



CHILDREN'S HOUSE

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY THEMES

Chinese New Year

Black History Month

Mardi Gras (K)

Ground Hog Day

Healthy Habits

Valentine's Day

Dental Health

The Heart

Presidents' Day (K)

Lincoln

Washington

...and any other topics the children express an interest in!

Please feel free to share any information or materials you may have relating to the above themes.

Staff are always looking for posters, hands-on materials or additional tidbits of information that would make a lesson at circle time more interesting or lively!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24 Springfield College Occupational Therapy Students on site for Internships!

Children's House will host 5 students this semester. (See more details later in newsletter.)

2/8 Chinese New Year



2/12 Valentine Party

(See more details later in newsletter)

2/15 Center Closed Presidents' Day
Have a nice long weekend!

2/23 FIA Meeting at Children's House
4:30-5:15 in P4

All families are welcome to attend!

Agenda item suggestions can be sent to Pam at:
pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org

VALENTINE PARTY

Our party will be held on Friday, February 12th. Children are welcome to exchange Valentine cards.

We ask that cards be sent to the center signed, but not addressed to a specific child. This makes it *so much* easier for the teachers, takes less time to distribute and prevents hurt feelings because every child in the class will receive a card from those who choose to participate.

We prefer cards not be sent to children *not* in your child's classroom for the same reason.

If you choose to participate, please bundle the un-addressed cards together (rubber band or all in one big envelope) and drop them off in your child's classroom Valentine box.

Refreshments are welcomed! **Please remember our "Nut Free" policy and include a complete recipe list with all home baked items.** Food items purchased from store also need ingredient lists in order for staff to be able to serve. We are not able to serve items labeled, "processed in a factory that also processes nuts" or anything similar.) We also cannot serve food items containing artificial sweeteners.



The children like fresh fruits and veggies as well as some of the more "sweet" items.





INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS...

MOST of us are pretty happy about the lack of snowfall this year so far; but we're not out of the woods yet!

We will do our best to keep the parking lot and sidewalk clear of snow and sanded or salted when icy.

Please let us know if you feel the lot or sidewalk need attention. **It is also a good idea to avoid the ramp on icy days.** The area at the end of the ramp can become thick with ice because of the drainage from the overhang. We are careful to salt this area, but it doesn't always go through the layers.

On icy days, *expectant* mothers are welcome to park along the front of the building (in front of the P4 window in handicapped parking spot – **not along the sidewalk, please**) to shorten the walk in and out of the building (or, at pick up time, call ahead and drive up along the sidewalk – we'll bring your child out to you!).

All other parents are prohibited from parking in front of P4 and the sidewalk.

The spot in front of P4 is specially designated for handicapped parking. Please **only** park in this spot if you are an **expectant mom coming in on an icy day** and you plan to be in and out quickly OR if you have a **current handicap placard displayed**.



MORE WINTER OR EARLY SPRING?

Punxsutawney Phil is the official ground hog for Ground Hog's day!

The question is... Will he see his shadow on February 2nd?



The ANSWER is **NO!** The ground hog did NOT see his shadow so we will **HOPEFULLY** have an early spring!

WELCOME SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS

Once again this year, we have the pleasure of hosting students from Springfield College.

Students will be in most classrooms on the following **Wednesdays**: 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24. They will be on site from approximately 8:00 am until noon as part of their Occupational Therapy field work experience.

Each student has been assigned to a specific classroom, but may observe other rooms periodically throughout the first half of the semester. *Please note: Students will never be left alone with any child and will ALWAYS be under the direct supervision of our staff.*

This is a great opportunity for all of us. We get the extra set of hands to help out in the morning and the students gain valuable experience working with varying ages of children.

DONATIONS APPRECIATED!



Over the past couple months several parents donated items to the center. We've received some wonderful posterboard, several nice toys and some winter outdoor items that we can share with children who might not have their winter gear at the center. We appreciate *everyone's* generosity!

What we are really in need of at this time is scrap paper for use in the classrooms. Recycled paper with one side clear would be perfect for our purposes. Some additional items we could always use are old towels and wash cloths. You might imagine with the cleaning tasks we do around here that our towels and "rags" we use to clean up art projects and messy lunches are always in the wash!

