



# "Simon Says"

The Official Newsletter of the  
Robert E. Simon, Jr. Children's Center, Inc.  
April 2025

12005 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 30, Reston, VA 20191  
Established 1990 [simoncenter.org](http://simoncenter.org)

Volume 36, No. 4  
703-834-5880

## DIRECTOR

Director:

March came and went, but we had fun with the "**madness**"! We focused on books, books, and more books. Our "Book Battle" named the book Five Little Ducks as the big winner, and our door decorations were a hit! Many thanks to our guest readers. 😊  
Mid-month, we celebrated "Pi Day" on 3.14 by making pizza pie collage art, and the following week our teachers enjoyed a fun Professional Development Day doing similar process art activities.

In April, we will celebrate NAEYC's "Week of the Young Child" with...

Music Monday 🎵, Tasty Tuesday 🍰, Work-together Wednesday 👩👧👦,

Artsy Thursday 🎨, & Family Friday 👨👩👧👦. No foolin' 🎪, April is going to be great!  
- Leila





### Assistant Director:

It is always nice to welcome the warm weather! March had many nice days. You know the saying about April..."April showers bring May flowers!"

It is so nice to see the trees and flowers blooming. Our geese family is back, and I am hoping we will all get to see some goslings later in the spring! I love how excited the children get when they see animals outside!

April 24th and 25th we will be doing our St. Jude's "Trike-a-thon". This is always a big hit with preschoolers. The children love riding the trikes and it is for a very worthy cause too. Let's see how much money we can raise this year!

I hope everyone enjoys the warmer weather and sunshine. 😊

- Jessica



---

### **Sending out a BIG "thank you" to the following families for donations from our Amazon Wish List:**



Lampton - construction paper (green!)

DiMuzio - Playdoh

Choi – paint set, pom-poms, craft sticks, & a kindness book

Volk - stickers

McNamara/Sheridan – Dot-Dot markers & Mod Podge



---

### Board of Directors:

Happy April! We hope you all are enjoying the warmer weather and extra hours of daylight. The Board of Directors will host a 10 AM playdate on Sunday, April 13th at Frying Pan Farm Park. We will meet in the playground area. Because the weather this time of year can be a little finicky, Sunday, April 27th will be the rain date (same place and time).

We are also working to secure donated items for the silent auction in early June. If you would like to help, or if you have suggestions or questions for the Board, please email us at:

[board@simoncenter.org](mailto:board@simoncenter.org)

Thank you for your continued support of the Simon Center.

- Meredith (Mom of "Star" Eleanor)

---



## Nursery 1 Penguin class:

April is here, and our Penguin babies are growing ... fast! As our children are turning into big boys and girls, they have been enjoying reading more books and singing different songs.

Clara is standing without support and working on taking her first steps. She enjoys climbing and loves to explore all the furniture in the classroom by moving the toys onto the shelves. Clara likes to play with spinning toys and cuddle soft animals.

Charlotte is working on standing without support. She is very close to being a walker! Charlotte enjoys playing with the pop-up toys and playing pretend with the dishes.

Livia is also very close to walking. She loves to be inside the small house and play with the little ducks. Livia also likes to turn the pages when reading the small board books.

Karina has adjusted very well to our classroom and is comfortable enough now to take her first steps. She likes to play with cups and bottle shakers. Karina enjoys being in the stroller and playing in the gym.

Parker is working on pulling up using the furniture and is practicing stretching his legs to pull himself up. He loves to move around in circles when he is trying to get toys.

Parker enjoys playing with balls and small cars.

James is crawling ... everywhere! He enjoys exploring the classroom but his favorite place to be is inside the small house. James likes to play with cups and soft cubes.

Greta loves to move around and sits without support. She is eating baby food and loves to try different flavors. Greta enjoys playing with the soft books and the magic stars.

Emiliano is rolling over from back to tummy and tummy to back. He smiles big when we sing songs. Emiliano likes to play with our little fishies and soft toys.

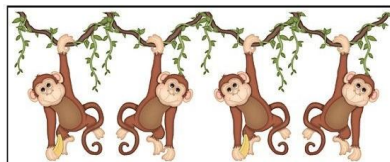
Juniper loves to roll around the floor mat. She moves very quickly from one place to the other. Juniper enjoys playing with the rattles and the little fishies.

