

Children's House Learning, Inc.

Newsletter

June 2024

June Themes

Insects

Bees, Caterpillars
Butterflies, Ants
Fireflies
Grasshoppers
Ladybugs



Father's Day

Flag Day

Graduation

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 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Preschool Playground

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 this does happen, 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 children will perform one song each. The Pre-K/K group will perform two songs along with the diploma ceremony and then PS children will participate with PK/K in the finale song.

Refreshments to celebrate the graduates are welcomed! They will be served following the ceremony on the patio out front.



Upcoming Events

5/28/24 - 6/14/24 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 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.



6/21/24 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 and 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.*



Again, refreshments are welcomed! We do ask that families who attend help us out by bringing some type of handheld food item or dessert that doesn't require utensils and will stand up well to outdoor temps, cut up fruit/veggies or munchies to be served after the ceremony. We unfortunately cannot serve homemade/home baked items, anything with artificial sweeteners.

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!*

Note: Parents are cautioned not to park along the tree belt out front as cars have been ticketed there in the past. It is possible that Springfield College Child Development Center will allow some cars to park across the street. We will post if this is an option.



Valet Drop-off on Graduation Morning 9am-10:00am

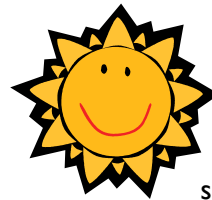
The morning of Graduation, as the start time approaches, the parking lot will become quite a challenge. If you are only dropping off your child, not planning to stay *and* having trouble finding a parking place, PLEASE feel free to call the center when you arrive and pull right up to the sidewalk. Someone on our staff will come out to pick up your child.

Please Note: Staff cannot remove children from car seats. Parents will need to get out of vehicle to unbuckle and remove the child.

6/16/24 Happy Father's Day!



6/19/24 Juneteenth – Center Closed



Summer Fun Begins on 6/24/24!

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. Sunscreen must have child's first AND last name on the bottle and cannot be “flammable” (see the back of the container to check this).

Parents are asked to apply the first coat in the morning. Staff will only be responsible for afternoon application if sunscreen is on site and if children will be going outside.

**6/28/24 Professional Development
Workshop – Center Closed**



Transitions

Parents 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 or new classroom assignment 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, work to put a positive "spin" on all conversations with your child regarding transitioning – especially if you anticipate difficulty.



Withdrawing This Summer?

If your child will be withdrawn this summer, remember that, in most cases, 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 2025**, feel free to contact Pam Frogameni to have a statement mailed to you regarding the total amount paid in for child care in 2024. **Statements are only mailed out to withdrawn families when requested in January.**



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 6/24/24, 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. 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. Classrooms 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 have been emailed with re-registration info and are available from your child's teacher or on the main credenza. 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 – pjflowers720@gmail.com).



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.





Family Surveys

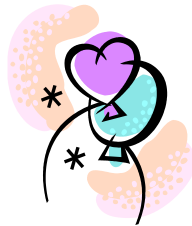
It's that time of year again when we ask parents to complete a **Family Survey** so that we can get an idea of how things are going from the parent perspective.

Copies have been sent home via email and are also available on the credenza in the main hallway. Please complete as soon as possible and return to your child's teacher, to the labeled collection area in the main hallway or forms can be sent back via email to (pjflowers720@gmail.com). Surveys are supposed to be confidential, so if you hand your form back to your child's teacher, please place it in a sealed envelope. If surveys are emailed, when printed, they will not show the sender's identifying info.


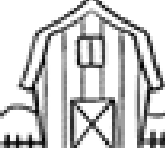

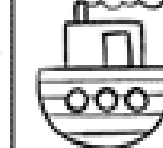











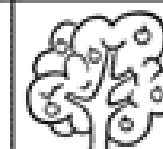
We're hoping that all families will take about 10 minutes to jot down responses and send them along so that we can use the survey results in our Annual Report, which is due in August. Results will be shared in the September newsletter.

If parents/guardians have any questions or aren't sure of any items on the survey, we would appreciate the opportunity to share any info or offer any explanation that can give some clarification on the topic. We want families to be informed, so if we've missed something or if information is unclear, we are happy to offer explanation.

We sincerely appreciate your continued involvement and support!



Engaging Car Ride Activity

ROAD TRIP SCAVENGER HUNT			
COLOR IT WHEN YOU SEE IT			
 BIRD	 BARN	 AIRPLANE	 BOAT
 CAR	 HORSE	 CLOUDS	 STOP SIGN
 FLOWERS	 TRAFFIC CONE	 COW	 WATER
 DOG	 BICYCLE	 TRAFFIC LIGHT	 TREES

