



## Mud Day

Local kids get a jump on International Mud Day. CITY & STATE, P17

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### INTERNATIONAL MUD DAY

## Day-care owner invites kids to GET MESSY



Terrea Durbin, an owner of Adventurous Learning Daycare, sits next to Liam Schmidt, 4, on Wednesday as he plays in the mud hole in Durbin's backyard. DAVID SPENCER/SJ-R/Purchase this photo at [www.sj-r.com/reprints](http://www.sj-r.com/reprints)

### Celebrates Mud Day early to start off summer

By A. MARIE BALL | Voice intern | [sjr@sj-r.com](mailto:sjr@sj-r.com)

A group of kids celebrated their first day Wednesday at Adventurous Learning Daycare by giving each other muddy makeovers.

After telling their parents goodbye, the children were invited into the backyard of the home day-care center at 626 E. Wood Ave., where a muddy pit with cool water awaited them.

One by one, most of the children either got in on their own or had help from one of the four staff members on hand.

Then it was time to get creative.

Some of the kids chose to give themselves the spa treatment by rubbing mud all over their arms and legs. Others chose to fling it at their friends.

While they ruined the clothes they were wearing, Terrea Durbin, one of the owners of ALD, wasn't upset.

"Playing in the mud helps

#### "I believe in kids getting dirty."

Terrea Durbin, an owner of Adventurous Learning Daycare

get kids to be more adventurous," she said.

#### Summer kickoff

Durbin cares for seven children from 15 months to 6 years old at her home. She said she first decided to let the kids get their feet wet three years ago, when she learned about International Mud Day, a day where parents and kids alike can get messy without the usual worry of cleaning up.

Although International Mud Day is June 29 this year, Durbin figured it would be a good idea to celebrate early.

"I thought it'd be a fun activ-

ity to kick off our summer together," she said.

Giving the kids the opportunity for some messy fun was no easy feat, though. On Tuesday, staff members were up at 7 a.m. to dig the framework for the hole. They finished it about 8:30 that night. They also had to clear stray tree branches. They filled the hole with water Wednesday morning.

"I believe in kids getting dirty," Durbin said.

However, once Durbin and her staff refilled the hole with dirt, they probably won't dig it up again next year.

"I think three years is enough," she said. "It's just so much work."

#### 'Fun' to get dirty

That work didn't go unappreciated, though.

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For most of the kids, being messy was fun.

"I like rolling around like a pig," said Waehlyn Durbin, age 6, Terrea Durbin's son. "The mud's really squishy, so it feels nice."

lines and watch.

"It's dirty, and I don't like dirty," she said.

Once everyone had enough mud for the day, the children were hosed down one by one and taken to get showers. The kids were invited to throw away their muddy clothes when they were done with them.