



CDC Newsletter

The Director's Corner

Dear CDC Families,

Dear Parents,

Spring is a time of transitions for all of us. Many of you are finishing a semester of studying in a few weeks, and will be moving away from Ann Arbor. Before you go, let me tell you how wonderful it has been to have your family enrolled in our center. As you look forward to new challenges and opportunities, remember that we will miss you. The teachers enjoy hearing from you after you are settled in a new place. If your child would like to draw a picture, or send a letter, we encourage you to keep in touch!

In this month's newsletter, we have described some special activities that you can do to celebrate April as the Month of the Young Child. I hope you will be able to try several of these activities as you spend some time enjoying your preschooler. They are young for such a short time! I hope you find joy as you create special memories together.



Each day of our lives we make deposits into the memory banks of our children.
—Charles R. Swindoll

Northwood Community
Child Development
Center

March 2008

Dates to Remember

March 20: CDC Spring Into Art Open House.

March 20: 1st day of Spring!

March 31—deadline to return enrollment survey.

April 1—30: Month of the Young Child.

April 7 -11: Parent/Teacher Conferences.

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American Kindergarten

Kindergarten in the United States is provided free of charge by the local public school systems. It is the start of the public school education that continues until the 12th grade. Children who turn the age of five by December 1st (of the year they will attend kindergarten) are eligible for kindergarten. Kindergarten follows the public school calendar and starts in early September, continuing thru June. (There are also private kindergartens available that charge tuition.)

In general, kindergarten is a half day program but often

other types of choices are available depending on the school district. Children can travel by bus to school (for no charge) or parents can drop them off and pick them up. Sometimes the school offers after school programs that require special enrollment (and are fee based) for families who require care all day. If not, families need to make arrangements with private child-care providers for after school care. Children with special needs, by law, cannot be discriminated against and are accepted into kindergarten classrooms.

22 Things You Can Do to Get Your Child Ready for Kindergarten

1. Read lots and lots of books.
2. Help your child learn to tie his shoes.
3. Hang a family calendar and schedule activities together. Discuss days, weeks, months.
4. Label objects in your house with words that your child tells you (television, door, bedroom, toybox, etc.).
5. Recite or read lots of nursery rhymes. Stop at the rhyming word and let your child fill it in.
6. Help your child keep a daily journal with one or two things from each day. Let your child dictate it to you and draw pictures.
7. Help your child learn to write her name.
8. Take a walk and find triangles, squares, rectangles and circles.
9. Teach your child their phone number.
10. Let your child cut numbers out of newspapers.
11. Teach your child their address (house #, street, city, state).
12. Teach your child their date of birth.
13. Have your child identify body parts (ankles,

wrists, etc).

14. Have your child identify items of one color (green: grass, lettuce, shirt, etc.)
15. Have your child draw pictures and make up stories to go with them.
16. Count the number of chairs, pillows, clocks, etc. in your home.
17. Pick a letter and have your child highlight or cut it out of magazines and newspapers.
18. Provide lots of practice for cutting safely with scissors.
19. Find familiar words in newspapers (K-Mart, McDonalds).
20. Identify patterns everywhere: for example, repeated squares on floor tile, plaids/repeated stripes in clothing, repeated words or phrases in books
21. Play games that use dice . Have your child count the dots. Show them how to write the number.
22. Sort collections by size, shape, color, etc. (money, buttons, macaroni, cards, just about anything).

SPRING INTO ART—CDC OPEN HOUSE

Northwood CDC invites all families to attend our Open House and children's art show:

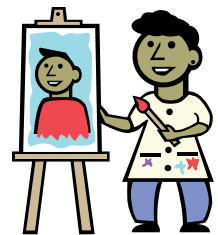
SPRING INTO ART

MARCH 20TH

4:30—6:00 PM

Northwood Community Center
Multi Purpose Room

We will feature the art of the children of Northwood CDC and celebrate the first day of spring with refreshments made by the children. Please join us after school that day and bring your family and friends.



Grown-ups never understand anything for themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.— Antoine de Saint-Exupery “The Little Prince”

Classroom Happenings

Blue Room: Sandy, Tracy and Sherry would like to thank families for participating in their classroom potluck. The turnout was great and they had lots of yummy food. They enjoyed a special treat this month of fresh fruit smoothies. The best part was that each child got to push the button on the smoothie maker! They would like to welcome Arnav and Siddharth to their classroom (they moved from Purple Room). All of the children of Blue Room have been very busy getting ready for the art show.

