



Children's House November News 2015

Literacy Development in Young Children

~Frances Bond

Importance of Talking with Children

- Infants learn to talk by hearing individuals talk to them. When an infant coos or babbles, parents should smile and respond to their coos and babbles as if they are responding to them.
 - You may believe that infants do not understand what you are saying, but it is important for them to hear your voice and your intonation.
 - Sing to babies—it doesn't matter if you can't sing on tune—babies love to hear you sing lullabies and
- nursery rhymes.
 - Make up songs using the child's name such as "Joshua puts his shoes on, his shoes on, his shoes on, his shoes on his feet."
 - Talk with children throughout the day: as you are feeding them, dressing them, bathing them, taking them for a walk around the neighborhood.
 - Name objects in the home or in the classroom, use the correct word for objects.
 - When toddlers begin to ask questions, answer their many questions—in simple, clear, language. Be

sure that your response is appropriate for his/her age level.

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Frances Bond.



"I'm a dingle dangle scarecrow with a floppy floppy head..." Ask your child to finish this song for you!

Upcoming Clothing Collection/Community Involvement

We will begin collecting clean, gently used clothing and outerwear, mittens, hats and boots for the upcoming winter season at the end of this month. Please watch for the place donations can be left in the labeled box in the main hallway. Staff will bring all the donations to local shelters. The clothing/outerwear drive will run through the 3rd week of December.

We continue to look for other ideas for community involvement. If you have any suggestions, please contact Pam Flowers or Sue Alexopoulos at the center! *Thank you!*

November Themes



- Harvest: *Fruits, Vegetables, Cornucopia Wheat, Cranberries, Corn*
- Popcorn
- Turkeys
- Thanksgiving: *Pilgrims, Native Americans, How Different Families Celebrate*

Additional topics that may be covered:

Voting/Election Day & Veteran's Day





Teacher Requests and Upcoming Events

Slipper Time!

Staff are encouraging parents to send in LABELED slippers for each child in the center. This helps the children feel cozier and once winter boot time arrives, it helps staff to convince the children to take off their winter boots. (We all know how children *love* to wear their new boots!)

Encouraging Independence

When children take their boots/shoes off, they should put them neatly under their coat hook or in their cubby box so that they can easily change before outdoor play. Please help us encourage the children to do this daily. Imagine the staff trying to organize up to 50 little shoes or boots and mittens and hats and more! This can be very challenging. If parents can encourage children to keep their items together, it would really help a lot.

Upcoming Events

Pictures will come in soon! We always have them back in time for holiday sharing.

11/18 FIA 12-1 in the Birch Room at MassMutual, Springfield. The meeting will be hosted by Kristin Murphy, the PK/K Room Rep.

All of our families are encouraged to attend! If you are not a MassMutual employee and would like to attend, please contact Pam. We can arrange to meet and go through security together.

Please send any agenda items to Pam Flowers at:

pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org

**11/26 & 11/27 Thanksgiving Break
Center Closed**



In DECEMBER ~

12/15 "4's & 5's" Caroling at MassMutual!



12/18 Holiday Party with Book Swap ~ Books will be exchanged in all classrooms. Great books can be ordered from Scholastic at wonderful prices!

Generally we ask that parents provide books for the swap valued at/around \$5. (To avoid upsetting children, please avoid sending in used books, musical books and multiple books packaged together.)

The new order form will be sent home soon. This will leave plenty of time for books to come in! Please make a note on the order form if you don't want your child to see the books when they come in.

Allergy Concerns

Children's House does its best to check all items coming in to the center for the children to consume. As most parents are aware, we also require that any items brought into the center by the children have detailed ingredient lists attached in order for the item to be served.

Some of our new families may not know that Dunkin Donuts will not say that their food items are safe for those with nut allergies. The website will list ingredi-

ents that do not include nuts for many of the products they offer, but we still cannot serve their items at the center due to cross-contamination issues.

Because many of the items they serve do contain nuts, the company will not claim their products—any of them— are safe. We know how much the children love munchkins especially, and are sorry if this causes a problem.

Breakfast from Home

Due to allergy issues and for other reasons, we ask that parents not allow children to bring any food items into the center for breakfast. Also, children who have had peanut butter for breakfast at home need to be cleaned and checked carefully before coming in to the center.

Children's House serves cereal, milk and juice to Toddlers and Preschool/Pre-K/K's prior to 8:00 for children who did not eat breakfast at home. For toddlers, there is no charge, for Preschool/Pre-K/K the cost is \$.50 per day (paid daily to morning staff—separate from tuition).

