

# Children's House Newsletter

## June 2019

### June Themes

#### Insects

Bees, Caterpillars,  
Butterflies, Ants,  
Fireflies,  
Grasshoppers,  
Ladybugs



#### Father's Day

#### Getting Bigger Is Fun!

All classes will talk about how the children are getting bigger and may be moving on to a new classroom or school. Staff will help children work through possible anxiety about transitions through role-playing, special projects, activities and songs.

Staff will also encourage development of leadership skills in children who will remain in their current classroom.



#### GRADUATION! June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Preschool Playground

Let's all hope for sunshine! Only a few times in 30+ years, have we been forced inside by rain so we're hoping for the best! If this happens, we will be able to accommodate **parents of Pre-K and K graduates ONLY**. This is something we will try very hard to avoid, but if it does rain, we have very limited space indoors. Please be sure to apprise extended family members ahead of time to avoid disappointment the day of.

Preschool through K children will perform one song each. We'll have the diploma ceremony and then a finale song. Afterwards, we will serve any refreshments provided by parents in the toddler yard.

time convenient to both of you. Please recognize that teachers have some restrictions on their availability due to classroom coverage and that we do not require staff to start early or stay past their shift to do conferencing. **Conferences are especially important for parents of children who will be transitioning this summer - either to a new age group within the center or to a new school altogether.**

This parent/teacher time without the distractions of goings-on at drop-off or pick-up helps parents to gain a better, more detailed understanding of their child's skill levels in all areas of development and is a great time to set new goals for the coming year that the teacher can implement or share with your child's new teacher. We also appreciate any feedback parents can give us about their experience thus far at the center and welcome suggestions for activities or special planning for the upcoming new school year.

#### 6/16 Happy Father's Day!

#### 6/21 Pre-K/K Graduation!



Parents are invited to come celebrate with us! The majority of the seating will be reserved for **parents** of Pre-K/K grads (from Pre-K/K class). All other seating will be reserved for family of the graduates. If parents from other classes choose to attend, please be aware of this seating restriction so that we can avoid having unhappy guests on the day of the ceremony.

Also, to avoid serious major seating and parking issues, please use your best judgment when inviting others to the ceremony. Almost no seating (we have about 75 chairs) will be available to those other than parents and close family of K's and Pre-K's. The gate to the preschool yard will open at 9:30 a.m. Parents/guests will be allowed to enter the yard no earlier than that time to allow staff time to set up. *Seats cannot be reserved prior to 9:30.*

### Upcoming Events

#### 5/27 -6/14 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Tods - K)

If you are unable to meet with your child's teacher during the conference period, and you still wish to make an appointment, *please* feel free to do so at any

**Refreshments are welcomed!** We do ask that families who attend help us out by bringing some type of hand held food item or dessert (that doesn't require utensils and will stand up pretty well to outdoor temps), cut up fruit/veggies or munchies to be served after the ceremony.



Children's House will provide punch, plates, napkins and cups. **Please be mindful of providing ingredient lists for our children (and possibly adults) with various food allergies. Please – no nut products or any items “processed in a plant that also processes items containing nuts...”**

We are also asking for a couple of parents of children who are not in the Pre-K/K group to volunteer to help our cook set up the refreshment tables during the graduation ceremonies on Friday. Please let Pam know if you might be available. *Thank-you!*

**Parking will be available across the street at the Springfield College Child Development Center.** Parents/Guests should park nearest the street to avoid taking parking spaces for the parents and staff at the SCCDC.

Parents are warned not to park along the tree belt as cars have been ticketed there in the past.

teacher know if you prefer your child be changed into regular clothes prior to pick-up.

Staff will apply sunscreen **in the afternoon** if the parent has supplied it and the appropriate form is signed in the child's file.

**Parents are asked to apply the first coat in the morning. Staff will only be responsible for afternoon applications.**



## Transitions

Parents and children will be notified 2-3 weeks prior to the date their child will be placed in a new classroom. In previous years, last minute changes were difficult when parents and children were locked into a date very early in the summer.

As parents are informed of changes, they are encouraged to make an appointment with their child's new teacher to discuss the transition and exchange information.

For those parents who will have children transitioning from toddler to preschool, one important piece of information is for those children who will need breakfast upon drop-off. Up until a child transfers to preschool, breakfast is provided free of charge. Preschool children are served breakfast upon parent request from 7:30-8:00 a.m. in the opening room, at a cost of 50¢ per day. They do have the same regular a.m. snack time as the toddler so if the 8:00 close of breakfast is missed – no worries. Snack is served at 9:30.

If your child will be transitioning to a new classroom or school, try to avoid talking about how much he/she will miss their current teacher, how they will have to learn certain things or behave a certain way to be “big enough to move”. These types of comments only cause more anxiety for children. Also, do your best not to show anxiety yourself...it makes the transition that much more intimidating.

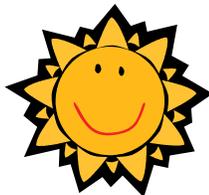
In all cases, do your best to put a positive “spin” on all conversations with your child regarding transitioning – especially if you anticipate difficulty.



## Valet Drop-off on Graduation Morning

The morning of Graduation, as the start time approaches, the parking lot will become quite a challenge. If you are only dropping off your child and not planning to stay and having trouble finding a parking place, PLEASE feel free to call the center when you arrive and pull right up to the sidewalk. Someone on our staff will come out to pick up your child. **Staff cannot remove children from car seats though;** so parents will need to get out of vehicle to unbuckle and remove the child.

