

Children's House Newsletter

June 2014

June Themes

Insects

Bees, Caterpillars,
Butterflies, Ants,
Fireflies,
Grasshoppers,
Ladybugs



Father's Day

Getting Bigger Is Fun!

All classes will talk about how the children are getting bigger and may be moving on to a new classroom or school. Staff will help children work through possible anxiety about transitions through role-playing, special projects, activities and songs.

Staff will also encourage development of leadership skills in children who will remain in their current classroom.

GRADUATION! June 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Preschool Playground

Let's all hope for sunshine! Only a few times in 25+ years, have we been forced inside by rain so we're hoping for the best! If this happens, we will be able to accommodate parents of Pre-K and K graduates ONLY. This is something we will try very hard to avoid, but if it does rain, we have very limited space indoors.

Preschool through K children will perform one song each. We'll have the diploma ceremony and then a finale song...then refreshments in the toddler yard.
(More details will follow)



Upcoming Events

6/2 -6/13 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Tods through K)

If you are unable to meet with your child's teacher during the conference period, and you still wish to make an appointment, please

feel free to do so at any time convenient to both of you. Please recognize that teachers have some restrictions on their availability due to classroom coverage and that we do not require staff to stay past their shift to do conferencing. Conferences are especially important for parents of children who will be transitioning this summer - either to a new age group within the center or to a new school altogether.

This parents/teacher time without the distractions of goings-on at drop-off or pick-up helps parents to gain a better, more detailed understanding of their child's skill levels in all areas of development and is a great time to set new goals for the coming year that the teacher can implement or share with your child's new teacher. We also appreciate any feedback parents can give us about their experience thus far at the center and welcome suggestions for activities or special planning for the upcoming new school year.

6/15 Happy Father's Day!



6/27 Pre-K/K Graduation!

Parents are invited to come celebrate with us! The majority of the seating will be reserved for **parents** of Pre-K/K grads (from P2, P3, P4 and Pre-K/K classes). *All other seating* will be reserved for family of the graduates. If parents from other classes choose to attend, please be aware of this seating restriction so that we don't have unhappy people on the day of the ceremony.

Also, to avoid serious major seating and parking issues, please use your best judgment when inviting others to the ceremony. Almost no seating (we have about 75 chairs) will be available to those other than parents and close family of K's and Pre-K's. The gate to the preschool yard will open at 9:30 a.m. Parents/guests will be allowed to enter the yard no earlier than that time to allow staff time to set up. *Seats cannot be reserved prior to*

9:30. The first two rows of seats are reserved **ONLY** for parents of the grads.



Refreshments are welcomed!

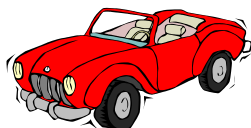
We do ask that families who attend help us out by bringing some type of hand held dessert (that doesn't require utensils and will stand up pretty well to outdoor temps), cut up fruit/veggies or munchies to be served after the ceremony.

Children's House will provide punch, plates, napkins and cups. **Please be mindful of providing ingredient lists for our children (and possibly adults) with various food allergies. Please – no nut products or any items “processed in a plant that also processes items containing nuts...”**

We are also asking for a couple of parents of children who are not in the Pre-K/K group to volunteer to help our cook, Melissa, set up the refreshment tables during the graduation ceremonies on Friday. Please let Pam know if you might be available. *Thank-you!*

Parking will be available across the street at the Springfield College Child Development Center. Parents/Guests should park nearest the street to avoid taking parking spaces for the parents and staff at the SCCDC.

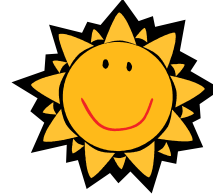
Parents are warned not to park along the tree belt as cars have been ticketed there in the past.



Valet Drop-off on Graduation Morning

The morning of Graduation, the parking lot will be quite a challenge. If you are having trouble finding a parking place, PLEASE feel free to call the center when you arrive and

pull right up to the sidewalk. Someone on our staff will come out to pick up your child. **Staff cannot remove children from car seats though;** so parents will need to get out of vehicle to unbuckle and remove the child.



Summer Fun Begins on 6/30!

