

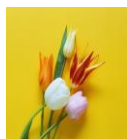
Children's House Newsletter

April 2015

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 on the side of the building or out back. Please 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 enrollment dates to our new families, 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.

Parents should know that Children's House Kindergarten program with Sandy Bigelow and Donna Borchers is fully accredited and children are welcome to remain enrolled until the day before they enter 1st grade. Even the summer following their first grade year, children are welcome to attend.

Parents accessing a New England Farm Workers voucher to assist in child care expenses are allowed to keep children enrolled through their Kindergarten year and the summer that follows.

So that we can begin planning, please watch your child's folder or your email for a form to complete and return in late April/early May.

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 is required to hold a sibling slot.

Please let co-workers, friends and family know we anticipate several preschool and a few infant/toddler 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. Subsidy applications and general info about Children's House are also available on our website: www.childrenshouseinc.org.

We have planned an OPEN HOUSE for new enrollment for Thursday, 4/16/15 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Please see the flyer/coupon at the end of the newsletter for details. This flyer can be copied (or take extra copies from the main hall credenza) and handed to anyone you think might be interested in enrolling a child between now and September 2015. WITH THE FLYER, new families will have the \$40 registration fee waived. Be sure to write YOUR name at the bottom of the flyer so you get credited for a new family referral (\$50/new family!!). There is no limit to the number of referral bonuses a family can earn. We had one family receive 4 bonuses over the time her child was enrolled.

Referrals are much appreciated!

Transitions and enrollment become 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.



*Week of the
Young
Child*

Children's House will be celebrating *The Week of the Young Child* April 13th through April 17th. We are planning activities and events for this week in celebration of our children and in recognition of how important they are to *all* our futures.

In the past, parents with a variety of "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 with the group!

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



Earth Day

April 22nd is Earth Day. Throughout the week, the children will learn about recycling, how planting trees helps restore the environment and so much more!

The children will also plant seeds, learn about the growing process and take well-supervised nature walks to observe new growth on our property.

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 judgment.

Upcoming Events

4/3 Center Closed - Good Friday

4/7 and 4/14 Springfield College Child Development Students will be finishing up their internships in the classrooms.

4/13-4/17 *Week of the Young Child* A fun week has been planned! 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.

4/22 **FIA 12:00-1:00** at **MassMutual - Rm 1220 - IT** (Info Technology) Conference Room - 1st Floor State Street Side

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.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

In May...

5/8 Center Closed ~ Staff Professional Development Day

Medical Updates Needed... ALL INFO IN CHILDREN'S FILES MUST BE CURRENT IN ORDER TO AVOID SUSPENSION. This includes physicals, lead tests, immunizations, medicine forms and Emergency Medical Treatment Plans.

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).

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 the state checks our files and sees expired forms or notes regarding missing information - and we like to avoid that! ☺

It is important for parents to keep track of when children are due for well-child visits. If you receive a note or a staff member verbally informs you that your child's medical info is expired or expiring, please do all you can to get info to us promptly. We are forced to send home *suspension* notices if medical information has been requested several times and info remains expired or missing.

Thanks so much for your help!





Staff Appreciation **May 4th -May 8th**

This is a special week of recognition for all the dedication and hard work our **ENTIRE** staff (classroom staff, cook, maintenance, cleaning staff, administrative staff) put into their jobs here each and every day.

The center has planned some treats for staff to enjoy throughout the week ending in our Professional Development Day on Friday, May 8th.

We invite parents to share a little note of thanks or support with their child's teacher (and other staff members!) to make the week "warm and fuzzy" all around!

We would really love to be able to share some nice parent comments as we make plans to update our Facebook page!

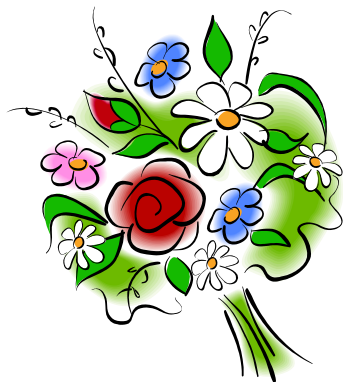
Upcoming Professional Development Day for Staff

The center will be closed on Friday, May 8th to allow our staff to get together and spend some time refreshing themselves on some worthwhile topics.

Our topics for the upcoming Professional Development Day include: "*Partnering with Families*", "*Indoor Gross Motor Play*" and "*Healthy Habits for Kids and Teachers*".

We are so happy to be able to offer our staff great information on all these terrific topics! It's even nicer when the presenters are either from our own Children's House "family" or presented by one of our parents.

Donna Borchers, MA Ed, from our Pre-K/K class is presenting on Gross Motor Play and **Andrea Luttrell**, mom of Jacob and Henry and Registered Dietician/Nutritionist with Big Y Foods is offering her expertise to us this year as well!



