

“Family Newsletter”

Happy New Year ‘08



Fall Programming Report:

It's time to move beyond the basics and thoroughly explore the concepts that have been presented to your child in the first half of the school year. Your child will begin to understand more about what it means to be a community helper and how plants grow. They will learn how to use sounds, not just how to make them.

Now that classroom routines are established and familiar, energy can be dedicated to more involved group times. Children will gain more self-help skills and teachers will be closely observing each child to record their developing skills.

If your child's teacher asks to meet with you during this second half of the school year, it is because they are seeking your involvement in your child's skill development. We will apply our wide range of knowledge and experience to providing the most effective environment, activity plans, materials, staffing and scheduling to encourage your child's development in all critical areas, but parents are a child's first teacher! Please be as involved as you can at this stage. Early years are the most critical years for laying the foundation for later learning.

Conferences

We will close the Toddler, Early Pre, Pre-School, Pre-K & Kindergarten classes for conferences from 7am until 5:30pm on April 11th. Please plan to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher regarding their development! Sorry, but there will be no re-schedules for missed conferences.

Infant and School-age classes will be open. Pre-K & Kindergarten students can register in advance for the full day school-age program at no additional charge. Children must be five years of age by April 11th to participate in “school-age” programming. There are 26 total spaces. First Come/First Served

School Closings

There are no more planned school-closings until conference day, April 11th, and then May 26th, Memorial Day! (Emergency closings due to weather always follow the decisions of School District 200. Listen to Star 105.5 in bad weather.)

Food Service Update

We are excited to announce Miss Melissa, formerly our lead Early Pre-School Teacher, is now running our Food Service Program! With her current medical training, upcoming Food Service Training and experience working directly with the children, Melissa is well prepared to ensure an effective, nutritional, well organized and fun Food Service Program. She will be managing medical exceptions for allergies, offering PB&J sandwiches as alternates to our main courses (upon request by parents), adding tasty new breakfast items, keeping the pantry well stocked, and keeping us all up-dated on our Food Service Program. Thank you Miss Melissa!

Full Day Pre-K & Kindergarten:

It is time to begin planning for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment for Fall '08.

As our community grows, we want to meet the needs of as many working parents as possible. We have only 19 spaces in each classroom however, and our current families and their referrals are our priority.

To better inform prospective Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families of their options, we will be hosting a **private Open House at 5pm, on Tuesday evening, February 5th** for parents of children who will turn four or five by July 1, 2008.

This is a good time to bring your friends! Let them meet our wonderful staff and hear what we have to offer. This Open House will not be announced to the public, but referrals are welcome and rewarded!

- Those choosing to enroll for Full Time Pre-K or Kindergarten Programming at the Open House, and placing their first week's tuition deposit, will receive their deposit back and incur no charge during the first week of School in the Fall. If a current family enrolls FT, and their referral enrolls FT, they receive two weeks free, and their referral receives one week free!

House of Children is serious about our Pre-K & Kindergarten programming!

For Families planning to attend District 200's Pre-K or Kindergarten, there will be a 2nd Open House at 5pm on Tuesday, 2/12

Since district 200 offers only 2&½ hr programming, House of Children has supplemental “care” right in our classrooms. Children attending district Pre-K or Kindergarten can participate part time or full time in our Pre-K & Kindergarten programs, and the district provides bus transportation to & from their programs.

FYI All of our programs accept subsidy assistance!

Annual Rate Increase / Year-End Statements

Our annual 4% tuition increase will take effect on Feb. 1st. Families participating in DHS subsidy will enjoy a reduction in their co-pay that will at least partially off-set the rate increase.

Miss Kari will e-mail you your new family rate and year-end statement by 1/21. Please verify that we have your current e-mail address on file! Thank you.