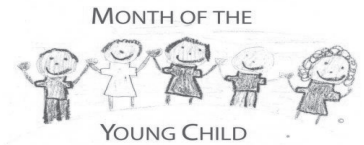
- April 1-8 Physical Development
- April 9-15 Social Development
- April 16-22 Emotional Development
- April 23-30 Cognitive Development

Support Michigan's children and families and "Wear Your True Colors" in the month of April! You can show your commitment to Michigan's young children by putting a purple ribbon:

- \*on your lapel
- \*in your window
- \*on your door
- \*on your coat
- \*on your purse
- \*on your car
- \*on your desk
- \*on a tree
- \*on your briefcase
- \*on your tote bag

Check out MOYC ® and MiAEYC merchandise at [www.MiAEYC.org](http://www.MiAEYC.org) or [MOYC@MiAEYC.org](mailto:MOYC@MiAEYC.org)

Please join us in celebrating children during this month long recognition!



## Upcoming Events

- |                     |              |   |
|---------------------|--------------|---|
| Friday, April 7th   | 10:15 am     | Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor        |
| Monday, April 10th  | 10:00 am     | Music Concert with Laz and Guest              |
| Wednesday, May 10th | 6:00-7:30 pm | "Steps to Discovery" All School Evening Event |

### **Special Community Event:**

Gemini, twin brothers San and Laz, play music regularly at The Discovery Center and the kids love their shows. Gemini is doing a special Spring Celebration Concert for Children and the Whole Family on Sunday, April 30th, 1:00pm, at the Ark Coffeehouse in Ann Arbor. Gemini will be joined by San's daughter, Emily Rose, a wonderful singer and virtuoso violinist! Here is the link for more information about the event:

<http://theark.org/shows-events/2017/apr/30/gemini>

## GROWING IN THE GARDEN!

A garden can work like a savings account for children. But instead of money, they deposit moments of digging, planting, and watering. What do they withdraw? Understanding. Exercise. Nutrition. And the sheer satisfaction of creating something beautiful and useful. Your child can garden in your backyard, a community plot, or on a window sill. Here are some ideas to start with:

**Grow a PLEASE PICK Garden:** In a container or a small patch of ground, grow flowers that your child is always free to pick. Try zinnias, daisies, or marigolds.

**Water and Weed Me Flags:** What needs watering today? What needs weeding? Tie streamers of yarn on the ends of sticks. Blue yarn means “Water Me”, and red yarn means “Weed Me”. Move the sticks as needed.

**Thirsty Trees:** When your child’s wading pool needs emptying, have them scoop up buckets of water and empty them under a tree.

**Celebrate Arbor Day:** This year, Arbor Day, a day set aside annually for tree planting, is on April 27th. The Arbor Day foundation suggests celebrating by starting a tree seed in a cup, or a seedling in a pot.

**Digging is half the fun:** Designate a place where your children can dig to their heart’s content.

**Plants with Shoes?** Your child can make a planter by filling his or her worn-out, outgrown shoes with dirt. Try planting dwarf sunflower seeds in them. The stems look like long legs!

**Sandwich Bag Garden:** Make a row of four staples across a zip-close plastic bag, about one inch up from the bottom. Have your child fold and dampen a paper towel to place in the bag. Slide a few dry lima beans between the paper towel and the side of the bag. Then tape the bag in a sunny window and watch the roots grow.

**Grow a Salad:** Leaf lettuce and radishes are easy to grow and can be planted in a small patch of ground or in pots and window boxes. Have your child water seeds with a plant mister every evening and weed from time to time. The whole family can enjoy the results.



## 15 WAYS TO THANK YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER

**Smile:** Say hello and smile, even when you’re in a hurry.

**Talk:** You can brighten up a teacher’s morning simply by passing along your child’s enthusiastic comments. Sometimes children will tell their parents about something they like at school, but never mention it to their teachers.

**Label:** There are few sights more welcome to a teacher on a hectic day than coats and belongings with a child’s name clearly marked on them.

**Write:** After parent/teacher conferences are over, send a note of thanks for all the time the teacher has put into preparing for them.

**Tell a Friend:** Say something positive about your child’s teacher to another parent in the class. Positive comments have a way of spreading.

**Tell an Administrator:** Make time to say something complimentary about your child’s teacher to the director or staff. Sometimes people only go to them with complaints.

**Tell the Teacher:** Stop in and say something nice about your child’s teacher to—who else?—the teacher her/himself.

**Copy It:** Write a thank-you note to your child’s teacher for all she/he has done. Then make a copy and ask that it be put in his/her file.

**Watch:** Here’s something teachers might not mention, but considerate parents do it anyway...if you bring younger brothers or sisters into a classroom, always keep an eye on them yourself.

**Order:** Order lunch for your child’s teacher. **Remember, though, to keep it NUT FREE!**

**Fix It:** If the zipper on your child’s jacket is broken, or sticks, fix it. It helps when getting 20+ kids ready for outside play.

**Make a Card:** Home-made ones are always best.

**Help Out:** Pitch in when something special is going on at school. Offer to lend a hand whenever you can.

**Check the Time:** Make it a top priority to arrive on time at the end of the day. Your child’s teacher, like everyone else, has a family, appointments, or errands to get to.

**Smile Again:** Say good-bye and smile, even when you are in a hurry.