Mark the date!

5/11/15 12:00-1:00
Pine Room at MM

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

Kelly Maguire, the Infant Room Rep will host this important meeting. Debbie McLaughlin Sandy Bigelow and Donna Borchers, along with parent volunteers who have gone through the process, will share tips for making this transition as smooth as possible.

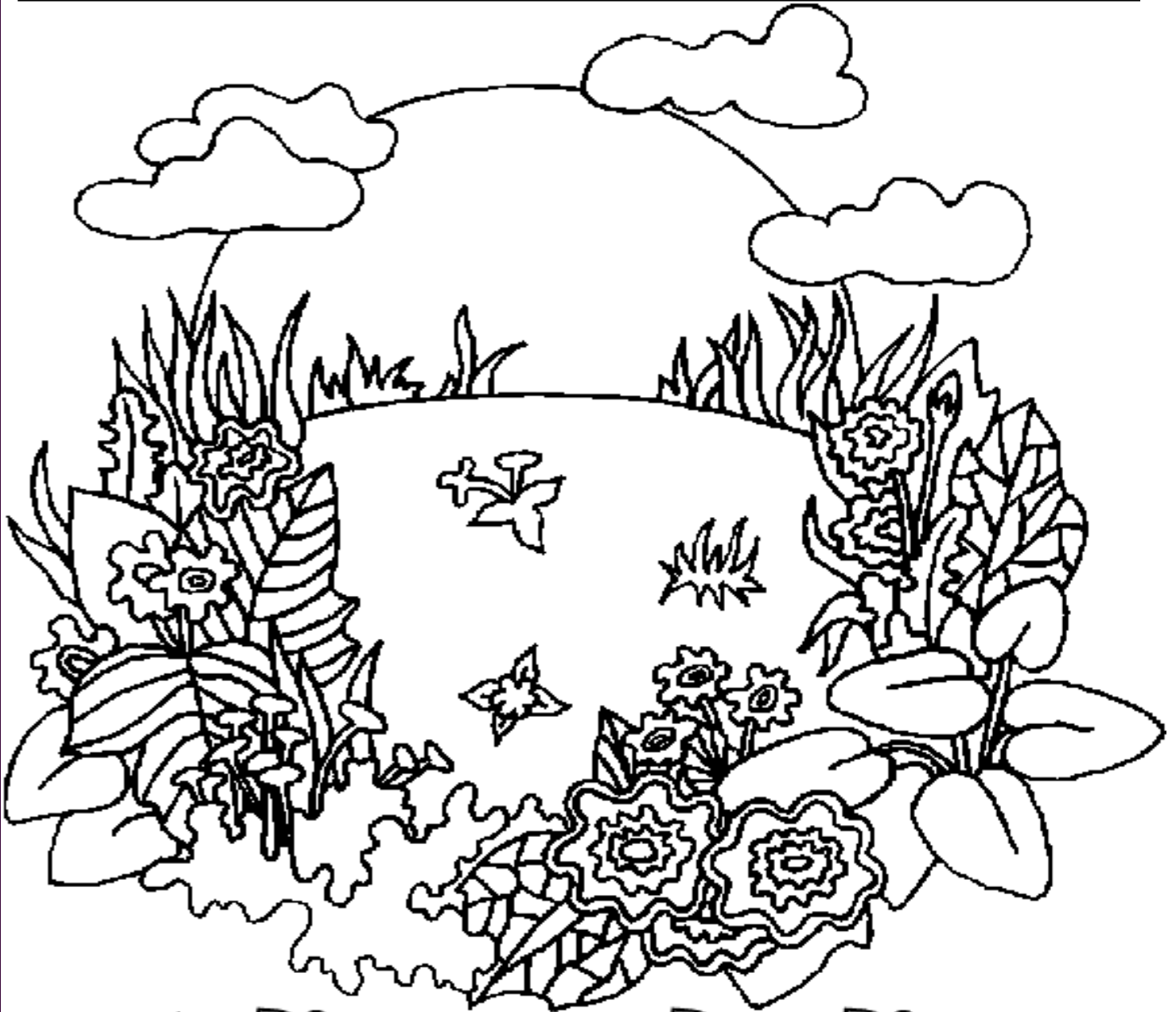
If you are a parent of an alumni child and would be willing to share your experiences and advice at the meeting in person or remotely, please contact Pam or Debbie at 782-4448 or by email: dmclaughlin@childrenshouseinc.org pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org

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

WELCOMES SPRING!

(Child's name)

Color and bring back to the center to decorate the main hallway!



APRIL SHOWERS BRING
MAY FLOWERS...