

Children's House Learning, Inc.

September/October News 2025



A New School Year Begins!

We are happy to be starting a new school year! Over the past couple/few months, we have been busy welcoming new children and families to the center and saying our good-byes to families moving on.

The learning has continued all summer and exciting new themes and activities are planned for the coming months as well.

At this time, ten classrooms are open ranging in age from Infants (8 weeks) up to Kindergarten (through age 6).

We do currently have full time openings in all age groups with tours being planned daily!

Feel free to share a brochure located at the front door with family, co-workers and friends! We are very appreciative of referrals!

Authorized & Unauthorized Pick-Ups

Children's House takes the safety of your child seriously. Therefore, we have a policy regarding "Authorized and Unauthorized Pick-ups" of the children in our care.

The policy allows for only the parents or guardians of a child to pick up the child from the center **unless a written or verbal authorization is obtained.**

Written authorization is the most effective in that it doesn't require classroom staff to remember unfamiliar names. Written authorization can be in the form of a separate note to the teacher or a note on the Infant or Toddler Daily Information Sheet.

Verbal authorization is usually done by phone

when an unforeseen circumstance arises that changes pick-up plans. Any person who isn't the parent/guardian will be asked to show a photo ID before the child is released. Please also let individuals who help with drop off or pick up know they must be cautious in the parking lot and need to turn their vehicle off.

OUR STAFF

Infant 1...Kim & Joyce

Infant 2...Marta & Christy

Toddler 1...Chris & Julia

Toddler 2...Alyssa & Ardyn

Toddler 3...Gabby & Calissa

Toddler 4...Ceryn & Izzy

Preschool 1...Ari

Preschool 2...Leinadyz

Preschool 3...Eli & Emma

Pre-K/K...Sandy and Jenn

P3/PK Floater...Angela

Toddler Floater...Katherine

Aida, Cook

Sue Alexopoulos, Mentor Teacher

Pam Frogameni, Office Manager

Pam Flowers, Executive Director

Sandip Patel, Owner/President



**WELCOME
TO ALL
OUR NEW
FAMILIES!**



**10/6/25
10:00 am-11:00 am**

**A Visit from
Springfield Fire
Department**



September Themes

*Getting to Know My
Classroom
All About Me
My Family
My Community
The Five Senses
Apples*

October Themes

*Songs of Fall
Squirrels and Acorns
Columbus Day (4's)
Fire Prevention
Bats, Spiders,
Pumpkins
Halloween*

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/2/25...First Day of the New School Year!

9/12/25...Grandparents Day

**Infants, P2, P3, PK ~ 10-11:15
P1 & Toddlers ~ 3-4:15**

Letters are to be sent home the first week of September. Please reply with the RSVP at the bottom of the letter or reply on the RSVP sheet in your child's classroom.

Refreshments to make the day more fun are welcomed! Note regarding refreshments: We aren't able to serve anything with nuts/peanuts, anything homemade or anything with artificial sweeteners.

10/8/25...Picture Day for Infants & Toddlers

If your child is part time and does not attend on Wednesdays, he/she may come in to be in the class photo and have individual photos done as long as accompanied by an adult while on site.

10/9/25...Picture Day for Preschool, Pre-K/K and Siblings

If you would like your children to be photographed together, regardless of age, please be sure staff are fully aware. A separate picture envelope is needed for each individual and sibling photo ordered. Envelopes will be sent home closer to the day and should be hand-delivered to staff to avoid any missed pictures.

Note: Staff and parents are not allowed to take pictures while picture day is happening this includes pictures of the children set up for their class picture and includes pictures while individuals are taking place.

10/9/25...Parent Night for All Age Groups 6-7:30 pm

Watch for a specific time for your classroom teacher's presentation. Feel free to view ALL the classrooms! Please let your child's teacher know if you will be attending. This is an evening for parents. Staff will have classroom materials displayed. If children attend, they must know ahead that they cannot play with classroom materials on display.

10/31/24...Halloween Party!

See below for more details.

Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) (Unannounced) Licensing Visit

We are within the window for our annual unannounced visit as of 10/1/25. During these visits our licensor will observe in classrooms, paying close attention safety regulations and carefully monitoring staff/child interactions. She will view lesson plans, staff and children's files and will check up on documentation requirements for fire safety, playground safety, Staff Meetings and Professional Development.

Parents can help us out by making sure that children's information is current. We need physicals, lead tests, immunizations, health care plans and all medications on site to be up to date.

Based on state regulations, children with missing or expired information can be suspended from child care services. We try our hardest to avoid this, but we also do not want to be cited by EEC.

Please work with us to be sure all your child's info on file is current at all times.

Halloween Party, 10/31/25

All children are encouraged to come to school in costume and bring a change of clothes for the afternoon. (Yes...we even encourage the babies and toddlers to come in costume!!) Many staff members will come to work in costume, too!

We ask that accessories to costumes be *very* limited, do not pose a choke, strangulation or trip hazard and are clearly labeled.