Progress Reports and Conferences

Progress Reports for children in T1 through Pre-K/K will be sent home on Wednesday, November 25th .

We ask that parents sign up for conferences on the classroom doors as soon as signs are posted so that we can plan appropriate coverage for staff. We strongly encourage all parents to make an appointment so

that the lines of communication can remain open.

Parents please note: If it is difficult to come over to the center during the day, please feel free to conference with your child's teacher over the phone. Just indicate on the sign-up sheet that you prefer a phone conference and call the center at the designated time.

We would like to encourage parents to give us feedback about the center during the conference too. Our goal is to provide your family with the best overall care possible.

Your feedback helps us move toward reaching that goal.



"Leaves are Falling, Leaves are Falling, All Around, All Around..."- Ask your child to finish this song for you!

Handwashing Upon Arrival

Parking Lot Safety

As we trudge through cold and flu season, we would like to remind parents to require their child/children to wash hands upon arrival to the center. We feel this practice is our best defense against the never-ending cycle of runny noses, sniffles and coughs.

Again, we are asking that *parents* direct their children to wash their child's hands upon arrival to school each day. Teachers are very busy at this time of day and find it hard to remind everyone.



Autumn Leaves are Falling!

We also ask parents to help staff teach children to wash their hands after each time they use a tissue (or their hands!) to

wipe their noses or cover coughs and sneezes. Our Health Care Consultant suggests that we teach children to sneeze or cough into their bent elbow instead of their hands.

Please assist us in encouraging the development of these “healthy habits” in your child. Hopefully, they will help him/her avoid one or two upper respiratory issues this winter.

In the event your child does come down with some significant upper respiratory symptoms, please try to keep him/her home. Infant and Toddler teachers find it especially difficult because younger children are less able to cope with the structure of the day when they are not feeling well.

We certainly recognize how sick days impact parents and will try our best to accommodate *mildly* ill, fever-free children.

Unless parents have contacted the center to do a quick pick-up of their child at the curb for **emergency** reasons, **NO ONE should stop/park at the curb at ANY TIME of the day.**

Parents have complained that they are afraid to walk their child past parked or idling vehicles along the curb—occupied and unoccupied. Others are very concerned that they cannot see children walking around the stopped vehicle and by the time they do, the child and parent are *already in their path*. Little children are hard to see and do sometimes break away from their parents.

Larger vehicles stopped in that area are also difficult to maneuver around.

It is now dark at the heaviest traffic time in our lot. **PLEASE use extreme caution at all times.** *Thank you!*

Snapshots and Video

This is the time of year that everyone has his or her cameras and video/digital equipment on hand. We take lots of seasonal pictures and over the next couple of months we expect cameras to be out a lot!

Parents also like to take pictures on special days or at holiday events. Staff are aware of children in their classroom who are not supposed to be photographed or videotaped, but sometimes find it difficult (or upsetting to the

child) to follow-through on the parent request when group shots are taken or the room is being recorded in general.

Parents who have not consented to photographs or video should take a moment to clarify their wishes with their child's teacher so that we can be sure to remove your child from the area or classroom when such activity is taking place. We must ask that parents who wish to take pictures or take video be respectful of other's requests and privacy. Please

check with your child's teacher if you plan to take pictures or video/digital recordings at any time.

Thank you!



“First you take a pumpkin—big and round and fat...” Ask your child to finish this fingerplay!

Please Feel Free to Share...

Please feel free to share any information, materials, or books pertaining to any of our themes with your child's teacher.

Teachers love to use props for Circle Time and are “on the lookout” at libraries, through the book clubs and in stores for story books relating to the themes covered each month.

If you have any you wouldn't mind our staff borrowing, they would certainly

welcome it. Just be sure to label anything brought to the center so we can be sure to get items back to the right person.

As mentioned earlier, **we also welcome classroom visitors!** If you have a special talent to share or would like to read a story to your child's class, please feel free to make arrangements to visit.

Of course, parents are welcome to just

observe or participate in pre-planned classroom activities without notice to staff. This is a bit easier in the infant room (when children are less than 8 or 9 months old) and in the Preschool or Pre-K rooms. Older infants and toddlers don't separate as easily.

You know your child best. If you think he/she would be OK with a mid day visit, please feel free to join us!