If you have any items to donate, feel free to leave them in the staff lounge. *Thanks!!*



WE ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLING 2.9-5 yr olds!

We're getting close to full in our Preschool and Pre-K/K classes, but there are a couple of full time slots still open.

We also anticipate a full time Toddler opening (15 mos-2.9 yrs) in April and one full time Infant opening (2mos-15 mos) in June.

Anyone interested can access information about Children's House via our website: www.childrenshouseinc.org or can contact Pam at: pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org or at 782-4448.



Remember there is a **referral bonus*** - a \$50 WalMart gift card *or* a \$50 **tuition credit** for currently enrolled parents!

(*See Pam for details about referral bonus program)

DID YOU KNOW??

Did you know? There is a **Community Information Board** just outside the Infant room and T1 room doors? We keep info we receive about upcoming events in the community posted for parents to view. Check it out when you have a minute!

Did you know? There are many free parent workshops available on great topics. See *The Puzzle of Parenting* flyer posted on the Community Info board.

Did you know? Extra menus and newsletters are available on the square table in the main hallway at the beginning of each month. Just in case you were unable to print what we send out, feel free to pick up a copy there. However, we are trying to cut costs (and be "green-minded") - so if you prefer a printed copy and are able to print from your own computer, we would appreciate it. It helps to limit ink and copy paper use here at the center. Every little bit helps! Menus/Newsletters are also available for download on our website: www.childrenshouseinc.org.



Did you know? Staff and children really enjoy it when parents come into the classrooms to read a story, share a talent or family tradition or participate in a craft activity. If you ever have a little extra time in your schedule, you are *always* welcome to spend it with us!

Did you know? Tuition covers a 9-hour time slot here at Children's House. We can't have our staff work longer than 9 hours daily so it would be a huge challenge to try to maintain our staff to child ratios if children were consistently here longer days than all our staff. Of course, we do try to be accommodating when an emergency is the reason for the extended day.

We really need parent support and understanding on this matter. Children thrive on routine. At the end of a busy, educational and stimulating day, they are anxious to reconnect with their families.

For everyone's well-being, please try to have your child attend on a somewhat consistent, but no more than 9-hour schedule. *Thank you so much.*

EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS & TREATMENT PLANS MUST REMAIN CURRENT * & NEED A PHOTO ATTACHED



All children who have any type of emergency medication OR emergency medical treatment plans at the center **MUST** keep these medications and documents *current*. Both the document and the medication need to have a small photo attached. Photos are not required for NON-emergency medications.

Every child currently enrolled should be all set with photos, but may currently need to get an updated form from the physician's office. Please ask your child's teacher to confirm for you. The staff cannot administer outdated medications so we all really need to stay ahead of expiration dates.

If your child is diagnosed with asthma, seizure disorder or a severe allergy and a new treatment plan and medication are needed, please attach a small photo to the medication box and/or plan. Always be careful to avoid covering important information on the medication. If you aren't sure – just clip the picture to the form and we will attach it. This is an *extra measure* to ensure that the *right child* receives the *right medication* in the event of an emergency.

EZ -EFT FORMS AVAILABLE

So many of our families are now taking advantage of this program that makes paying tuition so much more convenient. Feel free to contact Pam Frogameni at pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org if you would like to set up automatic Electronic Funds Transfer tuition payments. She will be able to answer any questions you might have and can send you the correct forms to complete. Completed forms can be placed in the tuition drawer.

DOOR SECURITY & ACCESS CARD USAGE

Most parents have been great about remembering to use their new access cards and are being very careful about not letting those they don't recognize in. We still ask that parents (despite how awkward it is) NOT let other parents into the building either. We know that you recognize families that you see at drop off/pick up, but we can't share if there are custody issues that come up suddenly. So even if you recognize the person coming in behind you, we ask that you – as politely as possible – ask them to swipe their card. If we were informed of an issue, the card would be deactivated. We appreciate everyone's efforts in keeping the children, staff and *everyone* in our building safe!