Green Room: The children of Green Room enjoyed Crazy Hat Day.

Some brought hats from home and some made their own at school. They also celebrated Pajama and Movie Day, when they got to enjoy the movie "The Very Hungry Caterpillar".



Crazy Hat day in the Green Room

They, too, have been busy getting ready for the art show by creating papier mache masks, and working

with play dough and clay sculptures. Cathy and Sara would like to remind all the families to bring in their recipes for their special Green Room Recipe Book. Please turn it in by March 31st. Everyone welcomes Shelly & Jannik to the Green Room!

Purple Room: The children of Purple Room enjoyed a visit from a dental hygienist to help them learn about keeping their teeth healthy. They also discussed the topic of safety by exploring street signs in their play and through their games and craft activities. Eve's Mom came in to have a dance party and Sarah helped the children have a tea party with juice and cookies made by the class.

They would like to welcome Alex and Yuki to their classroom. Everyone is anxious to unveil their brilliant Outer Space and Dinosaur dioramas at the Art Show.



The children of Purple room have a dance party.

A Letter to Families About Toys & Games

Toys and games include puzzles, various table blocks, small construction materials such as Legos, board games, and collections of objects (including shells, bottle caps, and buttons). When children use toys and games, they explore how things work; learn to be creative and use their imaginations; strengthen and control the small muscles in their hands; work cooperatively and solve problems; and learn math ideas and concepts.

When children use toys and games in the classroom, we encourage them to talk about what they are doing. For example, we might say:

- *Tell me about the design you made.*
- *How did you get those rings to fit together?*
- *You've picked out all blocks that look the same. Can you tell me how they are the same?*

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

You play an important role in selecting toys and games that are safe, interesting, and appropriate for your child's abilities. More importantly, research shows that the most creative are those who have had adults involved in their play. Here are a few ways that you

can be involved in your child's play with toys and games:

Observe. Watch as your child plays and notice his abilities and his interests.

Play. Follow your child's lead and join in his play.

Imagine. Keep in mind that there's more than one way to play with a toy. Be creative!

Enjoy. This isn't a time to drill your child or test him on what he knows. Just have fun being together, talking, and playing.

Good toys do not have to be expensive. You might collect various small objects such as buttons, seashells, rocks, and plastic bottle tops. Make suggestions such as: sort all the buttons that are the same color *or* all beads that are the same size. Encourage your child to tell you about the design he or she is making or to explain why things belong together.

Playing with toys and games at home promotes a child's development in many ways. We welcome you to help us out in the classroom by playing in our Toys and Games Area with the children. In this way you can see for yourself how much your child is learning there.

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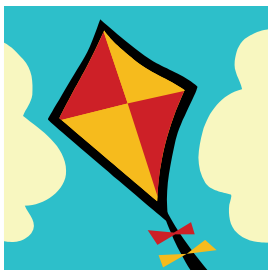
Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.—Sitting Bull

CDC Updates...

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Since 1999



If you have comments or suggestions for this newsletter please email Nancy at nfidler@umich.edu.

Licensing renewal. CDC had it's fire inspection by the fire marshal and licensing review by the State of Michigan the first week of March. This is required every two years. We are pleased to say that we have been renewed until 3/23/2010.

New heating system. During winter break we had a new heating and cooling system installed. Hooray!!! This will ensure that we have warm children and staff for many years to come.

Parent Reminders

April is designated the "The Month of the Young Child" throughout the State. We will celebrate children by providing many activities (presented by CDC staff) during the month. They are all scheduled to take place in the MPR at the Community Center. Look for an email flyer from your Community Aid.

Thank you for signing your child in and out every day. It is a licensing requirement. An accurate record of who is in the center helps us keep your child safe in the case of an emergency or fire.

Please keep in mind portion sizes for your child when providing lunch. Children's tummies are small and fill up quickly. Remember that CDC also provides a morning and afternoon snack to keep them energized during the day!

Don't forget to return you Fall Enrollment Survey form that was placed in your child's mailbox last week. We would like to know if we need to reserve a space for your child before we open registration up to our waiting list. We sincerely appreciate that they are returned to us even if your child will NOT be attending CDC this coming Summer of Fall. Please return them to Judy or Nancy at the front desk by Monday, March 31st.

Spring really is coming—hang in there!