We will take out the sprinklers, spend more time outdoors doing activities, and welcome new friends into the program. Children can bring *labeled* swimsuits, towels and full coverage water shoes (no flip flops or crocs) in a bag **other than plastic**. Please let your child's teacher know if you prefer your child be changed into regular clothes prior to pick-up.

Staff will apply sunscreen **in the afternoon** if the parent has supplied it and the appropriate form is signed in the child's file.



Parents are asked to apply the first coat in the morning. Staff will only be responsible for afternoon applications.



Transitions

Parents and children will be notified 2-3 weeks prior to the date their child will be placed in a new classroom. In previous years, last minute changes were difficult when parents and children were locked into a date very early in the summer.

As parents are informed of changes, they are encouraged to make an appointment with their child's new teacher to discuss the transition and exchange information.

For those parents who will have children transitioning from toddler to preschool, one important piece of information is for those children who will need breakfast upon drop-off. Up until a child transfers to preschool, breakfast is provided free of charge. Preschool children are served breakfast upon parent request from 7:30-8:00 a.m. in the opening room, P3, at a cost of 50¢ per day.

If your child will be transitioning to a new classroom or school, try to avoid talking about how much he/she will miss their current teacher, how they will have to learn certain things or behave a certain way to be “big enough to move”. These types of comments only cause more anxiety for children. Also, do your best not to show anxiety yourself...it makes the transition that much more intimidating.

In all cases, do your best to put a positive “spin” on all conversations with your child regarding transitioning – especially if you anticipate difficulty.

Withdrawing Over the Summer?

If your child will be withdrawn this summer, remember that your last week’s tuition has already been paid. Please contact Pam Frogameni at 782-4448 between 9:00 and 2:00 M-Th or through email at pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org if you have questions regarding your account balance.

In January 2015, feel free to contact Pam to have a statement mailed to you regarding the total amount paid in for child care in 2014. **Statements are only mailed out when requested in January.**

Children’s House Website

www.childrenshouseinc.org



We Have Slots Available!

Please let friends, neighbors, family members and co-workers know we have summer and fall Infant, Toddler and Preschool and Pre-K and Kindergarten openings!

We have been able to give at least 5 families \$50 WalMart gift cards for their referrals this year. We’d love to give your family one too!

Refer a new family...after one month of enrollment (excludes summer only enrollment), you will receive a special “Thank you” from us!



Safety on the Playground

We ask that children wear sneakers on the playgrounds to protect their feet from mulch and pea stones and also to give them enough “grip” on the climbing structures. If children feel they must wear sandals to school, please send in (labeled) sneakers for them to change into before going outdoors.

For outdoor water play, we need the children to wear full coverage water shoes as opposed to flip-flop or croc type footwear.





Staff and Children's Vacations

During the summer, staff take their well-deserved vacations. We have enlisted our part-time staff to help cover some days and have hired substitutes to help teachers this summer. We will always have at least one staff person who is familiar to the group with the children. Coverage for some vacations will depend on enrollment during certain weeks of the summer. Classes may be combined due to low attendance during the more popular summer weeks.

If you already know your child will be out certain days or weeks this summer, we would really appreciate the early notice so that we can best plan coverage.

Vacation Notices are available by the tuition drawer in the main hallway. Please take a few moments to complete and return if you know the date(s) your child(ren) will be out. (A note or email to Pam Flowers is certainly fine too!) Thanks!



Thanks to our Children's House Staff

As we close out another school year and approach the summer months, we would like to take a moment to express our appreciation to our staff for all their hard work and dedication this school year!

We are all looking forward to a fun-filled summer and anticipate welcoming some alumni children and many new families to Children's House.

Special Thanks to Parents



Special thanks goes out to all those parents who helped chaperone field trips, donated resource books and awesome classroom materials, read stories to the children, came in to help with special projects, and/or brought refreshments for parties.

A big thanks also goes out to parents who volunteered as a Room Representative this school year!

Warm wishes and thanks also go out to all our parents who have encouraged our staff with positive comments and smiles everyday. This is not always an easy job. Parents like you make it so much easier!

We would also like to thank all those parents who brought us recycled paper, and other materials that would have been discarded at their job sites as well as toys and clothing from their homes that children have outgrown.

We appreciate your continued involvement and support!

