

Children's House Learning, Inc.

Newsletter - April 2024

April Themes

Spring is finally here! Our themes this month include:

- Rain (how it helps plants and animals)
 - Dressing for Spring
 - Frogs & Toads 
 - Turtles
 - Animal Homes 
- Passover
- Spring Birds
- Holland (Pre-K/K only)
- Windmills
- Tulips/Bulbs 
- Planting
- New plant life
- Community Spirit
- Earth Day/ Recycling
- ...and any other topics the children show special interest in!

Please feel free to share any information, materials or books pertaining to any of these topics.

Tax Time is Drawing to a Close...

If you still need a W-10 form for your taxes, please contact Pam Frogameni. If you don't need the form, just our Tax I.D. #, it is:

81-4118965

Summer/Fall Enrollment



It's that time of year again! We have begun to contact families on the waiting lists and have started to receive calls from families interested in enrolling this summer.

In order to be able to give enrollment dates to our new families, we must find out the withdrawal dates of our current children.

We know that some of our Pre-K/K children will be leaving sometime this summer, but we also anticipate losing a few of our preschoolers to public or parochial kindergarten.

Parents should know that Children's House Kindergarten program with Sandy Bigelow and Jenn Close-Conlon is fully accredited and children are welcome to remain enrolled until the day before they enter 1st grade. Even the summer following their first grade year, children are welcome to attend if they have not yet turned 7.

Parents accessing a Seven Hills voucher to assist in child care expenses can keep children enrolled through their Kindergarten year and the summer that follows as well.

So that we can begin planning, please watch your child's take-home info and your email for a form to complete and return in late April/early May.

We will also need to know from our part-time families if there are any requests for a different schedule or a need to switch from part-time to full time over the summer or in the early fall. We certainly will try to accommodate your requests. The earlier we receive them, the better.

Further, if you currently have a child enrolled, but have another child you would like to enroll, please be sure to let us know this in writing. There are lots of families here and although we do try, it's hard to keep track of who may or may not be interested in enrolling siblings.

A deposit of first and last week tuition plus a registration fee of \$40 is required to hold a sibling slot. Deposits are only needed once we have a confirmed start date available.

Please let co-workers, friends and family know we anticipate several preschool and a few infant/toddler openings. We often exhaust our entire preschool and toddler waiting lists by the end of the enrollment period.

Those who are interested should contact Pam at the center:
Phone: 782-4448
Email: PJFlowers720@gmail.com

(Please note the email change. We have been having trouble with emails filtering through the childrenshouseinc.org email address for our staff.)

There are Children's House flyers to the left at the front door. Parents are welcome to take copies for anyone they think might be interested in child care. General info about Children's House is also available on our website: www.childrenshouseinc.org.

Remember there is a \$50 referral bonus for currently enrolled parents who refer new families to us that ultimately enroll.*

Referrals are much appreciated!

**Some restrictions apply – see the full posting at the center in the main hallway.*



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

In May...

5/10 Center Closed...

Staff Professional Development Day

5/27 Center Closed...

Memorial Day



Week of the Young Child

Children's House will be celebrating *The Week of the Young Child* April 8th through April 12th. We are planning fun activities for this week in celebration of our children and in recognition of how important they are to *all* our futures.

In the past, parents with a variety of "connections" have been generous enough to donate items for the children such as coloring books, stickers, glow-sticks, coupons for area pizza shops or restaurants, etc. If you are a parent/guardian with "connections" to any businesses that might be willing to make this type of donation, we would appreciate any and all efforts!

Watch for postings about upcoming happenings via email and in your child's classroom!



Which Coat Should I Wear?

Oftentimes in the spring, parents send in two jackets – one heavy and one lightweight. Please be sure jackets are labeled. Staff have a hard time recognizing new jackets, making it difficult to recover lost items when they are not labeled.

Please speak to your child's teacher directly about your expectations regarding temperature and which coat you would want on your child.

Also, please let your child know that the teacher will tell him/her which coat to wear. Without any parent input, teachers will use their best judgment.

4/8/24 SOLAR ECLIPSE



There is a partial solar eclipse expected in our area sometime during the afternoon on Monday, 4/8/24. Be assured, we will keep the children indoors and will close blinds/shades or cover windows without blinds. The timing may coincide with pick-ups. Parents/Guardians who prefer not to drive during the eclipse may want to pick up prior to the start. ***Parents are asked to caution children about looking at the eclipse as it can be very damaging to vision.***



Earth Day

April 22nd is Earth Day.

Throughout the week prior to the 22nd, the children will learn about recycling, how planting trees helps restore the environment and so much more!

The children will also plant seeds, learn about the growing process and take well-supervised nature walks to observe new growth on our property.

Medical Updates

The Department of Early Education and Care is the licensing agency for all group child care centers in MA. We are required by EEC to keep all children's records current - including yearly lead tests, physicals and all immunizations (*each time they are given*).

Children are not supposed to be allowed in the center without current info on file. We try to be flexible about this because of insurance requirements (some not allowing 2 well child visits within a 12-month time frame), but we risk being cited if the state checks our files and sees expired forms or notes regarding missing information - and we need to try to avoid that! 😊

It is important for parents to keep track of when children are due for well-child visits. If you receive a note or a staff member verbally informs you that your child's medical info is expired or expiring, please do all you can to get updates to us promptly.

We are forced to send home suspension notices if medical information has been requested several times and info remains expired or missing.

This also applies to children with Individual Health Care Plans and emergency medications. If these items expire, per state regulation, children must be excluded from care until the updated forms or medication are on site.

