

Children's House Learning, Inc.

Newsletter ~ April 2021

April Themes

Spring is finally here! Our themes this month include:

- Rain (how it helps plants and animals)
 - Dressing for Spring
 - Baby Animals
 - 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 New England Farm Workers voucher to assist in child care expenses can keep children enrolled through their Kindergarten year and the summer that follows.

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: pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org

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.

There is *no limit* to the number of referral bonuses a family can earn. We've had one family receive a bonus over this past year and hope to give out many more!

Referrals are much appreciated!



IMPORTANT REMINDER

In May...

5/7 Center Closed...

***Staff Professional
Development Day***

Week of the Young Child

Children's House will be celebrating *The Week of the Young Child* April 12th through April 16th. 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!



Earth Day

April 22nd is Earth Day. Throughout the week of 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.



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.

Medical Updates Needed Following Every Well-Child Visit

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.

Thanks so much for your help!

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 we are still obligated to maintain separation of the children in the group from the parents/guardians.

Preschool and Pre-K/K families, **please stay outside the Preschool playground gate.** Feel free to observe if you like along the side fence, but not at the gate. Other parents may need to approach that area and we don't want to subject parents to extended wait times. If dropping off, please open the gate and have your child enter. If picking up, the staff will bring your child to you.

Toddler families, **please enter the Preschool playground with**

your child holding your hand. The staff will instruct the Preschool/Pre-K children to stay away from the path to the Toddler gate. **Please stay on the Preschool side of the gate if children are on the playground.** If your child's group isn't outside, the staff will need to bring children away from the path to your child's classroom door before you enter the yard. If your child IS outside, the staff will bring your child to the gate (or accept your child if dropping off).

We are working hard to protect staff and children from unnecessary exposure. We understand this poses challenges. As soon as our restrictions loosen, we will be sure to communicate changes in procedures to everyone.

Open Hours

At this time, we will continue to maintain our 9am to 5pm open/close hours.

We are under restrictions that do not allow us to have "floaters" in our building. These floaters allow us the ability to create earlier and later staff shifts. When restrictions are lifted, we will need to hire 3 new floaters to cover our three "zones" before we will be able to extend hours. We will inform parents as soon as we are allowed and then situated to extend hours.

We do understand the challenge this poses to some of our families and we will work quickly to hire and arrange extended shifts once we are given permission to do so.

Coming in May...

Staff Appreciation May 3rd - May 7th

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 7th.

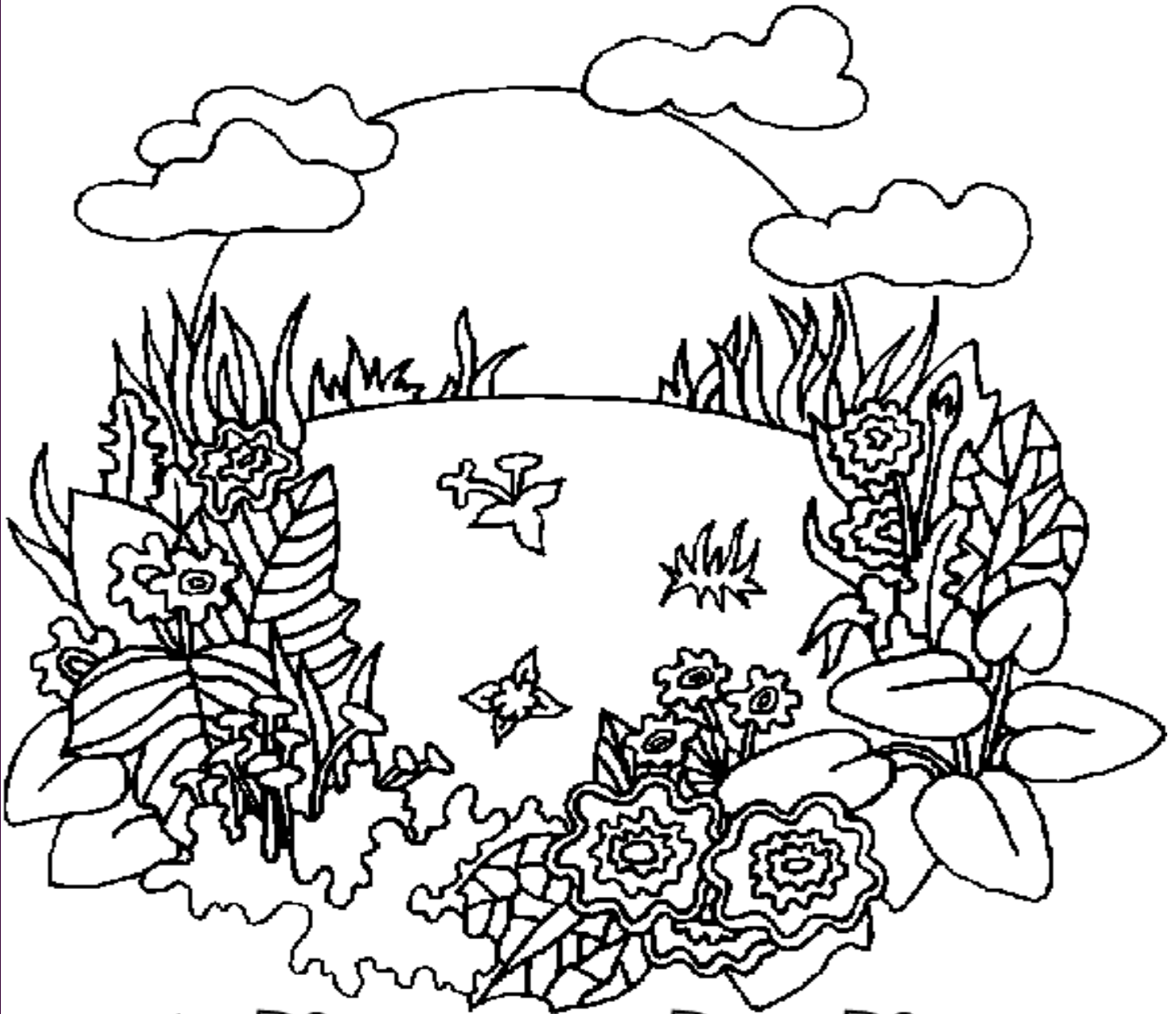
We invite parents to share a little note of thanks or support with their child's teachers, assistants, and caregivers (and our other important staff members!) to make the week "warm and fuzzy" all around!

We would really love to be able to share some of those nice parent comments as we make plans to update our Facebook page (a long-standing goal that we still need to work on!)



WELCOMES SPRING!

(Child's name)



APRIL SHOWERS BRING
MAY FLOWERS...