



Provider Pages

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Family Child Care Providers are the BEST!

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- * Anecdotal Notes
- * Groundhog Day
- * Valentine's Day
- * Dental Health Month

What is an Anecdotal Note?

What is an Anecdotal Note?

An anecdotal note is a factual, written record of a child. It includes who, what, how and sometimes where and when. It is written so that the reader can picture exactly what happened without interpretation. It does NOT include what you think a child is feeling or what you think a child was thinking. Instead it is simply based on EXACTLY what you observe.

Why are Anecdotal Notes Important?

Anecdotal notes are very important because they are based on fact. They help teachers plan experiences for children based on what they know about their levels of development in all areas. They are also very helpful when talking with

parents/caregivers because they are based on facts...not opinions.

What Does an Anecdotal Note Look Like?

An anecdotal note includes the following:

1. A brief description of the setting
2. A summary what happened
3. Direct quotes...if possible
4. ONLY the facts!

The best way for you to learn how to write good anecdotal notes is to give you an example. Here is one:

Date: February 2, 2018

Thomas and Jose are playing side-by-side in the block area. Thomas has a stack of 5 plastic blocks in front of him. He picks up another block



Observe. Reflect. Plan.

and puts it on the top of the stack. The stack wobbles slightly. Thomas watches the stack and when it stops wobbling, he smiles and says to Jose, "Look how tall my stack of blocks is now!" Jose nods his head and picks up a block and puts it on top of another one. The block falls off. Jose bends his head downward toward the ground.

Note how the description details exactly what happens. It is, "just the facts." There are not any opinions in this anecdotal note about what the observe thinks he/she saw. Instead, it is simply a description of the actual event. So...are you ready to record anecdotal notes in your program?



Groundhog Day Fun!

Groundhog Day is February 2nd. On this day, the groundhog comes out of his burrow after a long winter sleep. If the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If not, then spring is just around the corner.



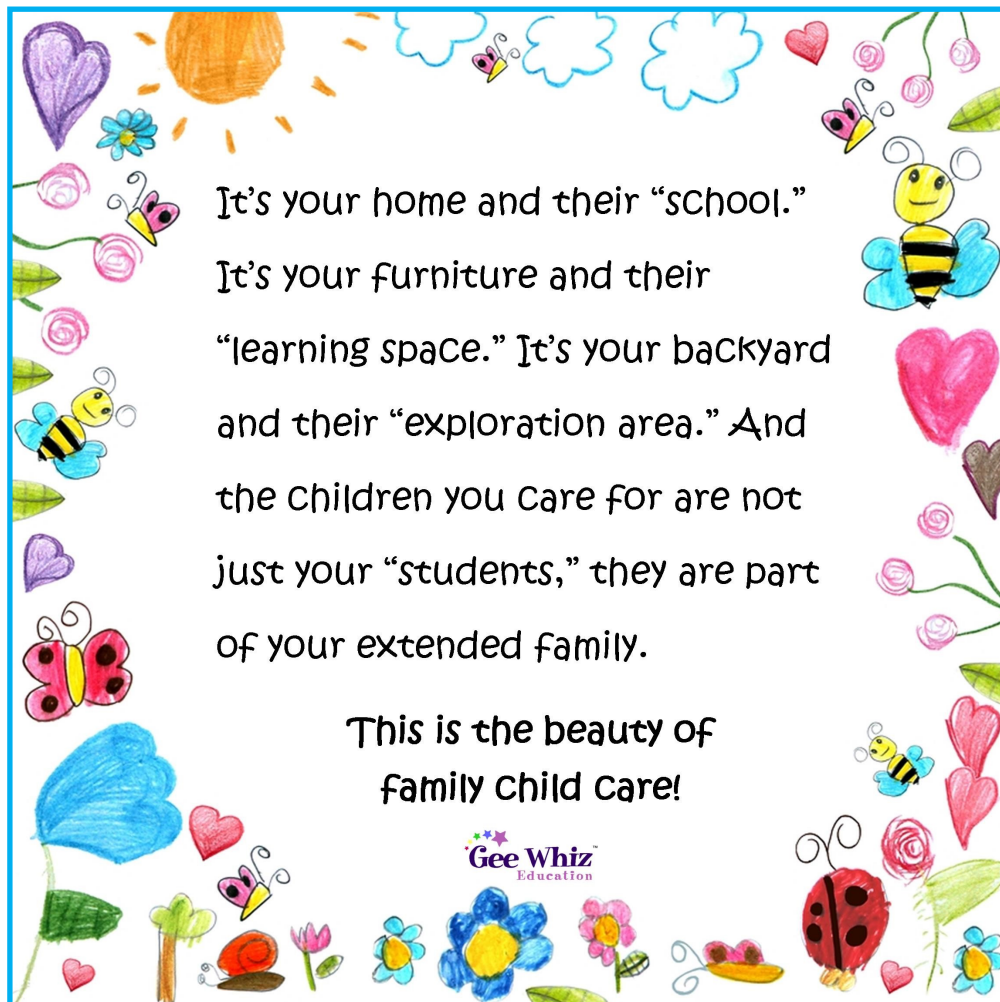
Will the groundhog see his shadow?

