



March 2025

This month we welcome Spring!
Maybe the ice will melt away...

This month we also welcome a new classmate—Shiloh Evans and her family! Shiloh will now be our youngest student, she will be 3 in July. Shiloh's brother is in 2nd grade and their family lives down the street. Her mother, Caitlin, is a data scientist at the Lab of Ornithology and her father, Tom, works at Cornell as a fisheries researcher. A new family contact page is at the end of this newsletter.

Last month's theme of compassion, friendship and love really blossomed. Despite the now more sophisticated *preschooler* challenges, the group is playing together beautifully and friendships continue to grow.

We have already been talking about Spring and this month we will begin plans for our garden.

I have been asked about having **parent support meetings** again. After our winter hiatus, I'm happy to do that. We will plan to continue meeting at the Boatyard Grill from 5:30-7:00pm. We could shift to 5-6:30 if that works better. **If you are interested, please let me know** what week of the month and day of the week works best for you.



Monthly Notes

Enrollment Plans for Fall 2025

Hard to believe—it's that time of year when families in this area begin planning for the next school year. We only know of one anticipated change, as Sybil will move to preK in Trumansburg.

Although we agree to a 30 day's notice for contract changes, and we'd like to hold onto your child as long as possible, as much notice as possible helps. Please let us know if you are planning ahead to make a change in your child's care.

March Holidays

We will be closed Monday,
March 31
"Recess Day"

March				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				



Protective Factors

The Strengthening Families

Five Protective Factor

Framework is an international initiative that aims to develop and enhance five specific characteristics (called protective factors) that help keep families strong and children safe from abuse and neglect. The protective factors serve as buffers, and when they are increased for families research shows there are lower incidences of child abuse and neglect.

Social and Emotional Competence

Children's early experiences of being nurtured and developing a *positive relationship* with caring adult *affects all aspects* of behavior and development.



Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

Children *thrive* when parents provide *not only affection*, but *also* respectful communication and listening, consistent rules and expectations, and *safe opportunities* that promote independence.



Social Connections

Parents with a social network of *emotionally supportive friends, family, and neighbors* often find that it is *easier to care* for their children and themselves.



5 Protective Factors



Concrete Support

Families who can meet their *own basic needs* for food, clothing, housing, and transportation—and who know how to access essential services such as childcare, health care, and mental health services to address family-specific needs—are *better able to ensure the safety and well-being* of their children.



Resilience

Parents who can cope with the *stresses of everyday life*, as well an occasional crisis, have *resilience*; they have the flexibility and inner strength necessary to *bounce back* when things are not going well.



March Curriculum

Primary Themes

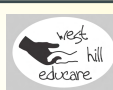
- Spring: signs of Spring outside
- What plants need
- More about planets: telescopes
- Our bodies and nutrition
- Birds

Activities

- Playdough with flower and egg shaped cutters
- Colored pencils on white or black paper; sponge painting, liquid watercolors
- Care of environment: pouring, sweeping
- Initial sounds, rhyming, letter games
- Counting and number games
- Grace and courtesy



Monthly Notes
March 2025
p. 3



Books

- A Day
- Lots of Feelings
- Caps for Sale
- Thank You Earth
- Kitchen Alphabet
- What's the Weather?
- Saltarin y la primavera
- Tingalayo
- Something about telescopes!
- A book about inside our bodies
- Three Little Pigs



Songs

- Planets & Little Blue Ball
- Rain songs:
 - Ants Go Marching
 - Puddle Boots
 - Que LLueva
- Robin Red Breast
- Body Songs: Head, Head, Ears, Ears.../Cabeza, Orejas
 - Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- Old Tofu



Contact Information

West Hill Educare

Cell Phone: 831.465.4518, texting ok

Please use this number to contact us as soon as you know if your child will be absent, as child absences may affect staffing needs.

westhilleducare@gmail.com

310 Richard Place, Ithaca, NY 14850

In case of emergency, KC can be reached at 831.331.6929

Class List

(03/01/2025)

Child's Name	D.O.B.	Parents	Address	Phone	E-mail
Ansel Karim-Smith	12/19/2021	Sabrina Karim-Smith & Josh Smith	213 Wood St. Ithaca, NY 14850	970-310-4793 470-585-5818	smk349@cornell.edu jes546@cornell.edu
Austin Gaige	12/7/2021	Maria & Brandon Gaige	3726 County Rte 6 (Macintyre Road) Alpine, NY 14805	917-331-2240 607-483-9815	mvf629@gmail.com
Cas Carvallo-Ray	02/02/2022	Sefora Ray & JP Carvallo	209 Rachel Carson Way Ithaca, NY 14850	831- 510-467-2954	seforaray@gmail.com jpcarbod@gmail.com
Kata Peisahovitch	02/05/2022	Herianna Valenzuela & Jason Peisahovitch	203 Madison St. Ithaca, NY 14850	520-440-0043	heriannavalenzuela@gmail.com
Norie Balog-Way	09/12/2021	Simone & Dominic Balog-Way	227 S. Albany St. Ithaca, NY 14850	303-579-3550 202-855-4202	s.balogway@gmail.com
Shiloh Evans	07/10/2022	Caitlin Eger & Tom Evans	Ithaca, NY 14850	303-550-1745	cait.eger@gmail.com
Sybil Lynch	06/16/2021	Rachael & Jimmy Lynch	37 Whig St. Trumansburg, NY 14886	607-339-8837 845-270-1175	Rkoppel5@gmail.com James.lynych.23@gmail.com
Zeffie McCasey	01/15/2022	Lauretta Dolch & Indi McCasey	500 Elm St. Ithaca, NY 14850	607-342-1213 510-770-4237	ljdf62@cornell.edu indifflyer@gmail.com