Isabelle is growing up fast and will turn 1 year old this month. She reminds us of her older brother when he was in the Penguin class. Happy Birthday, Isabelle! 😊

Also, we will be celebrating the “Week of the Young Child” from April 7 to April 11. This is a very special week and will be fun for all! Happy spring!

- Luz, Arline, and Rosanete





## Nursery 2 Monkey class:

Spring is here! The grass is green, the flowers are in bloom, and the longer days bring warmer sun rays. We hope everyone is enjoying the lovely weather. Our Monkeys have been busy learning and exploring.

In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by decorating the classroom door with "The Cat in the Hat" artwork.

For St. Patrick's Day, we went hunting for green toys. We made dot-dot marker umbrellas and painted different flavor pies to celebrate Pi (3.14) Day.

Next, we learned about colors and shapes. The children made "tye-dye" art with baby wipes. We also planted beans in pots.

We welcomed Charlie to our Monkey family in March, and he is already enjoying a variety of different Monkey activities.

In April, we will learn about **Spring Flowers**, **"Bugs"**, **Kites**, **Bunnies & Eggs**. We are excited to hunt for spring eggs!

Enjoy the nice weather and please bring extra clothes appropriate for the warm weather.

- Reena, Alicia, and Fettouma



## UPCOMING EVENTS:



April 1	Dress up "Inside-out" day as "April Fools"
April 7 - 11	NAEYC's "Week of the Young Child"
April 7	Walker Nature Center visits SR's in AM, "Earth Sounds" program
April 21 - 25	Collecting food donations for Food for Neighbors
April 24 & 25	St. Jude's Trike-a-thon days for SR classes
April 28	Vision Screening for SR's in AM

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Ms. Fettouma



Ms. Roselle

Marlowe

Isabelle

Dax

Troy



## Junior 1 Dolphin class:

During the month of March, we read many books and had fun decorating our door based on one of our favorites, The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The Dolphins loved drawing with crayons or painting with a brush. Other favorite activities included movement, music, and dance. The toddlers enjoyed dancing to *Walking, Walking, Baby Bumblebee*, *Wheels on the Bus*, and *The Elmo Song*. We learned a new song in March called *Rubber Ducky, You're the One*. The children had fun going on walks outside, crawling through the tunnel on the playground, and climbing the steps!

First, we discussed **Wind**. During art, we made kites and hot air balloons. We brought the kites outside to watch them blow in the wind. We read The Wind Blew, Kites, and Wind. The children enjoyed the wind blowing in the trees and in their hair.

Next, we learned about **Farm Animals**. During art, the students made pigs and chicks. They played with the barn using farm animals, while making animal sounds. We read Busy, Noisy Farm and Old McDonald Had a Farm. We also sang *Old McDonald Had a Farm* and *Farm Animals*.

Mid-month, the class was introduced to **Rainbows**. With bubble wrap, we painted beautiful and colorful rainbows. Then, we also painted a fish using celery! We read I Love You Like a Rainbow and Bear Sees Colors. The toddlers enjoyed climbing on our rainbow mat and practiced naming the colors.


Towards the end of the month, we explored the color, **Green**. The children painted green leaves with spring flowers. We brought in different green fruits and vegetables for the children to touch and taste.

In April, our themes will be **Rain & Puddles**, **Zoo**, **Week of the Young Child**, and **Spring Cleaning**.

- Shirin, Fara, and Erica



## Did you know... ?

- Refer a child & get \$250 off a month's tuition. See Robin or Leila for more details. 😊
- We have an official (and private) Parent Group Facebook page.   
Please "join us" at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/902695849810695/>



### Junior 2 Goldfish class:

March began with Dr. Seuss week. We celebrated his birthday and read many of his books. Each child made a “Tweedle Beetle” to put into bottles. We listened to Fox in Socks as we colored our “Tweedle Beetles”. Next, we read The Lorax. We made Truffula trees as seen in the book illustrations, as well as our own Lorax. During this first week, our school had our spring Scholastic book week. We got great additions to our book collections (thanks to our parents!) and one new book was Green Eggs and Ham. Our Dr. Seuss week was a success... we love books!

