



# "Simon Says"

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

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Established 1990

[simoncenter.org](http://simoncenter.org)

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## DIRECTOR

Director:

In April, all classes had a wonderful "Week of the Young Child" and enjoyed using trash to make *treasures* for "Pi Day" and on Earth Day, too. We started the month with our foolish "inside-out" dress up day; mid-month we welcomed back a graduate for spring break; and to end the month we collected food to donate to Food for Neighbors and *triked* for donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. 😊

In May, we will celebrate our caring teachers on National Child Care Providers Appreciation Day (5/9) and classrooms will honor our lovely RESCC mothers for Mother's Day (5/11). May is the last month to ask for donations for our Family Fiesta's Silent Auction in June from nearby businesses. All donations are welcome 😊.

With the spring weather, I know our upcoming May days will be a-MAY-zing!

- Leila





## Assistant Director:

Wow, April went by fast! Time flies while you are having fun. 😊

On May 9th, we will celebrate National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. I would like to be the first to say how lucky we are to have our teachers here at Simon Center. I have had all three of my children attend and I could not think of a better place for them to grow and learn. Our teachers are simply the best! They are like a second family and love our children as their own. Sending a big “THANK YOU!” to all our teachers, for always putting our children first and having their best interests at heart. ❤️

Mother's Day is also in May. Happy Mother's Day to all!

I look forward to seeing more spring weather. Please remember to bring sunscreen for your children if you have not already. Sunscreen forms are upfront for you to fill out, if needed.

Now, let's have another fun month! 😊

- Jessica

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



Viswanathan (current RESCC parent) –  
book, bubble wands & bubble refills

Zandieh (future RESCC parent) –  
Construction paper (red), ink pads, bubble wands & bubble refills, book,  
and tempura paint set



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## Board of Directors:

April showers bring May flowers! We hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather and more hours of daylight.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, many of us will be at the HopeCam 5k to support “Team Eliza”. We hope to see you there! A special thank you to everyone who has entered the race or donated.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. This is a chance to recognize the wonderful care all the Simon Center staff members provide to our children. We greatly appreciate any donations to our Staff Fund for this event.

Our annual Silent Auction will be on June 4<sup>th</sup>. As of now, we have less items than we did last year. If you know of local businesses that can donate or if you have new items you'd like to donate, please let us know at: [board@simoncenter.org](mailto:board@simoncenter.org)

Thank you for your support of the Simon Center!

- Jessica F. (Mom of “Panda” Nora)

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### Nursery 1 Penguin class:

In April, we saw some rainy days and in May... it is time for flowers! We enjoy looking at nature on stroller rides and playground visits. Now, all our Penguins are moving!

Karina is officially walking. She enjoys practicing her walking skills all day and is

drinking while using a straw. Karina loves to play with the soft toys and pop-up toys.

Charlotte is very close to taking her first steps... sometimes she holds on to try to climb on furniture. She is using a straw to drink water and is eating food from home. Charlie loves to play with spinning toys and the little stars.

Clara has begun taking steps and is proud when walking short distances. She loves to eat all kinds of fruit but avoids pasta. Clara loves to play with balls and glove puppets.

Livia eats food from school and has begun using a straw to drink. She loves to play with the music toys and the little fishies. Livia enjoys lap time for stories.

Isabelle enjoys trying different school foods. She is drinking water out of her straw and is working on furniture-walking. Isabelle loves the soft toys and reading board books.

Greta is sitting up from the floor and is beginning to crawl... moving everywhere! She is also trying to pull-up using the furniture and enjoys trying all new baby food flavors. Greta loves to play with the vinyl blocks and the little fishies.

Parker enjoys exploring the room while army-crawling. He is working on pulling himself up using the furniture and he loves to eat meat purees. Parker enjoys playing with the small cars and balls.

