

NOVEMBER

2025

Children's House November News 2025

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 baby's words.
- 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 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!



Progress Reports and Conferences

Progress Reports for children in T1 through Kindergarten will be sent home just before Thanksgiving break on Wednesday, November 26th.

We ask that parents sign up for conferences. Sign up sheets will be located near the classroom drop off location. PLEASE ask your child's teacher if you don't see the sign-up sheet. 15 minute conferences can be held by telephone during rest time mid day and from 4:30-5:00. Teachers will have specific days assigned so that we don't have a coverage issue with too many teachers out of classrooms. Teachers may also be able to provide early time slots and could be available 3-3:30 in some cases. We strongly encourage all parents to make an appointment so that the lines of communication can remain open.

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.

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



Handwashing Upon Arrival

As we enter into cold and flu season, we would like to remind parents to remind their child/children to wash their 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.

Teachers will also encourage this important practice.

Parents can support staff at home by teaching 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 them avoid one or two upper respiratory issues this winter.

In the event your child does come down with some significant upper respiratory symptoms, please keep them 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.

The state requires that we not admit any children exhibiting fever, diarrhea, vomiting, pink-eye or medically unexplained rashes.

Please see our Contagious Illness Policy in the Parent Handbook and posted in each classroom.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone as healthy as possible this season!



Autumn Leaves are Falling!

Parking Lot Safety

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 or near the curb/cones or in front of the T1/T2 classroom gate at ANY TIME of the day.**

Parents have complained that they are unable to get around the loop if cars are stopped/idling along the curb or by the toddler gate —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 so this is a very important rule to follow to keep everyone safe.

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

Special Treats, Holiday Parties and 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 ingredients 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.

We are also not able to serve any items containing artificial sweeteners.

Because of MA restrictions, we are now only able to accept pre-packaged items to share with individual groups. We cannot accept any homemade/home baked goods. Fresh, cut up fruit can be accepted.

In addition to treats, children also enjoy having festive paper cups, napkins, plates and table-coverings for holiday parties!



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

Teacher Requests and Upcoming Dates

Slipper Time

Parents are strongly encouraged to send in LABELED slippers for their child. Grippy socks might be a better option for new walkers. 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 and switch to slippers. (We all know how children *love* to wear their new boots!)

Encouraging Independence

When children take their boots/shoes off, they should be reminded to put them neatly under their coat hook or in their cubby box so that they can easily change before outdoor play. Please help us remind the children to do this daily. Imagine the staff trying to organize up to 35 little shoes or boots and mittens and hats and more! Any helpful reminders to children would be much appreciated!

Upcoming Dates

11/7 **Scholastic Book Order Forms are Due** (order online from ANY flyer:

Scholastic.com — Search Children’s House, Pam Flowers)

