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Looks what's coming...

Fall family picnic

- September 22

Welcome to UMCC!

Did you notice the table just outside our entrance door? This new addition will be a focus point for written parent communication. When you see a flyer or letter posted here, you know that it is important communication just for you as a parent of UM Children's Center. While the center will continue to send out messages by email or in parent mailboxes, our goal was to provide a central location for information as well. (So you just might get an email as well as seeing it posted outside our front door!) This also provides teachers full use of their bulletin boards for their session information.

Transitions at UMCC

Changes continue to happen at UM Children's center! With the start of the new school year in September, I would like to remind everyone that the year continues on until August 27, 2010. Along with the new Monday through Friday format, UMCC is now a year-round center. What does this mean for children and families? Opportunities for children to transition into the next program will be able to happen without waiting a full year.

Space must be available in the next session for a child to be considered for the transition move. Children will be developmentally ready and age-appropriate in order to move into the next age group. Teachers will contact parents for discussion when their child has the opportunity to transition, providing there is space and the child is ready to transition.

The staff at UMCC has taken this summer to have discussions on how transitions will happen and the importance of communication between parents and teachers when a child is ready to move forward into the next age group. Together we have set a process on what needs to happen with parent communication and the transition process itself. Teaching teams will work on what developmental guidelines a child is on task doing to ensure a positive transition.

Watch for a parent meeting dealing with the topic of Center Transitions at UMCC in the near future. It is important to us to provide you additional information as well as be available to answer your questions.



Center Hours

Mornings sessions (1, 3, 5, 7)

Monday-Friday from 7:45-12:00 with a 15 minute pick up time from 12:00-12:15.

Afternoon sessions (2, 4, 6, 8)

Monday-Friday from 1:00-5:15 with a 15 minute pick up time from 5:15-5:30.

Full Day session (9)

Monday-Friday from 7:30-5:15 with a 15 minute pick up from 5:15-5:30

Please note:

A late charge of \$2 per minute will be incurred for children picked up after 12:15 or 5:30.

What Is Quality?

From: ExchangeEveryday@ChildCareExchange.com

The National Association of Child Advocates (www.childadvocacy.org), identifies the following as the most important factors that define quality in early childhood programs:

- Warm, sensitive and responsive interactions between caregiver and child
- Small group size and high staff/child ratios
- Stable, consistent relationships with a limited number of caregivers
- Qualified, trained staff
- Stimulating activities which support learning through play and are appropriate to the age of the child
- A safe and supportive physical environment
- Adequate nutrition and protection of children's health.

Lunch Bunch Information

Lunch Bunch can provide your child additional time at UMCC, eating lunch and socializing with other children and providing some extra time on the playground. Children who add Lunch Bunch will join the children attending our full-day session, as they eat together in the Multi-purpose room.

Remember that UMCC is a Nut-Restricted building, as you prepare your child's lunch. This year Peggy Wortmann will be in charge of Lunch Bunch along with our Auxiliary Service students. Lunch Bunch is a Monday through Friday only schedule. For questions, please contact either Dee Wellwood or Martha Kazmierzak at 734.763.6784.

Primary Caregiving

University of Michigan Children's Center in accordance with the State of Michigan Licensing (R 400.5202) models primary caregiving.

Primary Caregiving is also an indicator for high quality care in early childhood schools and programs as stated in the Accreditation Criteria and Procedures of the National Association of Early Childhood Programs. Each child and family will be assigned a primary teacher, who will be the primary communicator with your family and develop a special bond with your child.

The primary teacher will be especially aware of things like: your child's daily routines, parent schedules, food sensitivities, sleep needs, socialization patterns, preferred play experiences and social-emotional well-being.



This does not mean that you should

It is important that every child and parent feel a sense of continuity and security about their place within UMCC and the classroom.

Most likely your child's primary teacher will be the one who updates you about your child's day.