To celebrate this fun day with the children, invite them to pretend to be groundhogs as you sing the following song:

GROUNDHOG, GROUNDHOG
(tune: "Skip to My Lou")
Groundhog, groundhog...
Please come out.
Groundhog, groundhog...
Please come out!
Groundhog, groundhog...
Please come out
And look for your shadow.

Do you see it...yes or no?
Do you see it...yes or no?
Do you see it...yes or no?
Do you see your shadow?

Invite each child (groundhog) to share whether or not he/she sees his/her shadow.



Valentine's Day with Toddlers!

Toddlers. Busy, busy, busy and into everything! Planning experiences for toddlers does not need to be hard. It just requires a little creative thinking and some special attention to safety. Toddlers, in general, are too young to fully understand the celebration of Valentine's Day but they are not too young to have fun! Here are a few ideas of activities related to Valentines' Day your toddlers may enjoy.

♥ Fill a box with valentine cards for your toddler to explore. Talk about the cards as the toddlers explore them.

- ♥ Make red or pink playdough and offer heart-shaped cookie cutters.
- ♥ Cut fingerprint paper in a large heart shape and then provide 2 or 3 colors of paint from which your toddler can choose.
- ♥ Cut new sponges in heart shapes and add to the water table or tub of water.



Planning activities for toddlers requires creative thinking!

Tint the water pink...just for fun!

- ♥ Cut heart shapes from different textured materials (e.g., sandpaper) and glue to a large sheet of posterboard for a sensory experience.

A Valentine's Day Writing Center

Writing is a skill that even young children can explore when given the right tools and opportunities. Setting up a Valentine's Day writing center is a fun way for children to explore writing in a meaningful way.

To establish this center, simply gather materials such as those listed and keep them available during free play. Add other materials you think would enhance the experience.

- Tablets and notepads (lined and unlined)
- Markers, pencils, colored pencils
- Envelopes
- Construction paper
- Child-safe scissors
- Stickers
- Index cards
- Toy mail box



A Valentine's Day Game

Valentine's Day is a great time to play group games! These types of games are wonderful for promoting cooperation, following oral directions and respecting personal space. They also help to build gross motor skills and coordination. For this game, each child will need a paper valentine. They can either use store-bought valentines or the children can make their own using art materials.



This game is called, "**The Valentine's Day Queen (or King) Says...**" Give the children oral directions to follow that involve their valentines such as, "The Valentine's Day queen says...put your valentine on your tummy" or "The Valentine's Day queen says...put your valentine on your nose." Make the game more challenging by using two-step directions such as, "The Valentine's Day queen says put the valentine on your head and then turn around two times. More advanced children can take turns giving the directions which puts them in a leadership role.

Supporting Providers

At Gee Whiz, we are all about supporting family child care providers. This newsletter, provided by your organization, is one way we do this. We hope you enjoyed the contents and welcome your feedback! Please feel free to email us at customerservice@geewhizeducation.com any time. We would love to hear from you!



www.geewhizeducation.com

Keep Those Teeth Clean

February is Dental Health Month. Teaching children the importance of good dental hygiene should begin at a young age. Healthy habits are easier to establish if done early on and you, as a provider, have a key role in this process!

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry has some great tips on when, and how, to care for children's teeth. Here is a link to their FAQ page: http://www.aapd.org/resources/frequently_asked_questions/#320. They also have a special section filled with all kinds of materials and activities called Mouth Monsters. You may want to check it out: <http://mouthmonsters.mychildrensteeth.org/>.

Part of good dental hygiene involves helping children brush for a long enough period of time. Here is a song you can sing while children brush. After brushing, always make sure that children rinse well to make sure that they do not ingest too much toothpaste. Fluoride is toxic when ingested in large quantities to make sure to keep toothpaste out of the reach of little hands when you are not supervising directly!



A TOOTHBRUSHING SONG (tune: "Ten Little Indians")

Brush, brush, brush, brush
Brush your teeth.
Brush, brush, brush, brush,
Brush your teeth.
Brush, brush, brush, brush,
Brush your teeth.
Brush them up and down.

Brush the teeth way in the back,
Brush the teeth way in the back,
Brush the teeth way in the back,
Brush them up and down.

Brush the teeth right in the middle,
Brush the teeth right in the middle,
Brush the teeth right in the middle,
Brush them up and down.

Brush the teeth up in the front,
Brush the teeth up in the front,
Brush the teeth up in the front,
Brush them up and down.

Brush all of them one more time,
Brush all of them one more time,
Brush all of them one more time.
Make sure they are clean!