



# Children's House NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019



## 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

**Mondays & Tuesdays from 3/11/19 to 4/23/19**  
**Springfield College Occupational Therapy Students on site for Internships!**  
 Children's House will host 7 students this session.



**3/10 Daylight Savings - Spring Ahead!**

**3/15 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, 2019**



**3/21 FIA (Family Involvement Association) Meeting 12:00-1:00 MassMutual Acadia Room** hosted by P2 Room Rep, Carolyn Rodriguez.

Please send any agenda items to Pam Flowers at [pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org).

We will begin planning of Week of the Young Child events (April 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>).



## Contacting Families in an Emergency

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

If there is an incident, injury or illness that arises, 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 which is 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!*

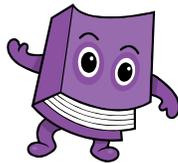
## Staff Workshops and Inservices

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 is accomplished by reading materials or obtaining information online and then 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 trainings on CPR, First Aid, Choking Prevention, Team Building, Nutrition, and some staff have taken correspondence workshops or webinars on topics such as Best Practices in the Early Childhood Classroom and 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



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.

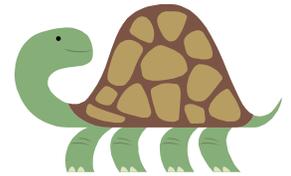
*Please check your child's back pack and books at home fairly often to be sure no books (or other items) from the center/library have accidentally gone home. If library or staff books or other materials are found, please leave them with the appropriate teacher (if labeled with a staff member's name) or leave in the office if stamped by a library.*

*The staff appreciate your assistance with this!*

## 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.



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.



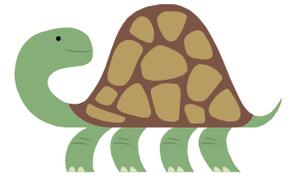
## Challenging Parking

We are aware that the snow has taken some of the space from our front parking lot. We're having the same issue out back for the staff. This means some who normally park out back have had to move out front making the situation a little more challenging.

Spring is around the corner so we're hopeful that this is a short-term issue.

In the meantime, please use the spaces available. We ask that parents **NOT** park along the sidewalk/patio or along the front of the building.

Also, we know it's still pretty cold out there, but parents **must turn off vehicles** in our lot. It's a huge safety issue.



**Now Enrolling**

**for**

**Spring & Summer**

*Please tell your friends, relatives and colleagues that Children's House has the following open slots: MTW and MWF in Preschool Th F in Toddlers*

*Summer will be here before we know it! Late April/early May, we'll be asking families to commit to the new school year by renewing registration. This will help us to determine slot availability for those interested in enrollment.*

*We are so appreciative when parents help us to fill vacant slots. 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.*



*\* Some restrictions apply*

## NAEYC Accreditation

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. We are current at our WR site until 2021 as we were just reaccredited a couple years ago.

In June, we'll be asking parents to complete a confidential Family Questionnaire that is collated and the results are referenced in our Annual Report to NAEYC. At the FIA meeting that follows after results are tallied, results will be shared with families.

With NAEYC accreditation, there is the potential for unannounced visits to the program. Unannounced visits are not typical, but they do happen. We can also be visited randomly by our EEC (State) Licensor.

**Parents can help us remain in compliance at all times by keeping children's files up to date - medical information and general forms in the file that expire yearly need to be current AT ALL TIMES.**

## 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 main hallway or 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 and contain no artificial sweeteners.
- Children need their snow boots and other outdoor weather gear every day the temp goes above 30 degrees (including wind chill). 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.