Emiliano is working hard on his sitting up skills but still enjoys rolling and reaching for toys during floor time. He also likes to spend time bouncing in the saucer. Emiliano loves to play with the puppets and stuffed animals.

Juniper loves exploring the room while rolling and moving fast. She likes to be under the saucer or the swing. Juni enjoys playing with magic stars and plastic books.

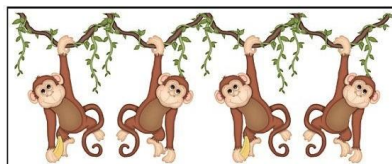
James is army-crawling and saying more words every day. He eats purees, cereals, and some school foods. James likes to play with cars and to roll the balls to chase them.

We hope all mothers have a wonderful Mother's Day. Enjoy your special day!

- Luz, Arline, and Rosanete







## Nursery 2 Monkey class:

Our Monkeys kept busy in April!

We sponge-painted cherry blossom trees, enjoyed a “friendship” fruit salad, loved going on an egg hunt, and learned all about spring.

The children also celebrated Earth Day by making multi-colored suncatchers and handprint flowers.

Thankfully, the weather has been getting warmer which means we spent more time outside to explore and observe spring. 😊

In May, we will make a craft for **Mother’s Day** and learn more about **Flowers**, **Gardens**, and **Animals**. We will continue to spend more time outside. We are planning to go on a picnic and take regular walks around the pond.

Enjoy the nice weather!

- Reena, Alicia, and Fettouma




## UPCOMING EVENTS:



May 5	Dress up “Hat” day on Cinco de Mayo
May 9	National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day
May 14	Librarian visits SR’s in AM
May 20	Water Safety Presentation for SR’s in AM by Goldfish Swim School
May 26	CLOSED for Memorial Day
May 30	Silent Auction donations are due

## MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Ms. Annie				Ms. Julia W.	
James	Oscar	Pearl	Sarah	Norah	
Wren	Dylan M.	Aidan	Tess	Adrianna	



## Junior 1 Dolphin class:

In April, we had an exciting month full of new experiences in Dolphin class!

We started our month learning about **Rain & Puddles**. The children learned new vocabulary words related to rainy weather. Using toilet paper rolls, they designed their own raindrops. One of our favorite experiences was making puddles using cotton balls and water. At the sensory table, they made raindrops and painted rain using bubble wrap. We read books about rain, like Rain Plop and Rain, Rain, Go Away.

Next, we celebrated the “**Week of the Young Child**” 😊. The children prepared a snack using cereal, sunflower seed butter, and honey. We created large group paintings using different brushes and techniques. We also made colorful collages from pieces of paper, letting the children express themselves using texture and color.

The third week was all about **Zoo Animals**. The children made lion masks and decorated the manes with orange and yellow paper. They painted pictures of tigers and enjoyed reading animal-themed books. To bring the topic to life, the children wore animal tails and had fun walking around and imitating the sounds of each animal.

During the last week in April, we discussed **Spring Cleaning**. We read books like Mrs. Wishy Washy, Franklin is Messy, and The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Chores. The children took part in cleaning activities by helping to wash toys in the sensory table, cleaning tables, sweeping the floor, and picking up small pieces of paper from the ground. We made special cleaning-themed wristbands and created a craft as a reminder of the importance of washing germs off hands.


In May, we are excited to welcome Colby, Hayes, and Ezlynn to our classroom!

Our themes this month will be **Gardening, Babies, Mothers, and May Days**.

- 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:

Hopefully the April showers we had will bring us a lot of wonderful May flowers! During all our weekly themes, our focus in April was on planet Earth. We started this month off with **Spring Cleaning**. We cleaned everywhere... from shelves to toys, and from bins to cubbies. We even cleaned around the school and later outside with our brooms & dustpans we cleaned the playground too! We talked about how we needed to keep things around us clean.