For the center-wide “Battle of the Books”, we used the book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom as our battle book entry and for our door decoration. Our Goldfish enjoyed reading each book and voting for their favorites.

Once the book was chosen and our door was decorated, we moved onto our spring theme to get ready to welcome spring. We made flowers and we turned our crafting materials into more designs such as butterflies and more flowers. We painted “Mr. Sun” and used our handprints for the rays.

For our St. Patrick’s Day theme, we painted cardboard to make a pot of gold. Then, we painted gold to fill our pots. The class also made clovers to put up here and there, and we danced to Irish jigs. We put on Irish Celtic music to accompany us during our nap time to calm our bodies to rest and sleep.

For our rainbow theme, we started by making lava lamps in rainbow colors. We used magic watercolor paints and food coloring in the water. We added oil to the water to see the colors break apart and move around in the bottle. We used pipettes to make a rainbow design on napkins. Our rainbow designs were amazing to see once it dried up! We had an amazing month filled with books, books, and more books!

Our theme for April will revolve around spring cleaning, which we take time for our friends to clean the classroom and then start on our biweekly toy cleaning as a team. We plan on jumping into our gardening week as soon as we are done with spring cleaning. Next, we will focus on upcoming special days like Easter, Earth Day, and Arbor Day. In April, we will celebrate our beautiful earth, and we will finish off the month with April Showers (to hopefully welcome May Flowers). 😊 April... here we come!

- Mayi, Ana, and Warda





### Junior 3 Panda class:

Happy spring from the Pandas 🐼! We are hopeful that with the warmer weather, we will see a decline in illnesses in our room. On a much happier note, we had a fun time learning about **Dr. Seuss**. We learned that he was an author of children's books 📖, and we learned that an author is someone that writes books for children or adults.

On **St. Patrick's Day**, we had a visit from a very special guest...a silly leprechaun came into our room and made our toilet water 🚽 green and our milk green! We thought it was cool to drink green milk 🥛.

During colors of the **rainbow** 🌈 week, we enjoyed painting and coloring with our favorite colors, and we had a great time reviewing the colors. We also learned that when you mix some primary colors together you will get a different color.

For **spring** week, we learned that flowers 🌺, plants 🌱, trees, and gardens need water 💧, sun ☀️, and "dirt" to grow. If we give our plants those three things, we will have a beautiful garden. 😊

With the weather getting nicer and warmer, we will spend time outdoors as much as possible. Often, we will enjoy our afternoon snacks outside. Please make sure your child has an appropriate jacket or sweater to wear. Thank you! 😊

Our themes for the month of April will be **April Showers Bring May Flowers** 🌸; **Earth** 🌍 **Day**; **Week of the Young Child** 👧👦; and **Circus** 🎪. Happy spring!

- Sarai, Mary, and Julia L.



### Did you know... ?

- Our telephone number when we call you will look a bit different. To call us, please use 703-834-5880. To be sure you know when we are calling you, please also save the following numbers on your phone: 571-375-7671 and 571-375-7673.



### Senior 1 Bear class:

March has been a fun-filled month of exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning! Dr. Seuss week kicked off the month. We celebrated his birthday and his classics. The Bears enjoyed The Cat in the Hat; Green Eggs and Ham; and One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. We practiced rhyming words, created our own silly Dr. Seuss-inspired creatures, and even made a fun Green Eggs and Ham craft.

For Seasons week, we explored the seasons and discussed how they change throughout the year. The children learned about different types of weather, what we wear in each season, and how nature transforms over time. We created seasonal artwork, including fall leaves, winter snowflakes, spring flowers, and summer sunshine. The Bears also enjoyed sorting objects and clothing that belong to each season.

Next, as spring began, we started looking for Signs of Spring. The children learned about blooming flowers, chirping birds, baby animals, and warmer days. We painted bright spring flowers, talked about how trees start to grow new leaves, and went on a “Spring Hunt” around the classroom to spot signs of the changing season.

We wrapped up the month by leaping into the world of Frogs! The children explored the frog life cycle, from eggs to tadpoles to adult frogs. We read Five Green and Speckled Frogs, practiced hopping like frogs, and created fun frog crafts. The Bears also learned about where frogs live, what they eat, and how they make their croaking sound.

