

# Children's House Newsletter

## April 2012

### April Themes

Spring is finally here! Our themes this month include:

- Rain (how it helps plants and animals)
- Dressing for Spring
- Baby Animals
- Animal Homes
- Passover
- Spring Birds
- Holland (K only)
- Windmills
- Tulips/Bulbs
- Planting
- New plant life
- Community Spirit
- Earth Day/ Recycling
- ...and any other topics the children show special interest in!

*Please feel free to share any information, materials or books pertaining to any of these topics.*

*We also love visitors to our classrooms during the day! Feel free to talk to your child's teacher.*

*You could arrange to read a story, help with a project or just hang out with us!*

### Duck, Geese, and Swan Watchers Beware

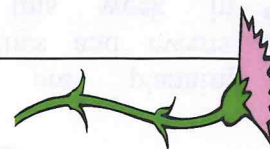


It's still a little cold, but the ducks, geese and swans have been spotted on the pond and have ventured close to shore already.

Our feathered friends are wonderful to watch, but can be a little testy at times.

Please use extreme caution when allowing your child to approach the geese and swans or when nearing the pond. Do not allow your child to run across the driveway accessing the back parking lot. Staff are concerned that they will be pulling out as a child runs across.

It's wonderful that we have such a nice setting and the children can experience the treat of watching and feeding the ducks, geese and swans. We would like the experience to remain a happy, accident-free one.



### Tax Time is Drawing to a Close...

If you still need a W-10 form for your taxes, please contact Irene. If you don't need the form, just our Tax I.D. #, it is:

**04-2669383**



### Summer/Fall Enrollment Forms

It's that time of year again! We have begun to contact families on the waiting lists and have started to receive calls from families interested in enrolling this summer.

In order to be able to give new families enrollment dates, we must find out the withdrawal dates of our current children.

We know that some of our Pre-K/K children will be leaving sometime this summer, but we

also anticipate losing a few of our preschoolers to public or parochial kindergarten.

Please watch your child's folder for a form to complete and return.

We will also need to know from our part-time families if there are any requests for a different schedule or a need to switch from part-time to full time over the summer or in the early fall. We certainly will try to accommodate your requests. The earlier we receive them, the better.

Further, if you currently have a child enrolled, but have another child you would like to enroll, please be sure to let us know this in writing. There are lots of families here and although we do try, it's really hard to keep track of who may or may not be interested in enrolling siblings.

**A deposit of first and last week tuition plus a registration fee of \$30 will be required to hold a sibling slot.**

Please let co-workers, friends and family know we anticipate several preschool openings. Often, we are able to exhaust our entire preschool and toddler waiting lists by the end of the enrollment period.

Those who are interested should contact Pam at the center. Subsidy Applications (needed for MM employees only) are available through Benefits at MM and can be sent to us via email at

[pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org). Subsidy applications and general info about Children's House are also available on our website: [www.childrenshouseinc.org](http://www.childrenshouseinc.org).

This becomes quite the project over the next few months. If you have any questions or concerns about enrollment or transitioning, please feel free to contact Pam.

## Which Coat Should I Wear?

Oftentimes in the spring, parents send in two jackets – one heavy and one lightweight. Please be sure jackets are labeled. Staff have a hard time recognizing new jackets, so it's really hard to recover lost items when they are not labeled.

Please speak to your child's teacher directly about your expectations regarding temperature and which coat you would want on your child.

Also, please let your child know that the teacher will tell him/her which coat to wear. Without any parent input, teachers will use their best judgement.



## Earth Day

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day (but we are closed that day, so we will celebrate on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>). Throughout the week, the

children will learn about recycling, how planting trees helps restore the environment and much more! **Imperial Nurseries** in Granby, CT will be donating some items to be planted by the children on site too!

The children will also plant seeds, learn about the growing process and observe new growth on our property.

## Week of the Young Child

Children's House will be celebrating *The Week of the Young Child* April 23<sup>rd</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>.

In the past, parents with "connections" have been generous enough to donate items for the children such as coloring books, stickers, glow-sticks, coupons for area pizza shops or restaurants, etc. If you are a mom or dad with "connections" to any businesses that might be willing to make this type of donation, we would appreciate any and all efforts! We'd also love to have parents visit the center to do an art project, read a story or share a talent. Please let your child's teacher know if you'd like to do something special!

We are planning activities and events for this week in celebration of our children and how



important they are to all our futures.

Watch for postings via email and in your child's classroom!

## Upcoming Events

4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25  
**Occupational Therapy Students from Springfield College** in all PS and PK/K classrooms

4/6 **Center Closed ~ Good Friday**

4/18 11:00-12:00 **FIA Meeting at MassMutual - Elm Room**  
Please send any agenda items to [pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org)

*Parents who are not MM employees are encouraged to attend FIA. Let Pam know you will be attending and we will all meet at the Security Desk.*

4/23-4/27 **Week of the Young Child** A separate notice will go out to parents listing events, any donations and other happenings. Please watch for posters in your child's room sharing activities planned for individual classrooms.

## In May...

5/11 **Center Closed ~ Staff Professional Development Day**

5/25 - **Field Trip to McCray's Farm in South Hadley for P2, P3, P4 and Pre-K/K** - *Permission slips will be sent home mid May*

5/28 **Center Closed ~ Memorial Day**

## Medical Updates Needed Following Each Well-Child Visit

The Department of Early Education and Care is the licensing agency for all group child care centers in MA. We are required by EEC to keep all children's records current - including yearly lead tests, physicals and all immunizations (*each time* they are given). Our national accreditation assessors through NAEYC (The National Association for the Education of Young Children) are also due to visit us any time now and have the same strict requirements.

Children are not supposed to be allowed in the center without current info on file. We try to be flexible about this because of insurance requirements (some not allowing 2 well child visits within a 12 month time frame), but we risk being cited if EEC or NAEYC checks our files and sees expired or notes missing information - and we like to avoid that! ☺

If you have been notified that your child's medical info is expired or expiring, please do all you can to get info to us promptly. We will send home *suspension* notices if medical information has been requested several times with no result and remains expired or missing.

Thanks so much for your help!



HAPPY  
34<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CHILDREN'S HOUSE,  
INC.!!

*Children's House, Inc.  
was incorporated on  
April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1978.*

Next month's topic for FIA will be **"Transitioning to a New School"**.

**Meeting date and time to be announced - Mid May**

Debbie McLaughlin and Sandy Bigelow, along with parent volunteers who have gone through the process, will share tips for making this transition as smooth as possible.

If you are a parent with an alumni child who would be willing to share your experiences and advice, please contact Debbie McLaughlin or Sandy Bigelow by phone 782-4448 or Deb by email: [dmclaughlin@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:dmclaughlin@childrenshouseinc.org).

All alumni parent input will be much appreciated by our families who are about to take this big step!