

Children's House Newsletter

June 2022

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.



2022

Pre-K GRADUATION!

June 16th 10:00 am to 11:00 am
on the Preschool/Pre-K Playground

Postponed - New date TBD

Parents and close family of Pre-K graduates are invited to come celebrate with us! We are limiting guest attendance to just the Pre-K parents and close family members to try to limit the gathering size due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the community and, unfortunately, some at our center. The majority of the seating will be reserved for **parents** of Pre-K/K grads. *All other seating will be reserved for family of the graduates.*

Also, to avoid serious major parking issues, please carpool with family when possible. 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.*

Refreshments are welcomed!

We do ask that families who attend help us out by bringing some type of hand held 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 also cannot serve anything with artificial sweeteners.

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions, we cannot serve home-baked/made items to the children. Any home-made/baked items that come in will be left in the lounge for staff. All items brought in must be unopened and store bought.



Let's all hope for sunshine! Only a few times in 35+ years, have we been forced inside by rain so we're hoping for the best!

If rain or storms threaten/happen, we will set up inside the main hallway area to award diplomas **one child at a time** and offer photo opportunities for the graduate and the immediate family.

PreK graduate families will be asked to choose a specific time of day to be on site if we have to cancel the outdoor group presentation.

Drop-off on Graduation Morning



The morning of Graduation, as the start time approaches, the parking lot will become quite a challenge. If you have a child in the Infant through P3 classes and are only dropping off your child *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.

More June Upcoming Events...

6/6/22 -6/15/22

Parent/Teacher Conferences (Tods - K)



It's conference time! Conferences can be held in person before or after hours or by phone. Please ask your child's teacher for dates/times that the teacher is available. Each room (Toddlers through K) should have a sign-up sheet posted very soon.

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 time convenient to both you and the teacher.

Please recognize that teachers have some restrictions on their availability but will make great efforts to arrange a time for any parent who would like to meet.

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.

6/17/22 Staff Professional Development
Day

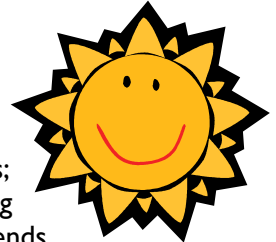
Center Closed

6/19/22 Happy Father's Day!



6/19/22 Happy Juneteenth!

Summer Fun Begins on 6/20/22!



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 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.

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 if you have questions regarding your account balance.

If withdrawing this summer, in **January 2023**, feel free to contact Pam Frogameni to have a statement mailed to you regarding the total amount paid in for child care in 2022.

Statements are only mailed out to withdrawn families when requested in January.



Transitions

Parents and children will be notified 1-2 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.

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.

Safety on the Playground

We require that children and staff wear sneakers (or some type of fully closed shoes) 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 6/20/22, 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.

Children's House Website

www.childrenshouseinc.org



We Have Slots Becoming Available!

Please let friends, neighbors, family members and co-workers know we expect to have slots available this summer and possibly into early September. We have opened our third Infant room now and are currently filling the last 3 slots along with one slot in Infant 2 available late this month.

We also anticipate 3 openings in Infant 1 and 2 later this summer and we'll be expanding our Toddler availability as well.

Children's House has a *fully accredited full day (9-hrs/day) 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!*

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 Seven Hills vouchers for Kindergarten.



*Referral bonus does not apply to state subsidized slots

Special 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 those on our staff who work so hard work and dedicate so much of their time and attention to our school and your children each and every day. We are still dealing with restrictions and hiring challenges and despite this, so many on our staff come through for us in a big way. We are so grateful!!





Staff and Children's Vacations

During the summer, staff take their well-deserved vacations. We have enlisted our part-time staff to help cover some days and have hired substitutes/per diem staff to help teachers this summer. We will always have at least one staff person who is familiar to the group with the children. ALL our employees are required to complete a full background check which includes: CORI, SORI, DCF and National Fingerprinting.

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. Please send an email to Pam Flowers or leave a note with your child's teacher.



pjflowers720@gmail.com is the best email for quicker delivery.
pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org sometimes takes 24 hours or more to come through.

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.



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 **Monday, June 13th** via email. Please complete the survey as soon as possible and return (stapled, in an envelope or taped closed) to your child's teacher. Surveys are supposed to be confidential, so please don't hand-deliver to your child's teacher fully accessible – unless you're ok with having it read by them. Surveys can also be emailed back if that's easier, but will show the sender. When printed, no names will be attached.

An additional form will be included for more specific feedback. It was created by the Family Involvement Association Parent group several 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.

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.

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 September newsletter.

The classroom with the highest percentage of returns by 7/15/22 will receive a special ice cream party!