We continued our weekly review of counting numbers and Letters A-Z. Our April themes will be **Birds**, **The Week of Young Child**, **3-D Shapes**, and **Taking Care of the Earth**. March was a month filled with discovery and excitement. We look forward to all that April will bring. Thank you for your continued support!

- Rozita, Maryam, and Anjali



Do you like the Simon Center?

Please spread the word on Yelp, Nextdoor, Bing, and Google.

You are our best advertisement!



## Senior 2 Giraffe class:

March came and went with many exciting things happening throughout the month! To start, the Giraffes had fun celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday by wearing the Cat in the Hat's hat and reading many books written by Dr. Seuss. We connected our weekly theme of "Pets" to the celebration by talking about different pets that show up in his books. The children also worked very hard to decorate our door based on our book choice, "The Three Little Pigs". The children created houses made of straw, sticks, and bricks along with the faces of the three pigs and the big bad wolf. They were so proud of their collaborative work and were showing it off to their parents!

For our "Farm Animals" theme, the children had fun talking and singing about farm animals. We traced animal shapes to paint with watercolors and painted with cotton balls. They also enjoyed a visit from Ms. Kelly, the librarian, who read There Is a Monster in Your Book. She asked the children to help her get the monster out of her book, and they had fun pretending to tickle, blow, and wiggle for the monster to leave. Next, the class welcomed a local author who came to read her book, My Amazing Grandfriend. The class had a great time listening to the story and sharing about their grandparents with the author. The Giraffes also learned about leprechauns and about "Forest Animals" that week. They turned marshmallows into gold with yellow paint and made forest animal collages and paintings.

To end the month, we talked about "Zoo Animals". The Giraffes loved sharing about their favorite zoo animals (like hippos, lions, monkeys, sloths, cheetahs, bears, raccoons, and moose). They did the animal movements to the song, "Let's Go to the Zoo" and enjoyed pretending to be a zookeeper. 😊

In April, the Giraffes will stay busy ... dressing up "Inside Out" for April Fool's Day and riding the trikes for the St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon. Our April themes will include: "NAEYC's *Week of Young Child*", "In the Garden", "Spring", "Birds & Ocean Animals", and "Insects & Spiders".

Thank you for all your support and have an awesome April, Giraffe families! 💕  
- Julia W.





### Senior 3 Star class:

We started the month of March learning about the author and reading some books by Dr. Seuss. First, we read The Foot Book and made art based on this book to decorate our door. Next, we enjoyed the story Green Eggs and Ham and made a dessert that looked like the illustrations in the book.

Our next topic was Dinosaurs with discussions on Paleontologists. We looked at how dinosaurs lived day-to-day and how they went extinct. We made “Dinosaur Dirt Cups”. During our spring unit, we learned about planting and harvesting from seed to vegetable. We discussed the spring season in general and how it affects the plants and trees in our area. The class is excited to grow plants and vegetables for the upcoming summer and we discussed what we should be putting in our gardens. To end the week, we woke up our hibernating animals that we put to “bed” back in October.

The following week, we talked more about spring, focusing on spring cleaning. We cleaned our classroom and washed toys in the sensory table. We read books on spring cleaning. In addition, we cooked basmati rice with mixed vegetables.

To end the month, we had our butterfly unit. We examined how they develop from an egg to a caterpillar, a caterpillar to a pupa, then a pupa to a butterfly. The children reviewed the life cycle stages for a butterfly while reading books. Then each student made their own butterfly life cycle showing each stage.

April themes will be “Week of the Young Child”, Insects & Bugs, Earth Day & Recycling, Rainbows, and Rain & Puddles. We will also review the Letters of the Week (Y, S, H, J, F) and the Numbers of the Week (1-31).

We said goodbye to Logan in late March and to Teddy in early April. We hope that the next chapter of their lives will be filled with curiosity and happiness. 😊

- Roselle, Shatara, and Sameey



### Did you know... ?

- As a non-profit, we have an Amazon “wish list” for various classroom wants & needs, as well as for much needed Center supplies. <https://a.co/4WoEviD>