Thanks so much for your help in staying on top of these very important items!



Pick-Up & Drop-Off Procedures When Children Are Outdoors

If your child is outside with his/her class at drop off or pick up time, please understand that staff are obligated to maintain careful supervision of the children on the playground at all times. Several minutes of conversation multiplied by every parent at drop off or pick up puts the children who are supposed to be being supervised at risk.

We do want parents and staff to be able to maintain good communication. Parents who would like to have more in depth conversation with staff can call the center during naptime (12:30 to 2:30) or can make an appointment at 5pm to meet with the teacher.

One other challenge is that Toddlers will sometimes run onto the Preschool playground when walking through the yard to either be dropped off or picked up. Toddler families, **please enter the Preschool playground with your child holding your hand.**

The staff will instruct the Preschool/Pre-K children to keep the path to the Toddler gate clear.

Coming in May...



STAFF APPRECIATION May 6th - May 10th

This is a special week of recognition for all the dedication and hard work our **ENTIRE** staff (classroom staff, cook, maintenance, cleaning staff, administrative staff) put into their jobs here at Children's House each day.

The center has planned some treats for staff to enjoy throughout the week ending in our Professional Development Day on Friday, May 10th.

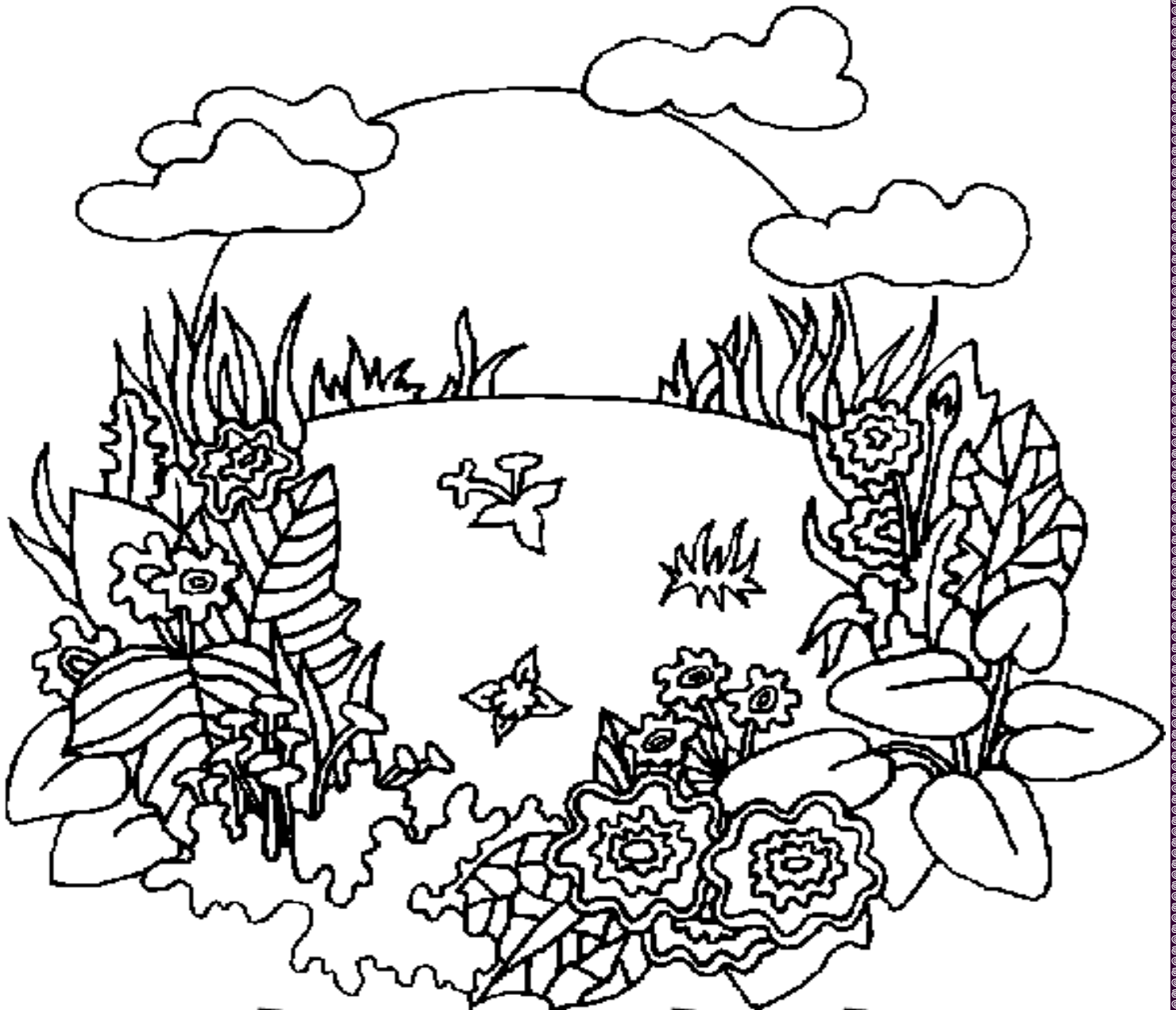
We invite parents to share a little note of thanks or support with their child's teachers, assistants, and caregivers (and our other important staff members!) to make the week "warm and fuzzy" all around!

If you'd like to send in a snack or dessert item for staff to have during the week or during our PD Day on Friday, that would also be much appreciated! (We would just need to have the ingredient lists and we are unfortunately unable to accept homemade items.)

THANK YOU!

WELCOMES SPRING!

(Child's name)



APRIL SHOWERS BRING
MAY FLOWERS...