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AALC NEWSLETTER-MARCH 2015

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Welcome to Spring!? It’s almost here but we aren’t there yet. We’ve had such a brutal winter it’s nice to finally see the sun. The children will soon be able to get out and play and run off some of that energy!

**STAFFING**

We would like to introduce you to the newest staff to join us since last August. Most have already met Mr. Steffen, but others have inquired about who he is. He was hired in August to work with Ms. Sue. Since that time we have moved him to the twos. He has been a great fit for both classes and we are very happy with his teaching skills. The kids love him and enjoy him and he is a great addition to our staff. He is a little quiet when it comes to talking to adults so make sure you introduce yourself to him if you haven’t already met him. Steffen is a CHS graduate and still resides in Cuba. His goal is to complete his college courses and teach College Math. That’s a few years off from now and hopefully he will continue working for All Aboard until he reaches that goal.



Mr. Steffen Edgar

Two-year old Teacher



Ms. Michele Weidman

Accountant

Ms. Michele was hired in November as our accountant/bookkeeper. She is from Cuba and lives in Steelville with her two children. They are two year old Colton and 15 year old Kylie. Michele works M-W-F about 5 hours a day. She also works for the USPS as a mail carrier so she is a very busy lady! She enjoys reading and spending time with her family. We are happy to have her join us.



Ms. Lisa Glenn

Three-year old teacher

Lisa Glenn just started working with us the end of January and is in our 3-year old class. She was with us for a short time working in our toddler room. She has worked with the Head Start Program for the past year and is eager to be back with us. Lisa graduated from Mineral Area College in 2012 with an Associate’s Degree in Child Development and has worked in child care for the last 3 years.

Lisa is from Viburnum and currently resides in Steelville with her fiancé, Jeremy and their two dogs, a beagle and a Great Dane. Lisa and Jeremy will be married in June. Lisa loves reading, being at the river and spending time with her niece and nephews.



Ms. Heather Silva

Infant Teacher

Ms. Heather came to work for us in late February. She has lived in Cuba her entire life and is married with 4 children. They are Cadance-11, Maya-10, Isabella-8 and Jaspar-6. Heather and her husband are Veterans, Heather, Navy and Xavier, Marine. Heather enjoys spending time with her family and crafts.

Heather has a CDA Credential, is a car seat technician, and has an AS in Foundations of Education and a BS in Psychology. She is a semester away from completing her Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Elementary Education! Her short term goal is to finish her certificate and work to help children. Her long term goal is to seek her Master’s in Education and or a clinical degree and eventually become a guidance counselor at school. Please welcome her aboard!

As a certified car seat tech, Heather can check your child’s car seat to see if it is the correct fit for your child, make sure it is free of recalls and make sure it is installed correctly. If you have a question about your child’s car seat, please don’t hesitate to ask her.

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All that being said about staffing, please bear with us as we make the necessary changes to make sure all the teachers are a good fit for their room. All of our lead teachers will remain the same. We will be moving a few others around this Spring so if you have any suggestions or preferences, please let us know. We WANT and appreciate your input.

**SPRING FUNDRAISER**

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We have sent out our Spring Fundraiser Catalogs! We are asking that every family order at least one item from the book. Our goal is to earn enough money to have the toddler and two year old playgrounds prepared for rubber tiles to be installed. They will both have to be cleared and a concrete foundation poured to have the tiles installed on top of. We have not received a bid for the work yet but this is our first effort to raise money for that. As soon as we get that bid we will let everyone know. You can start selling now. It will end March 10. Please help us with this important endeavor. Thank you in advance.

ACCREDITATION!

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What does it mean for families?

* Research shows that a higher level of quality in child care and educational setting is associated with children having enhanced social skills, reduced behavioral problems, increased cooperation and improved language skills.
* Your children are provided with a developmentally appropriate and sound program with suitable equipment and supplies and well trained teachers, striving to provide children with the best experiences possible.
* Your child will learn to interact with other children, be exposed to developmentally appropriate materials and experiences, and most importantly acquire the tools to go out in the world and succeed!

What does it mean for the program?

* A child care program which has received MoA is part of a very unique and elite group.
* The program has worked very hard to achieve and maintain a high degree of performance and prides itself on continuous improvement and feels that it has earned trust and confidence of the families it serves.
* High standards offer parents unparalleled confidence that their children are receiving outstanding care and education.

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EAT SMART!