The following week was our hands-on **Gardening** theme. We discussed many ideas about seeds. Then we explored onions, beans of different kinds & shapes, watermelon seeds, bell peppers, raw pumpkin seeds, chia seeds, and even avocado pits. We collected recyclable items as our base pots for seed planting. We used strawberry and blueberry containers as our medium for onions and chia seeds. We poked holes at the bottom of fruit containers we received at snack time and used those to grow our beans. We trimmed water bottles in half and used them as a self-watering pot for our bell peppers. We created a greenhouse for our watermelon seeds in a yogurt container. We even used empty eggshells filled with soil to plant pumpkin seeds. Beside soil, we used water as our base to get our avocado pits to germinate to grow roots. Our gardening week was a great success!

Next, we embarked on **Easter** fun and created bunnies out of the letters in our names. We made texturized eggs cut out of cardboard boxes to depict baby chicks hatching. Then, the following week was all about **Earth Day & Arbor Day**. Each child created the earth, and we talked about the colors that we used for water and land. We texturized trees by gluing tissue paper as a base for leaves and then used broccoli to paint the tissue leaves. We were happy with the outcome of our trees.

To end the month, we wished for rain for the remainder of April to see some May flowers... soon! We talked about April showers as we crafted raindrops & rain clouds. We let our imaginations run wild!

April was a fun month in our fishbowl, but we can't wait for our May themes...

**I Love My Mommy, Hello, Mr. Sun, Cloudy with a Chance of Rainbow, and Blooming Flowers.** We are excited for our May days! 😊

- Mayi, Ana, and Warda







### Junior 3 Panda class:

Greetings from the Pandas 🐼! We hope everyone has been enjoying the nice weather. We love it outside especially during our afternoon snack picnics 🧺.

A big “Thanks!” to all the parents who were able to come and read in April. The children really enjoyed having you read to the class.

The “**Week of the Young Child**” was filled with fun activities. On *Music* Monday, the Pandas enjoyed drawing a picture while listening to different types of music from around the 🌍 world, and we had a great time using our imaginations to create art on *Artsy* Thursday.

**Caterpillars 🐛 & Butterflies 🦋** week was an interesting week of learning. We watched the pre-K class release their butterflies that they got as caterpillars. Then, we reviewed the life cycle to learn that a butterfly starts as an egg, grows to be a caterpillar, builds a chrysalis, and after a couple of weeks a beautiful butterfly emerges.

During **Earth 🌍 Day** week, we learned what types of things we can do to protect our planet. We discussed how important it is to keep it clean... not just for us but also for all the animals.

**April Showers Bring May Flowers 🌸** week was a fun week. We planted some flowers of our own and we will be using the flowers for a very special gift in May 😊.

Now that the days are getting warmer, please check your child’s extra clothes bin to make sure there is season-appropriate clothing. Thank you. 😊

Our themes for the month of May will be **Circus 🎪**; **Mother’s Day 💕**; **Pond Life**; and **Feelings 😞 😡**. We would like to wish all mothers a special and ... Happy Mother’s Day!

- Sarai, Mary, and Julia L.



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### 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.
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### Senior 1 Bear class:

The Bears had a fun-filled April!

We kicked off the month with some *silly-fun* by wearing our clothes inside-out for April Fools' Day. The theme that week was the **World of Birds**. We reviewed the letter F and practiced counting down from 10 to 1.

During the “**Week of the Young Child**”, the Bears enjoyed a variety of special activities — making music, cooking, working together, and wrapping up the week with a beautiful art project done with a family member. 😊

In the third week, we dug into learning about **Plants & Gardening**. A special highlight was welcoming our youngest guest reader, Theo — Lily’s older brother (a Bear grad!). To end the month, the Bears celebrated **Earth Day** and talked about ways to take care of our planet.

Looking ahead to May, the Bears will dive into learning about **Ocean Animals**, **Mother's Day**, explore the **Post Office**, and have fun with **Magnets**!

- Rozita, Maryam, and Yoselin



Do you like the Simon Center?