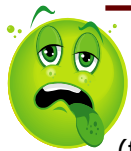
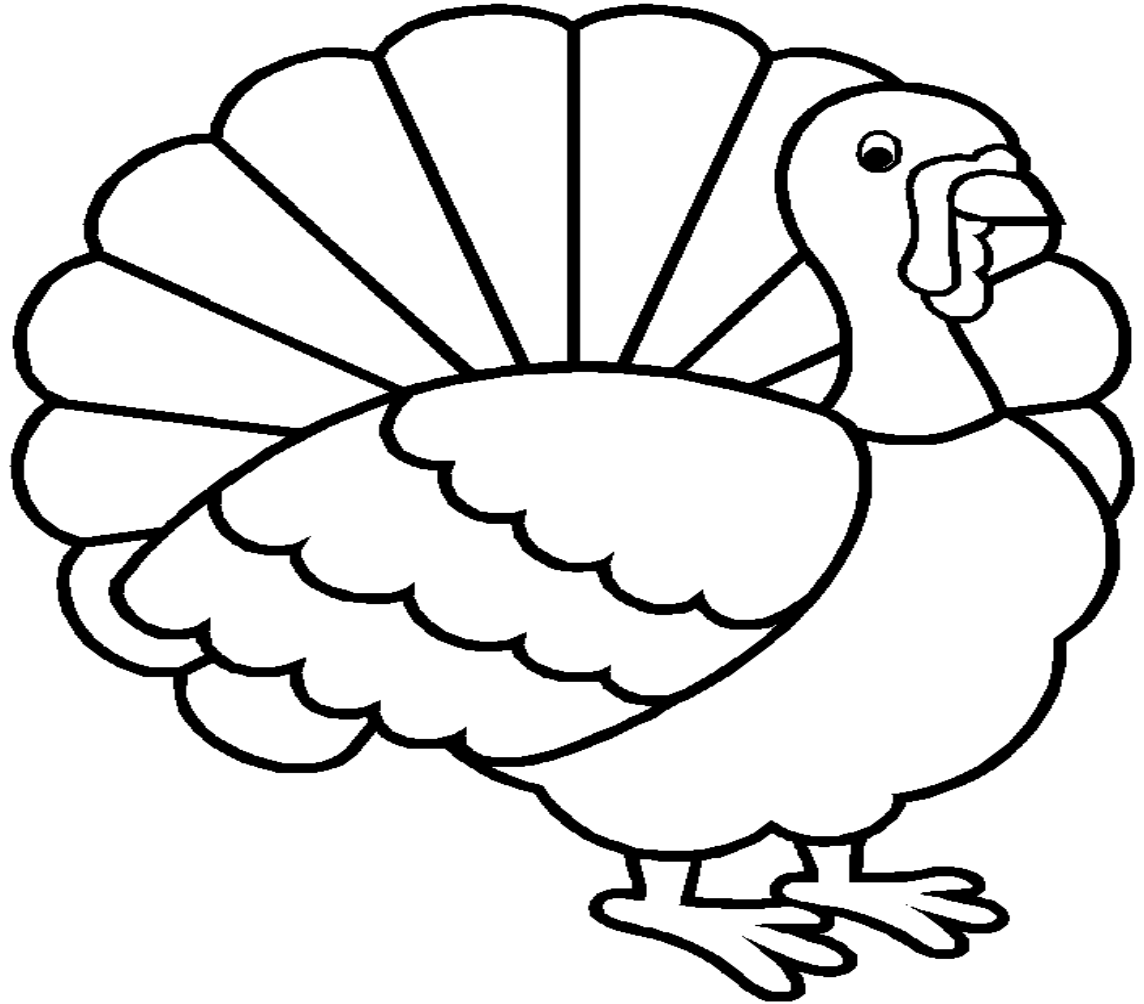


Have your child color the turkey and bring it back to the center to decorate our hallway!

Child's Age: _____

Classroom: _____

Child's Name: _____



Illness Update

We are still experiencing lots of illness (fevers, coughs, cold symptoms and a few cases of stomach virus) at the center. Please keep us updated if your child comes down with symptoms.

Please also remember that our policy requires children be out **at least** a full 24 hours after a fever breaks (without medication) and a full 24 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhea.

When children return to the center, they must be eating/drinking normally and well enough to participate in all regularly planned activities during the day - including outdoor time.

Our cleaning person and our staff continue to be very conscientious about disinfecting frequently touched areas in the building along, of course, with the regular sanitizing that happens daily. We hope to do all we can to spare as many as possible from the flu this season!



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