Please be assured that each teacher in the class will be equally familiar with and care for your

only speak to your child's primary teacher. You should feel comfortable developing relationships with all teachers in the

classroom. UMCC strongly encourages communication with all teachers that are involved with your child and your family. Primary Caregiving does not replace our teacher's team approach in the classroom. By assigning

children to a particular teacher, the center is asking the teacher to assume primary responsibility, not total responsibility.

It is important that every child and parent feel a sense of continuity and security about their place within UMCC and the classroom. Children's efforts to establish a warm and trusting relationship with their world around them are enhanced by creating significant relationships with a few caring adults. The critical benefits of primary caregiving are – continuity of care, consistency and appropriate social interactions. At UMCC, our goal is to provide a sense of partnership, contact and communication with each family.

New Parent Committee

It's time to get back on track! It's a new year and time to bring together interested parents who would like to be part of the UMCC Parent Committee (UMCC PC). Goals for the Parent Committee would include fundraising, parent/center events, staff appreciation as well as providing feedback through surveys. The committee would provide support in areas of morale, health and safety, center funding and other relevant issues. Parents would be able to take an active part in our NAEYC Accreditation and self study the center will be conducting this year.

Watch for an email asking for your interest in serving on the UMCC Parent Committee!



What you need to know and what we need from you!

- Be sure to turn in all enrollment forms to Dee at the front desk.
- The Child Information Card and Health Form are State of Michigan Licensing forms that the center must have on file. Health forms must be signed and dated by your child's doctor. The Child Information Card must be filled out in total. It is important that there is an alternate adult we can reach if you are unreachable. All phone numbers to reach you are important!
- Center Access cards are available to all families. (1 per family.) They will be available after September 8.
- Check out our website—you will find the new updated Parent Handbook!

Saying Good-bye Gets Easier With Time

“Honey, please let go. Mommy has to leave now,” urged Becky’s mom, wondering if she would have to drive to work with a thirty pound preschooler clamped to her leg. But even though it was getting late, the thought of walking away on her sobbing daughter troubled her. Other children were waving annoyingly cheerful good-byes to their parents. But not Becky. And Becky was what mattered to her right now.

Sometimes it’s difficult to know what to do when your child cries or clings when it’s time for you to leave. Such behavior is not unusual or unreasonable for young children. Even ones who have been to school before can fall apart at the last minute and it may continue for some time. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Arrive on time and greet the teacher like an old friend. If you’re among the first to arrive, the room will be quieter. Your child will have a chance to see you talking in a friendly way to the adult who will care for him. It’s easier for a child to accept a new teacher as a caregiver (and human being!) if it’s clear that you like her, too.
2. Bring along a comfort item to leave with your child. It might be a picture of you, a special blanket or a stuffed toy. A wise person once described such security items as being like a “portable mom.” They do help. In much the same way, a parent who leaves a scarf or other personal item with a toddler is also leaving a concrete message, “A piece of me is with you. I’ll be back.”
3. Don’t slip away while your child is busy playing. Doing so may cause her to mistrust

you and will only lead to more determined clinging next time. Always let your child know that you’re leaving. You’ll be helping her learn that separation can be faced and managed.

4. Tell your child when you’ll return. Although your child can’t tell time yet, he can understand ideas like, “I’ll be back when you’re playing outside after naptime.” Be sure to return when you said you would.
5. Say good-bye quickly. Say it cheerfully. And confidently. (Even if you don’t quite feel that way the first few times.) Every since he was a baby, your child has checked the expression on your face to find out how to react. When you look worried, he feels worried. Looking cheerful and confident says, “You can handle this!”
6. Call the school later if you’re concerned. Just as you might give a regretful sigh when seeing a loved one off at the airport, so might your child cry briefly when you say goodbye. Because she’s sad when you leave doesn’t mean she’ll be sad all day. Give the school a call later on. Knowing that she’s settled in can help you feel better.

It’s okay to take a while to learn to say good-bye to someone you love. It helps to keep in mind that saying good-bye gets easier with time and experience. Eventually, your child will understand fully that you’ll always return, and will be able to let you go with trust and confidence.

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