

# Children's House Newsletter

## May 2012

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### May Themes

Cinco de Mayo

The Farm

Machinery and Jobs on the Farm

Different Types of Farms

Animals on the Farm

Mother's Day

Memorial Day



### Upcoming Events

#### 5/7-5/11/12 Staff Appreciation Week!

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 and 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.

#### 5/11/12 **Center Closed** for **Staff Professional Development Day**

The Children's House staff from all three sites will meet together at our location to discuss relevant topics in the field and listen to guest speakers on the topics of: *Children's Emotional Wellness* (and how staff can foster emotional wellness in the children they care for daily) and *Maintaining* (their own) *Emotional Wellness* using relaxation, imagery, breathing techniques and more!

#### 5/13/12 **Happy Mother's Day!**



#### 5/16/12 FIA Meeting 12-1 in the Pine Room at MassMutual - **Transition Meeting**

This meeting will mainly focus on children transitioning from our center to another school but will also touch on how to facilitate transitions that will be happening between classrooms at the center.

Sandy Bigelow, Debbie McLaughlin and alumni parents will share tips with parents that might help ease these transitions. We encourage all Pre-K parents to attend and anyone else who plans to transfer their child to another school this summer/fall or who anticipates a move within the center over the coming months. The info is always worthwhile!

#### 5/25/12 Field Trip for P2, P3, P4 and Pre-K/K to McCray's Farm

The children will tour the farm, feed the animals and have an ice cream snack with their chaperones. Permission slips will be sent home soon. Chaperones are needed. Please see your child's teacher if you'd like to help out.

#### 5/28/12 Memorial Day

Children's House will be closed in observance of the holiday. Enjoy the long weekend and the beginning of picnic season!



#### 6/1/12 Progress Reports Going Home

T1 through K Progress Reports will be sent home on 6/1. Parent/Teacher conferences will begin right around that same time frame. Please see your child's teacher to sign up for a conference! End of year conferences are *strongly encouraged* so that parents and teachers can discuss the year's progress and prepare for summer transitions.

Parents should know, at the time of conferencing, teachers will not know future classroom assignments. In general, the staff will be given 2-3 weeks notice for transitions. This information will be passed on to parents as soon as dates and classrooms are confirmed.

## Next Month...



### 6/22/12 Pre-K/K Graduation Ceremony

The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. on the Preschool playground.

“**Graduates**” are children who make the cut-off date in their city/town for either Kindergarten or first grade in September.

*Please see your child’s teacher if there is a question about if your child is considered a “Graduate” from Pre-K or K.*



## Nice Weather Has Arrived...

But we still need sweatshirts or light jackets for those chilly mornings. Please be sure your child has one at the center every day.

Please note that teachers will use their judgment as the day goes on and the temperature increases. If parents prefer otherwise, please let your child’s teacher know.



## Cell Phone Policy Reminder

We appreciate many parents cooperation with this policy which was put in place just about one year ago. We are, however, seeing more and more people picking up or dropping off their children while actively engaged in a phone call. That is why the new “no cell phone” signs have been posted as reminders.

Staff do feel for the children who don’t get full parent attention when saying good-bye in the morning or when re-joining with mom or dad (or auntie or grandma/grandpa) at pick up.

This is also an important time for staff and parents to connect about the child - which ultimately benefits everyone. Please complete your call in your vehicle at drop off time. In the afternoon, feel free to hang out on the front patio

or even in the lounge if a phone call needs to be completed so that your child and the staff can have your full attention when you pick up. Thank you!!



## Special Requests

- Please remember to sign in and out with time *and initials* **every** day ~ remember that tuition covers a **9-hr** time slot.
- If you would like sunscreen to be applied to your child in the afternoon, we must have current (within one year), signed permission in your child’s file to do so. Staff can only apply **AFTERNOON** sunscreen. Parents are expected to take care of the morning application. It just takes too much time for staff to do this twice per day. Labeled sunscreen bottles can be given to your child’s teacher.
- **Please remember to check your sunscreen to be sure it is not flammable.** We cannot have sunscreen on site that says this on the container. It’s usually only the foamy or aerosol ones that might say this - not the creams.
- If you would like your child to have bug spray or any type of bug repellent, it must be applied at home or outside before the child arrives for care. Staff cannot apply here at the center.
- Please check extra clothes in backpacks or stored on site to be sure they are weather appropriate and still fit well.
- Necklaces cannot be worn at the center due to being possible choking hazards if they were to become “hung up” on something.
- Please label jackets, caps and sun hats.
- If you would like your child to wear sunglasses while outdoors, the glasses must be labeled. Staff will have a hard time keeping track of these, so please talk to your child about taking good care of his/her sunglasses.

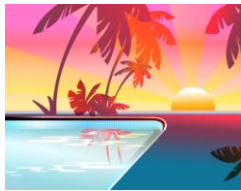


## Shoes & Safety on the Playground

Just a reminder that children must wear CLOSED shoes with rubber soles on the playground. We cannot let children play on the equipment or trikes with open sandals, crocs, jelly shoes, flip-flops, etc.

Children who come to the center without proper shoes for outdoor play will still go outdoors but will be restricted from playing on equipment, walking in mulch/pea stone areas and using trikes.

As of June 24<sup>th</sup>, when our summer program begins, we also encourage children to have water shoes (again, closed shoes - not flip flops or crocs) for water play outdoors.



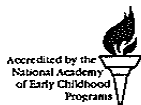
## Vacation Notices

We are trying to plan for new enrollment, transitioning and staff vacations. Your early information about summer vacation plans will really help us in this endeavor!

Vacation forms are located on the credenza in the main hallway and have been sent out via email.

**We would also appreciate knowing withdrawal dates from families who will be leaving us over the summer or in early September. Please send your intention notice in as soon as possible.**

*~Thank you!*



## No Call Yet (from NAEYC)

We are awaiting a call from our National Association for the Education of Young Children Assessors to set the date for their day-long visit to

our center. It's a bit nerve-wracking for us to have two people in the building looking so closely at *all* goings-on, furnishings, materials, files and portfolios...but we are up for the challenge!

As soon as the date is set, we will be sure to let parents know.

Parents can help us by getting all files up to date - medical information and just general forms in the file that expire yearly need to be current at the time of the visit.

## Department of Early Education & Care (EEC)

EEC is the agency that licenses all group child care centers in Massachusetts. Every two years, our license is up for renewal. Along with NAEYC, this happens to be our EEC renewal year as well! EEC, like NAEYC, will also need to view files and spend time in the classrooms. Our licensor has been scheduled to visit on 5/24/12.

One of the regulations that EEC has cited us for in past years is parents forgetting to sign in or out. We will be written up if this is observed, so please try to remember this important drop-off and pick-up job. It is very important especially in the event of an emergency evacuation of the building because staff have to use that list to take attendance once children are out of the building.

### **CHILDREN'S HOUSE OPENINGS**

*Openings are becoming available in our Toddler and Preschool/Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. Please let your friends, co-workers and extended family members know.*

*Just recently, two families received \$50 WalMart gift cards for making referrals to our center.*

*Thank you for supporting us and offering others positive feedback about the care your child receives daily!*