All Aboard Learning Center

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| Newsletter April 2015 |
| Child Abuse Prevention Month |
| **Staff/Parent Clean-up Day 4-11-15, 9 AM**  Week of the Young Child April 13-17  **Playground Safety Week April 20-24** |

By Teresa Switzer

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pril is a busy month! We have a lot of activities going on. We will celebrate the “Week of the Yong Child” April 13-17. During that week we will be doing some activities involving the children and their families. We will send home more information the week before so you are aware of all the fun things going on!

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The years from birth through age 8 lay the foundation for children’s success in school and later in life. Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children’s earliest years in shaping their learning and development. This is a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early learning environment-at home, at child care, at school, and in the community-that will promote their early learning.

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| WEAR BLUE DAY IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015 |

 On Wednesday, April 15, all our teachers will be wearing blue in honor of preventing child abuse and neglect. You can join in too by wearing blue that day. Help us raise awareness and end child abuse!

**CLEAN-UP DAY**

**We are asking for all our staff and parents to come together on April 11 for a clean-up day here at the center. We will meet at 9 am and just work until done. Because we don’t have a maintenance crew, a lot of things are in need of repair. Bring your yard tools, gloves, and other helpful tools. We have some fence in need of repair, mulch needing shoveled, and even some inside work to be done. We will try to have lists and materials needed (paint) ahead of time. It will be a good day for meeting other parents and spending some one-on-one time with our staff. We will also be serving lunch and have plenty of drinks on hand.**

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| EVER WONDER WHAT A GREAT PRESCHOOL IS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE? |

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**1O SIGNS OF A GREAT PRESCHOOL**

1. Children spend most of their playing and working with materials and other children. They do not wander around aimlessly, and they are not expected to sit quietly for long periods of time.
2. Children have access to various activities throughout the day. Look for assorted building blocks and other construction materials, props for pretend play, picture books, paints and other art materials, and table toys such as matching games, pegboards, and puzzles. Children should not all be doing the same thing at the same time.
3. Teachers work with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend all their time with the whole group.
4. The classroom is decorated with children’s own artwork, their own writing with invented spelling, and stories dictated by children to teachers.
5. Children learn numbers and alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. The natural world of plants and animals and meaningful activities like cooking, taking attendance, or serving snack provide a basis for learning activities.
6. Children work on projects and have long periods of time (at least one hour) to play and explore. Worksheets are used little if at all.
7. Children have an opportunity to play outside every day. Outdoor play is never sacrificed for instructional time.
8. Teachers read books to children individually or in small groups throughout the day, not just at group story time.
9. Curriculum is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. Teachers recognize that children’s different background and experiences mean that they do not learn the same things at the same time in the same way.
10. Children and their parents look forward to school. Parents feel secure about sending their child to the program. Children are happy to attend; they do not cry regularly or complain of feeling sick.



ALL CLASSROOMS WILL HAVE EASTER CELEBRATIONS ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD AFTER NAP. WE WILL HAVE EASTER EGG HUNTS. PLEASE SEE YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH ANYTHING!



WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD THEMES:

* MUSIC MONDAY
* TACO TUESDAY
* WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY
* ARTSY THURSDAY
* FAMILY FRIDAY

MORE DETAILS FOR EACH DAY COMING SOON!



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE PARENTS WHO SO FAITHFULLY, EVERY MONTH, WITHOUT FAIL, DONATE SNACK MONEY FOR THE CHILDREN. YOU ARE SO VERY APPRECIATED.



ALL ABOARD LEARNING CENTER MISSION:

THE CENTER’S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE, STRUCTURED AND SUPPORTIVE PROGRAM FOR THE PARTICIPATING CHILDREN; WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING AND FUNCTIONING HAPPILY IN AN ENVIRONMENT WITH OTHERS THEIR OWN AGE.



**FAST FACTS FOR APRIL**

* **APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH & MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD**
* **APRIL 13-17 IS “WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD”**
* **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, “GO BLUE DAY” WEAR BLUE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**
* **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6**
* **EASTER, APRIL 8**
* **SPRING CLEAN UP DAY-April 11, 9 am**
* **KEEP COLLECTING BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**
* **BREAKFAST SERVED 7-8:15**
* **CALL BY 9 IF LATE OR NOT ATTENDING FOR THE DAY**
* **WHENEVER POSSIBLE LET YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER KNOW IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT**
* **DON’T FORGET WE OFFER AUTO DEBIT FOR CHILD CARE TUITION WEEKY OR MONTHLY. IF INTERESTED SEE TERESA.**

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APRIL-CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Although we always want to prevent child abuse and neglect, this is a time when caring people go the extra mile to raise awareness of the terrible toll that abuse and neglect take on young lives and to remind our community that we all have a part to play in indentifying and preventing such harm.

Studies show that children who suffer abuse or neglect are more likely to struggle in school, have run-ins with law enforcement, experience homelessness or abuse drugs and alcohol. Research shows that abused children become abusers.



APRIL 20-24 IS PLAYGROUND SAFETY WEEK

This week is a time to focus on children’s outdoor play environment, to pledge to use good judgment when playing, and a time for gratitude for all the adults who work tirelessly on maintaining our playgrounds and assuring safety in the outdoor environment.

Teresa has taken a Playground Supervision Course through The National Program for Playground Safety Program. This is helpful when inspecting equipment for loose parts, etc.