11/11 **Closed for Veteran’s Day**

11/26 **Toddler through Kindergarten Progress Reports Sent Home**

11/27 & 11/28 **Closed for**

Thanksgiving Break

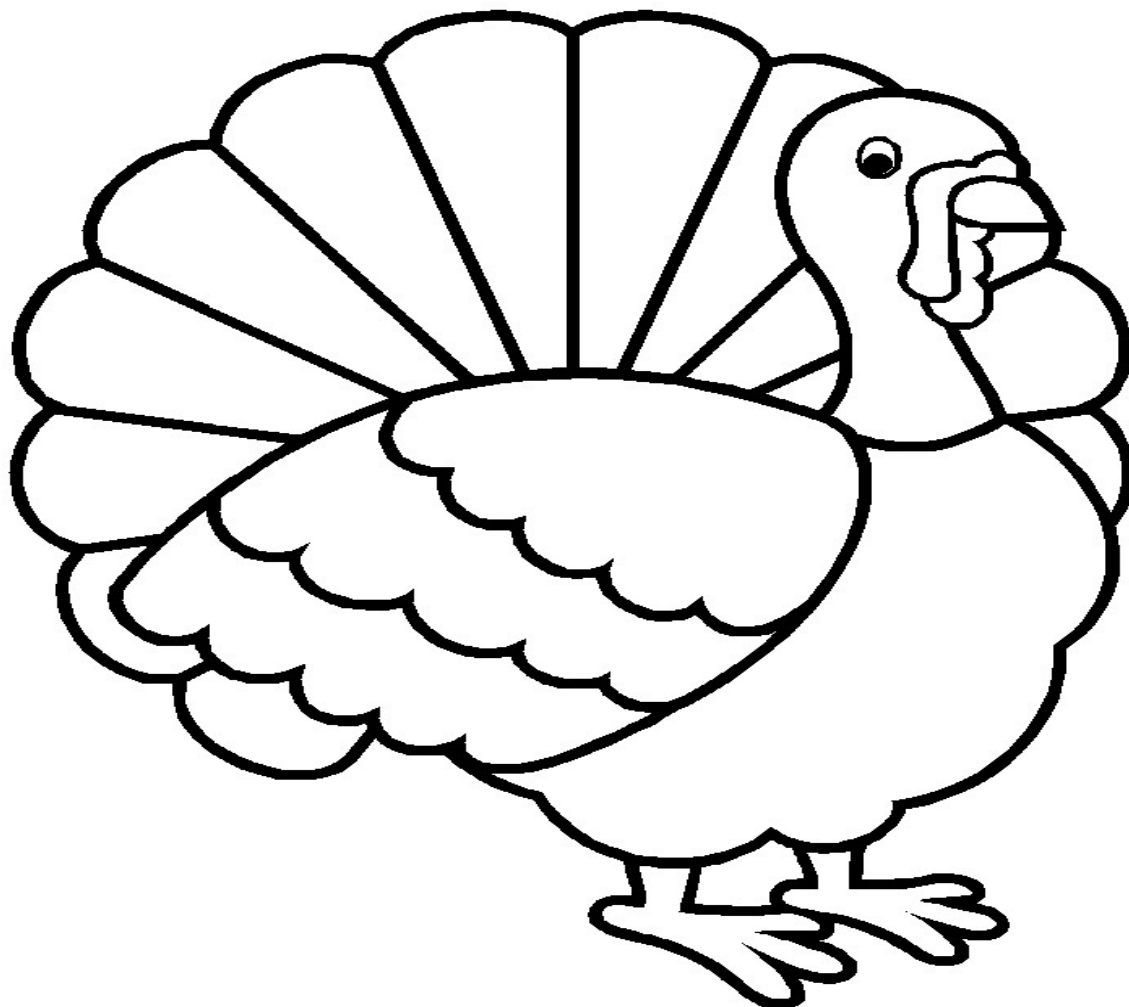




*Have your child
color the turkey
and bring it back
to the center to
decorate our
hallway!*

Child's Age: _____ Classroom: _____

Child's Name: _____



Illness Update

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, this is the time of year that we are experiencing lots of typical illness - fevers, coughs, cold symptoms, hand, foot and mouth virus and a variety of other typical early childhood illnesses. Please keep us updated if your child comes down with any 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. Children cannot be kept indoors if their group is going outside.

Our cleaning people and 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!



OPENING TIME

Doors open at 8:00 am to welcome children into their classrooms. Prior to 8:00 am, staff are setting up, cleaning, preparing and gathering their needed materials for the day. We ask everyone to use their cell phones for time instead of clocks that are manually set so that we are all using the same time reference.

In order to fully be prepared for the day, staff will be available to let children into the building at 8:00 am., but not prior to. Your patience and understanding is very appreciated!

CHILDREN'S HOUSE LEARNING, INC.

720 Wilbraham Rd.
Springfield, MA 01109
Phone: 782-4448
Fax: 782-8073

Additional Contact Information

Sandip Patel
spatel@childrenshouseinc.org

Pam Flowers
pjflowers720@gmail.com

Tuition/Payments/Receipts:
Pam Frogameni
pfrogameni720@gmail.com

Website: www.childrenshouseinc.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/childrenshouseinc>