## Summer Fun Begins on 6/24/19!



We will take out the sprinklers; spend more time outdoors doing activities, and welcome new friends into the program. Children can bring *labeled* swimsuits, towels and full coverage water shoes (no flip flops or crocs) in a bag **other than plastic.** Please let your child's



## Withdrawing This Summer?

If your child will be withdrawn this summer, remember that your last week's tuition has already been paid. Please contact Pam Frogameni at 782-4448 between 9:30 and 4:00 or through email at [pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org) if you have questions regarding your account balance.

If withdrawing this summer, in **January 2020**, feel free to contact Pam Frogameni to have a statement mailed to you regarding the total amount paid in for child care in 2019. **Statements are only mailed out to withdrawn families when requested in January.**

### Children's House Website

[www.childrenshouseinc.org](http://www.childrenshouseinc.org)



#### We Have Slots Available!

Please let friends, neighbors, family members and co-workers know we have late summer and fall **full time** Infant, Toddler and Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten openings!

Children's House has a **fully accredited full day (9-hr) Kindergarten program**. If you don't want to have to arrange after school care and transportation, please consider staying with Children's House for Kindergarten!

We have been able to give at least 4 families \$50 WalMart gift cards or tuition credits for their referrals this school year. We'd love to give your family one too!

Refer a new family\*...after one month of enrollment (excludes summer only enrollment), you will receive a special "Thank you" from us!

Children's House accepts NEFW vouchers for Kindergarten.

\*some restrictions apply



## Safety on the Playground

We require that children wear sneakers on the playgrounds to protect their feet from mulch and pea stones and also to give them enough "grip" on the climbing structures. If children feel they must wear sandals to school, please send in (labeled) sneakers for them to change into before going outdoors.

Beginning on 6/24/19, for outdoor water play, we need the children to wear full coverage water shoes as opposed to flip-flop or croc type footwear. **Also important** is to let the staff know if your child has ear tubes or any other medical situation that might be impacted by outdoor water play.



## Staff and Children's Vacations

During the summer, staff take their well-deserved vacations. Judy, from our Infant rooms, and Dianne, from our Toddler rooms, will be off this summer. We have enlisted our part-time staff to help cover some days and have hired substitutes to help teachers this summer. We will always have at least one staff person who is familiar to the group with the children. Coverage for some vacations will depend on enrollment during certain weeks of the summer. Classes may be combined due to low attendance during the more popular summer weeks.

*If you already know your child will be out certain days or weeks this summer, we would really appreciate the early notice so that we can best plan coverage.*

**Vacation Notices are available on the credenza in the main hallway. Please take a few moments to complete and return if you know the date(s) your child(ren) will be out. (A note or email to Pam Flowers is certainly fine too - no need to use the form - [pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org)).**





## Thanks to our Children's House Staff

As we close out another school year and approach the summer months, we would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation to our staff for all their hard work and dedication this school year!

We are all looking forward to a fun-filled summer and anticipate welcoming some alumni children and many new families to Children's House in the coming months.

## Special Thanks to Parents



*Special thanks goes out to all those parents who helped chaperone field trips, donated toys and awesome classroom materials, read stories to the children, came in to help with special projects, and/or brought refreshments for parties. We've even had parents help us out this school year by donating paper for the classrooms, copier, easels and projects.*

*Big thanks also goes out to parents who volunteered as a Room Representative this school year!*

### **Children's House 18-19 Room Representatives**

Infants – Laura Brown  
Toddlers – Meggan Baker  
Preschool 2 – Carolyn Rodriguez  
Preschool 3 – Jennifer Willis  
Pre-K/K – Kelly Maguire

*Warm wishes and thanks also go out to all our parents who have encouraged our staff with positive comments and smiles everyday. This is not always an easy job. Parents like you make it so much easier!*

## **Cookbook Project**

We are still hoping to get a few more recipes sent in to fill in this Parent/Staff project! Thanks

so much to those of you who already sent in your recipes.

Please send any of your family's favorite recipes to: [pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org) so we can get them into the final copy before Graduation!

## **Family Surveys**

It's that time of year again when we ask parents to complete a **Family Survey** so that we can get an idea of how things are going from the parent perspective.

Copies will be sent home on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> via email. Please complete as soon as possible and return to the tuition drawer. Surveys are supposed to be confidential, so please don't hand-deliver to your child's teacher – unless you're ok with having it read by them. Surveys can also be emailed back if that's easier, but will then be printed and won't show who they came from.

An additional form will be included for more specific feedback. It was created by the FIA Parent group a few years back and has shown to be a great way for us to receive important, detailed information from parents regarding their experiences with our staff.

Our accreditation by NAEYC requires that we receive a 60% return on surveys in order for them to "count". We're hoping that all families will take about 10 minutes to jot down responses and send along so that we can use the survey results in our Annual Report which is due in August. Results will be shared in the summer newsletter. **The classroom with the highest percentage of returns by 6/21/19 will receive a special ice cream party!**

If parents have any questions or aren't sure of any items on the survey, please ask before responding "DK – Don't know". As DK has to be counted as a "No" response and doesn't help our end result. We want parents to be informed, so if we've missed something or if information was unclear, we are happy to go over it again.



*We sincerely appreciate  
your continued  
involvement and support!*