

# “Family Newsletter”

## Spring 2008



### Parent-Teacher Conferences are April 11<sup>th</sup>!

Please be sure to make the most of your child's conference.

Our Teachers have been working hard to be sure that a collection of your child's work and observations of their development have been recorded and documented for your review.

We value the opportunity to participate in your child's development and are always eager to share all that occurs at school with you!

### Food Service Update:

Congratulations to Miss Melissa, who as our new Facility Manager, has completed her training and certification in Food Service & Sanitation! She has also assisted in the implementation of many positive changes in our Food Service Program!

#### “Family Style & Dye Free Meals top the list!”

After observing our food service at meal-time, we noticed that some children only eat one component and throw away the rest. By pre-plating their meals, they were limited to the “maximum” quantity of that component so we wouldn't run out of that item for everyone else. We want children to not only enjoy their food, but be filled up to a comfortable level at meal and snack times. We have followed the recommendations of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and changed to “Family Style” meal service.

With this new style of food service, bowls full of each component are placed on each table and children are encouraged to take some of each item, serving themselves as much as they think they will eat (within reason ☺). While the adjustment period (the last two weeks) brought about some confusion, we are finding that the children are getting more of the food their bodies need and enjoying the process more too. We do not force any components, but rest assured no-one is eating applesauce for lunch. ☺

#### We are proud to say “House of Children is Dye-Free”!

In light of all of the new information being released regarding food dyes, House of Children has reviewed all of our vendors' products and have eliminated not only all known food dyes, but the vegetable based dye “annatto” as well. The publicized side affects based on updated research with larger numbers of children and more parental contributions, are leading to concerns regarding food dyes that are dramatic. Side affects being considered a result of ingesting food dyes (some of which are currently banned in other countries) include a decrease in academic development and increase in a variety of behavior problems.

\*\*\* Please be sure to help us out by requesting a list of healthy alternatives when you celebrate your child's birthday with us!

### Summer Camp Registration opens to the public on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>!

We will be hosting a Public Open House from 11-1! This is a great opportunity to bring a friend or family member to show off your child's school or to send over anyone you know who is interested in our programming!

Summer provides an opportunity for us to enroll new students, as many of our families or their relatives work seasonally and spend summers with their children.

Referred families receive a \$50 discount on enrollment and those of you who refer a family who enrolls receives a \$50 tuition credit! (one per family)

Please remember, we need all Summer Camp registration forms before Saturday to ensure that the proper camp supplies are ordered and to assure an accurate count in each class!

### Shopping for Summer Clothes?

Summer is prime time for buying new clothes. Please remember the potentially hazardous side-affects of dressing your child in clothing that depicts aggressive behavior.

In the interest of maintaining a safe play environment year-round, House of Children does not allow children to attend programming wearing Super-Hero clothing. Thank you.