As most of you have already heard we are an Advanced Eat Smart Center! The Eat Smart Guidelines are a set of nutrition related recommendations for child care facilities which were written to help providers create a food and nutrition environment that will ultimately improve the health of our children. There are three levels; Minimum, Intermediate, and Advanced. Because children learn their food habits early, we can make a difference by modeling and teaching them good, healthy eating habits. We now have a written food and nutrition policy and a physical activity policy in place. We sent home copies of these policies in the past but if you are new to the facility or no longer have them please come see Ms. Teresa if you would like to have a copy.

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If your child has a known or suspected food allergy, the state requires us to have a form completed by your child’s Doctor. This form should state what the allergy is, what happens to the child if they ingest the food and what the plan of action is if they were to ingest it. We can’t accommodate food allergies or sensitivities without this written plan of action. If your child is attending and has an allergy and you have not gotten this form, please do so as soon as possible. THIS IS A STATE LICENSING REGULATION.

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AALC CLOSINGS TO BE BROADCAST ON RESULTS RADIO

KTTR-99.7

KZNN-105.3

KXMO-95.3

KDAY-103.1

IN THE EVENT THAT AALC HAS TO CLOSE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, YOU WILL NOT BE CHARGED FOR CHILDCARE THAT DAY.

**SICK POLICY**

Please DO NOT bring a child when he/she:

* Has had a fever (100 degrees) within the last 25 hours (*without the use of fever reducing medications)*
* ***Has more than 1 diarrhea within the last 24 hours***
* Vomiting within the last 24 hours.
* Has been taking an antibiotic for less than 24 hours.
* Has a colored or heavy nasal discharge, ***accompanied by a fever or lasting* longer *than 10 days.***
* Is unusually cranky or tired even after plenty of sleep or appears to feel ill, is showing signs of dehydration, (refusing liquids, lack of urination), ***or requires more care than staff are able to provide, therefore, compromising the health and safety of the other children.***
* Has a sore throat, ***trouble swallowing,*** chest congestion, constant raspy cough, ***or difficult or rapid breathing.***
* Did not sleep well the night before due to unusual circumstances.
* Has an unexplained rash, ***with drainage or severe itching.***
* Has matted eyes with green and/or yellow drainage, which could be pink eye or another infection. (regardless of if the eye is red or pink), they get matted and green and/or yellow before turning red or pink. (If sent home may not return until condition has been treated with medication or drops for 24 hours).
* ***Has a headache or stiff neck.***
* Children diagnosed with Hand, Foot, and Mouth (coxsackie virus infection) will be required to be excluded from care for a minimum of 5 days and maximum of 10 days. Children will then have to be approved to return to childcare by the staff or Director of AALC.
* Children diagnosed with the Influenza Type A or B will be required to be excluded for a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 days and will be required to have a note from a Doctor to return to childcare.

Please phone the center to let us know if your child will not attend due to sickness. Make us aware if your child has been exposed to a contagious disease.

If a child becomes ill after arrival, the All Aboard staff will call you. You must pick up the child in a timely manner or have a designated person do so. If the parent cannot be reached, the first name on the enrollment form will be contacted and each name following until we find an alternate person to release your child to. (If no emergency contact is available on more than one occasion, you risk having your child’s position at AALC terminated).

If your child is sent home with any of the symptoms above, he/she will not be able to return to the center for 24 hours after the symptoms have subsided ***(without the use of fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Motrin). (NO EXCEPTIONS)***

The center must charge the same rate each week; therefore, we cannot make allowances for sickness. A prolonged illness, which requires hospitalization, will be taken into account and the center will work with you if needed.

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FRIENDLY REMINDERS

* Breakfast is over at 8:15
* Keep us up-to-date on any changes (work # or cell #)
* Give us copies of shot records
* We close at 6 p.m. Late fees apply if after 6
* Please call by 9 a.m. if your child will be late or absent
* **NO FOOD BROUGHT IN FROM OUTSIDE!**
* Don’t forget $2 snack fee each month

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MACE RECEIPTS

This year’s collection of Mace Receipts has ended. They have been submitted for redemption. A huge thanks to all the families who remembered and saved their receipts for us, we greatly appreciate it. We will start collecting again this fall and we will notify you when it begins again.

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FYI

Did you know all our staff have CPR and First Aid?



ALL ABOARD LEARNING CENTER

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**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.**





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