



Children's House NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017



March Themes

- ❖ Lions & Lambs
- ❖ How Things Are Made
- ❖ St. Patrick's Day
- ❖ Wind
- ❖ Rainbows
- ❖ Frogs & Toads
- ❖ Turtles and Tortoises
- ❖ Doll's Day & Boy's Day (a Japanese Celebration)



...and/or any other special topics of interest voiced by the children.

If families have any materials or would like to share information on themes, please feel free!



Upcoming Events

3/12 Daylight Savings - Spring Ahead!

3/17 St. Patrick's Day Party!

Nut-free snacks are welcome with all ingredient lists. Items sent in without full ingredient lists will be left in the lounge for the staff. Healthy treats are encouraged (yogurt, fresh fruit, fruit bars, etc.). Thanks!



*Spring FINALLY
Begins Officially on:
March 20, 2017*



3/22 FIA (Family Involvement Association) **Meeting 4:30-5:15 at Children's House**

Please send any agenda items to Pam Flowers at pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org.

Our new owner, Sandip Patel will be at the meeting to meet parents and share his ideas. We will also begin planning of Week of the Young Child events (April 24th -27th).

Contacting Families in an Emergency

Please let your child's teacher know if you will not be reachable using your regular contact numbers on any given day.

If there is an injury or illness, we need to be able to reach parents/guardians. If the center needs to be evacuated or closes early for weather or any other reason, we need to know which families must be contacted by phone instead of email.

It would be best to leave a note on your child's Daily Information Sheet (Infants/Toddlers) or to jot something quick into the Communication Notebook –

located in all Preschool and Pre-K classes. That way, teachers don't have to go by memory – especially if there's an emergency. Thank you!

Staff Workshops and Inservices

Each year, all teaching staff are required to attend a minimum of 20 hours of outside training on topics relevant to their position. Some of this training can be accomplished by reading materials or obtaining information on the internet and writing a short report on the information gained. Most of the training is done through attending area workshops or by attending meetings planned after hours at CH with a guest speaker.

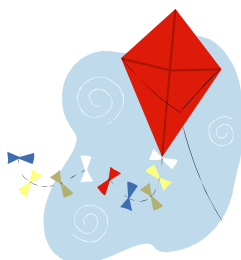


Recently, various staff have attended workshops on CPR, First Aid, Choking, Dual Language Learners, and some staff have taken correspondence inservices or webinars on topics such as Positive Discipline in the Classroom and Family Diversity.

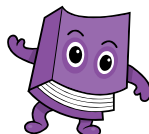
When staff attend these varied workshops, we encourage them to share info gained with each other. They motivate one another to sign up for similar workshops or correspondence courses and the result is a



wealth of great information gained that truly benefits the children in our care!



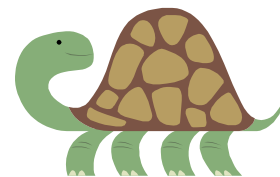
Library Books & Center Materials



Staff and administration work very hard to provide the children with a wonderful variety of materials on a daily basis. It has always been a little bit of a challenge to keep items in classroom centers or library areas because children pick them up to look at and sometimes end up taking them from the classrooms.

As a general rule, staff do not allow the children to borrow library books or other classroom materials. They **MAY** allow children to borrow one of their own personal books, but only if they are aware the child is taking it home. Teachers are completely financially responsible for the books and other materials they borrow from the libraries. When they cannot return a missing book, they are charged for replacement. Often times, hardcover books run in the neighborhood of \$15- \$20 each and this can certainly add up.

Please check your child's backpack and books at home fairly often to be sure no books (or other items) from the center/library have accidentally gone home. If library or staff



books are found, please leave them with the appropriate teacher (if labeled with a staff member's name) or leave in the office if stamped by a library.

The staff really appreciate your assistance!

NAEYC Re-Accreditation Visit

Children's House has been nationally accredited by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children** with no lapses in accreditation since 1991. Each year we are required to submit detailed documentation in an annual report. Every 5 years, a full on-site evaluation occurs. This is our year!

We are expecting an email or call from our assigned Assessor to set the date for a 2 day-long visit to our center. We expect a visit by the end of this month.

It's a bit nerve-wracking for us to have someone in the building looking so closely at *all* goings-on, furnishings, materials, files and portfolios...but we are up for the challenge!

Parents can help us by getting all files up to date - medical information and

Now Enrolling for Spring & Summer

Please tell your friends, relatives and colleagues that Children's House is now accepting deposits for spring and summer vacancies.

Brochures are available to the left at the front door. Feel free to take a brochure or two to work or to friends and relatives.

Remember that there is a Referral Bonus for currently enrolled parents who refer a new family to Children's House.*

A \$50 gift card or a \$50 tuition credit will be given to the referring family after the new child has been enrolled for one month.



Please help us get the word out!

** Some restrictions apply*



just general forms in the file that expire yearly need to be current at the time of the visit.

As soon as the date is set, we will be sure to let parents know.



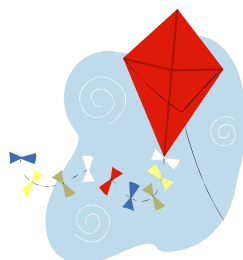
Access Card Breakage Issue

It has come to our attention that some access cards are breaking at the edge where a lanyard would be attached. Parents have told us that it seems to happen when they attach the access card to their keychain.

Because the access cards aren't meant to attach to a keychain, we cannot be responsible for replacing the card if the card breaks at that point or is lost due to breaking off a keychain.

Doorbell/Entry Requests

Since we sent out the last plea for parents to use their access cards, we have seen some decrease in entry requests. However, we are still having to let in some parents who have been issued cards.



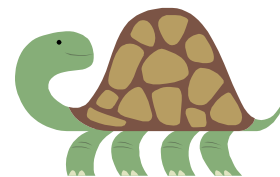
If your *card is missing* and you have notified us and paid the \$5 for the new card, but have not yet received it, please email Pam Frogameni at pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org. Irene is now out on leave and we're not clear on who has requested new cards and not received them.

If you have *lost your card* and have *not yet notified* us, please let us know. To receive a new card, just place \$5.00 in a labeled envelope in the tuition drawer with a note saying you need your access card replaced. Pam Frogameni will get it to you as soon as possible.

We have been intermittently experiencing some difficulty with the doorbell itself. It's possible that it could be from people pressing the bell too hard, children hitting it with their hands and also from the angle at which a child would press the button (in a upward direction – sometimes multiple times!), making it catch at an angle that doesn't allow it to easily release.

For these reasons, we are asking that only adults ring the bell.

Teachers will be discussing this with the children to assist parents in implementing this request. Thank you!!



A Couple Last Reminders...

- For Toddlers through Kindergarten...Children should not bring *any* food to the center. Food allergies and choking issues are a big concern. Children can bring their own breakfast to eat or “finish up” here *only when* a parent stays with the child in the staff lounge. Food items cannot be brought to the classrooms unless there is enough to share with the whole class and the food items have a full ingredient list showing that they are nut/peanut free and not processed in a factory that also processes nuts/peanuts.
- The snow has melted away nicely for the most part, but the children still need their snow boots because it's so wet out. Children can still bring all their snow gear here daily so they can stay warm and dry (at least *under* the wet snow pants!). The group will go out together even if children in the group are ill-prepared. We have some “extras”, but children really like to have their own “stuff” so we ask parents to be diligent about providing needed items daily.