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

You are our best advertisement!

### 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>





## Senior 2 Giraffe class:

Thanks to milder weather in April, we had several occasions to go on nature walks. We went to the pond or the fountain area, and the Giraffes loved watching the wild geese at the pond and smelling the beautiful spring flowers. In April, the class had fun learning about **Spring**, **Birds**, and **Insects**. The children also enjoyed a visit from the Walker Nature Center, “**Week of the Young Child**” activities, and participating in the St. Jude’s “Trike-A-Thon” 😊.

During the **Spring** week, the children observed spring changes in nature outside and had fun drawing what they saw on their nature walk on rainbow scratch-paper. They also loved sitting on a picnic blanket for indoor reading and snack times.

For the “**Week of the Young Child**”, the Giraffes marched with rhythm instruments on *Music Monday*; made a fruit salad for snack on *Tasty Tuesday*; enjoyed team races in the gym and completing giant floor puzzles in teams on *Work-Together Wednesday*; painted with different types of brushes to express ‘Spring’ on *Artsy Thursday*; and drew family portraits on *Family Friday*. 😊

The Giraffes loved looking at pictures of different birds and their habitats during **Bird** week, and each child made a ‘Bird in a Nest’ art project by cutting brown strips to make the nests.

Next, the children learned about different **Insects** (FUN FACT: there is an insect for every beginning letter sound in the alphabet!). We had fun making butterflies out of coffee filters, clothes pins, pipe cleaners, and pompoms. The children loved riding trikes wearing their own helmets from home to participate in St. Jude’s Trike-A-Thon. In May, the Giraffes will talk about **Math in Everyday Life**, **Many Ways to Travel**, **Beach**, and **Going Green**. May’s “Hats” dress up day will be a hit as the children all love wearing hats 😊! Then on May 5th, you can leave the hat in your child’s cubby afterwards for outdoor fun in the sun. Also, we have begun applying sunscreen before going outside now that jackets are “no more”.

Get ready for a marvelous May, and we hope you have a... Happy Mother’s Day! 💕  
- Julia W. and Anjali





### Senior 3 Star class:

April was a bright and busy month in our Star room. 😊

We kicked off the month celebrating the “**Week of the Young Child**” with fun art projects. Our little Stars painted beautiful pictures together, filling the room with color and creativity. We also enjoyed a special cooking project where each child made a bunny snack using fruits and veggies – such as bananas, carrots, and berries – turning healthy ingredients into an adorable bunny treat.

Next, we buzzed into our **Insects & Bugs** theme. The children watched in wonder as live caterpillars in our classroom formed chrysalises and then hatched into beautiful butterflies. We learned many fun ‘bug’ facts, read silly stories about insects, and even pretended to crawl and flutter like butterflies during circle time. These activities made our bug unit both educational and exciting!

For **Earth Day & Recycling**, our students learned about keeping the Earth clean and green. The class made colorful collages using recycled materials like old magazines, paper scraps, and cardboard to show how trash can be turned into treasures. To celebrate the sunny spring weather, we had another cooking project: everyone helped make yummy fruit smoothies outside! We mixed frozen strawberries, bananas, mango chunks, and pineapple together and sipped our cool treats in the fresh air – it was a delicious way to enjoy a sunny day.

We wrapped up April with our **Rainbows & Colors** theme. The children had a blast mixing paint to see what new colors they could create. We also did a magical color experiment: we dripped food coloring into plates of milk and added a bit of dish soap. The kids watched in amazement as the colors exploded and danced around – it was like watching a rainbow swirl in a bowl!

Every day in April was filled with smiles, giggles, and creative discoveries for the Stars. Now, we are excited for more adventures in May. Our themes will be:

**All about Mothers, Community Helpers, Police Officers, and Transportation.** We will review the letters E, G, T & W. Then, it will be time to prepare for graduation! 😊

- Roselle, Shatara, and Sameey

