



TodayCare Times

February, 2025

A Newsletter for St. Joseph's Child Care Center

How to Celebrate Black History Month at Home

Up-Coming...

- **National Freedom Day** - Feb. 1st
- **Groundhog Day** - Feb. 2nd
- **Valentine's Day** - Feb. 14
- **President's Day** - Feb. 17

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Parents,

Don't forget to keep two full changes of clothes in your child's cubby for those little emergencies. And please remember to include socks and extra underwear (for children who wear them), and to label all of the items. Also, please check often to make sure the extra clothes are weather appropriate, and that they still fit your child.

The SJCC Parent Advisory Board meets on the

third Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in our Teacher's Lounge



Meeting Dates

2025:

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

Please join us.

Black History Month is a celebration of achievements by African Americans, and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

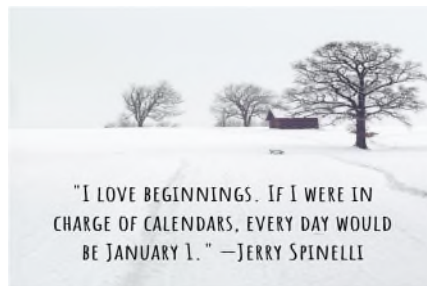
Teaching our children about Black History Month and about the many important African American influencers and contributors continues to move our society forward. Essentially, we are raising kids who will one day grow up and contribute to our society, hopefully in a positive way. By teaching them to respect the history, culture, and accomplishments of African Americans, they will be more aware and ultimately more tolerant of everyone within our highly diverse country.

No matter the racial makeup of your family, your children will be enriched when you incorporate more diversity into their lives. Use the opportunity to:

1. Read books and watch movies featuring African Americans.
2. Listen to Motown songs.
3. Try African food.
4. Have your child create a black and white collage.
5. Talk you your child about slavery and freedom.
6. Check out the local children's museum.
7. Study African American culture and recipes.
8. Study influential African Americans based upon your child's own interests.
9. Check out other local kid-friendly events in your town.
10. Turn your classroom into a museum.
11. Create a virtual museum.
12. Study stepping and traditional African American songs.
13. Host a poetry night (or day!).
14. Recreate freedom posters from the Civil Rights Movement.

NO VPK DAYS

There's no VPK on February 17, but the school will be open.



Eleven Ways to Tell Your Child "I Love You".

1. Spend a little time each day playing entirely at your child's direction.
2. Cuddle up under a blanket and watch what he/she wants to watch on T.V.
3. Give a chocolate kiss along with a real one.
4. Cook something together.
5. Talk in the car on the way to school instead of listening to the radio.
6. Give a foot massage.
7. Do a jigsaw puzzle together.
8. Find a board game you both enjoy and schedule regular tournaments.
9. Develop a secret gesture only the two of you know the meaning off.
10. Take your child out to lunch now and then, just the two of you.
11. Say it, just say it. Say it, say it, say it.

Helping Your Child Learn Math

- Talk about math with your child in a positive way, using math language.
- Teach your child to estimate.
- Point out numbers, shapes, and patterns.
- Be prepared to answer your child's questions way.
- Identify colors of clothes being worn.
- Draw basic shapes – circle, square, rectangle, triangle, and diamond.
- Take a walk and identify the shapes of road signs, flowers and houses.
- Sort items like: shells, food items, buttons, etc.

Book Selections

- **Amazing Grace** by Mary Hoffman.
- **Groundhog's Day Off** by Rob Pearlman.
- **The Day it Rained Hearts** by Felicia Bond.
- **Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad** by Ellen Levine.

Valentine's Rice Crispy

- 1/2 cup of butter.
- 10 cups Crispy Rice cereal.
- 9 cups miniature marshmallows.
- 2 cups candy hearts (tiny spice).
- Candy Hearts (with messages)
- Red food coloring.



Melt butter and marshmallows; stir until smooth. In a large bowl, mix rice cereal, candy hearts (spiced tiny red ones) and miniature chips together. To marshmallow mixture add red food coloring; stir quickly to combine. Spread on a large buttered pan; press with buttered hands. While warm, press on candy heart. Add marshmallow mixture to cereal mixture (with messages) spaced 1 to 1/2-2 inches apart. Refrigerate and cut into hearts.

Take Time to Talk

It is important for young children to be given opportunities to share in conversations with adults. When your child is talking to you, help him/her learn to wait until it is his/her turn to talk. Remind your child that it is polite to wait for one person to finish talking before another starts.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...!

STUDENTS

Juliana O'Madigan - February 2

Taylor Dinh - February 10

Kalayah Moran - February 21

Luke Picket - February 25

TEACHERS

Sheila Gooden - February 15

Jalissa Drayton - February 22