Also, please do not allow children to bring "weapons" in with their costumes.

Because some children are wary of

scary costumes, masks and make-up, please be sure your child's costume, mask and/or make-up are not too scary.

We'll take pictures!

"Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate...."

Have your child recite the rest!



Refreshments are welcomed! We aren't able to accept homemade items, but pre-packaged/store bought refreshments are appreciated.

Special note: We aren't able to accept any donuts or munchkins from

Dunkin as they cannot guarantee no cross contamination with products containing nuts. Children enjoy ice cream cups, mini muffins, Rice Krispie treats, fruit pops, Go-Gurts and other similar items. It's also fun for the children to have holiday napkins, plates or cups sent in for the party!



Teacher Wish Lists

While Children's House provides most of the materials staff need to provide a well-rounded program for their children, there are always some "wish list" items that make a project more interesting or add to the theme work staff do each month. The following are some

items that Teachers love to use in their classrooms and appreciate having to enhance their themes:

- Posters relating to the theme, colors, numbers, shapes, letters (these tend to get a bit tattered during the school year and often need replacing)
- Plain colored wrapping paper for bulletin boards or 2 sheets of one color of poster board
- Trifold cardboard displays (Dollar Tree) to create theme-related displays for the children
- Age appropriate books that align with the monthly themes
- Solid color bulletin board borders or borders that go with the season or themes
- Stickers
- Washable (in the washing machine) floor pillows in solid colors

Thank you!

ANNUAL FAMILY SURVEYS

Thank you to all those who completed a family survey this summer! We send surveys home each year in late June/early July to obtain feedback from families regarding our services, our staff and overall experience with Children's House.

This summer, 38 forms were returned. We appreciated all the wonderful comments about our staff and, in general, the center as a whole.

Parents seemed to feel as if they were receiving appropriate communication, children's social/emotional needs were being met and the curriculum was enriching and encouraging strides in development in all age groups.

Some areas that families had questions about or would like to see some attention given to include the following:

- ◇ The Parking Lot—Some felt that people dropping off and picking up should be more cautious and respectful. We consistently ask that drivers slow down, park in an actual parking space and turn vehicles off. Little ones are hard to see—especially as we get closer to daylight savings. Please do your best to be careful and keep everyone safe.
- ◇ Wiping Faces/Noses More Often—As we get into cold season especially, this will be so important. We have discussed this at Staff Meeting and hope that parents are seeing improvement.
- ◇ Dropping off/Picking up Inside the Building—We have *finally* made the transition for the Preschool 2, 3 and PK/K groups away from side door drop-off and pick-up to in-center. It has been an option for parents since 2023, but for so many, including staff, it just became habit. Some families found it easier than coming inside, but we learned through the survey that others prefer to come in. Welcome back to the classrooms!
- ◇ Homework - In most cases, we try to encourage children to complete activities at the center so that parents don't have the added pressure of having to complete work in the evening. Sometimes, staff will send home activities that children are unable to complete. Please, if there are times where it is too difficult to complete these at home, don't feel it is necessary. Parents of Preschool Pre-K/K children can have conversation with their child's teacher about skill-building activities that can be done at home without having to have a workbook or worksheets.
- ◇ One question on the form was about staff asking parents about their family and family routines at home. This one is tricky for staff as they don't want to be perceived as being nosy or invasive. We want to show our families respect and give them privacy if they choose not to share at-home information. But when information is willingly shared by parents/guardians, we are more than happy to offer support or advice!
- ◇ Family Engagement Activities—We do try to offer several opportunities each year for families to be at the center, to volunteer or send another family member in to be with their child. We recently held our annual Grandparents (& Special Friends) Day and everyone had a great time! In October, we're planning a Parent Night for families to see the classrooms in detail, meet one another and gain some additional details from staff about curriculum and activities. In November & May, parents are encouraged to come in for a Parent-Teacher conference. In April, we plan a week-long celebration where parents/guardians/family members are encouraged to come in to read a story, share a talent, plan a craft project, or help with a special activity. At any time of the year, families are welcome to come in to their child's classroom to do these types of activities. In some cases, it's wonderful for the children. With Toddlers, it's sometimes a bit harder because children immediately tend to think they are leaving the center when they see their parent and become upset. Please let your child's teacher know if you'd like to help out or share your talents in any way—at *anytime* during the year!
- ◇ Combining Classrooms—Unfortunately, situations arise for some of our staff at the last minute and substitute coverage isn't immediately available. To maintain our legal ratios, we do combine groups (same/similar age groups) for a short period of the day or sometimes for the whole day. Staff will post a sign on the door if the classroom has been closed for the day and will usually include information about where children can be picked up. Feel free to see Pam in the office if you need assistance when this happens.

Hopefully this information is helpful! Please know that we try very hard each and every day to provide the best care possible for your children. We're always here for conversation and to answer any questions. We appreciate the trust you put in all of us to care for your children and to provide quality education experiences and environments and will continue to work hard to meet *and exceed* expectations!



