



# PCHC Spotlight

April, 2010

## APRIL NEWS

**PCHC Family Fun Supper Fundraiser**  
**5:00 pm-7:00 pm on Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup>**

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Come enjoy supper with our PCHC family, while helping raise funds for our playground improvement project! We will sell raffle tickets and have lots of attractive prizes.

Supper choices will be Spaghetti and meatballs or baked chicken and fried rice, with salad and soft drinks. The price for supper will be \$8 per adult plate or \$15 for two adult plates and \$5 for children, ages 2-12. We will be asking you to donate raffle items and baked goods for dessert. Raffle tickets will be sold prior to and at the event.

Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join the fun! Invite grand parents, siblings, neighbors, and friends. Suggestions for raffle items – gift certificates, hand-made items, new toys, electronic items, sports tickets etc...

### Reminders

Summer activity fee deposits of \$75.00 are due by April 30th. You should have received the summer calendar for your child along with a summer registration form to complete. Please return your summer registration form by April 30th. This will ensure that there is a space available for your child during summer camp.

### Accreditation Progress

We have started using *The Creative Curriculum* in our classrooms. It is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education and follows guidelines that will make a smooth transition to the public schools for the children when they leave our program. Please feel free to give us feedback if you have any comments or suggestions.

**Ms. Pat (Director)**

### Referral Program

**PCHC now offers a \$50 credit to current families who refer new families to the Center. Contact Ms. Pat for detailed information about the program**

PCHC accepts credit card payments for tuition. You may pay by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Credit card payments are processed on Mondays each week.

## April Birthdays

Congratulations to:

- 1 – Amanda DeAngelis
- 4 – Kyle Denny
- 7 – Adonis Martinez
- 9 – Kaelyn Wrightson
- 19 – Austin Sealing
- 20 – Gregory Horne
- 27 – Amaiya Dorsey
- 28 – Hannah Reich



## Classroom Updates

### Incredible Infants

In the infant room this month, our theme is Signs of Spring and our concept focus will be object permanence. Object permanence allows the infants to understand that an object still exists, even out of sight, and will ease the separation from parents. We will accomplish this with games of peek-a-boo and hiding the toys under a blanket. Our infants will also enjoy jumping like frogs and waddling like ducks. Our new song we will be singing in "Rain and Thunder" to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?". (Rain and Thunder, Rain and Thunder, Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!, See the flash of lightning, Oh, my gosh, it's frightening! Boom! Boom! Boom!, Boom! Boom! Boom!)

Ms. Kristy – Infant Teacher

### Tiny Toddlers

We are getting out every day now and we love it!! We are all trying new words and we love to read books and sing songs. We are learning our body parts – nose, eyes, ears, mouth, hands and feet. During the month of April, we will be exploring new signs of life and we will make crafts for spring and Easter. This will provide the children with many sensory activities.

Ms. Amber – Toddler Teacher

### Terrific Twos

Happy Spring to all of our friends and family. We are glad to see the snow is melted and nice weather is on the way. This month, our terrific twos will focus on Having Fun with Nature. This is a wonderful theme designed to introduce our twos to the many different insects and animals that live in our backyards and gardens. During this unit, our friends will have the opportunity to explore what these creatures look like, where they live, and why they are so important to our world. This will also introduce the importance of plants as well. The children should really enjoy this as we make projects such as: flowers, baby chicks, dragonflies, and beehives.

Ms. Sarah and Ms. Dar

**Threes**

We have started using our new curriculum called "The Creative Curriculum for Pre-School". A daily planner will be on our classroom news bulletin board for you to see what your child is learning each day. If you have any questions about the new curriculum, please feel free to ask.

Our monthly theme for April will be Spring Time and we are hoping to enjoy some warm and dry days on the playground. This month will be learning the letters P,Q,R,S,T, and U and numbers 6 and 7. We will be using writing, dramatic play, art, movement, science, math and sensory activities to teach these letters and numbers. For letter R, we will be making and enjoying some rainbow pudding.

You may now contact me by e-mail at [awalker@homeworkcenters.com](mailto:awalker@homeworkcenters.com). I will be checking it during naptime and at night before I leave at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Mandi and Ms. Jackie

**Fabulous Fours**

Spring has Sprung! This month our weekly themes will include the Plant Life Cycle, Insects, and the season of Spring. We will add the letters Uu, Vv, Ww, and Xx. During circle time we will be continuing to add sight words to our word wall.

We will be doing a lot of creative activities to keep the children engaged and learning. We will be making a lot of take home surprises, so please check your child's cubby daily to make sure to take these items home to share with your child.

As always, we hope to be as helpful as possible. Please ask if you have any questions.  
Ms. Alicia and Ms. Robyn

**Sensational School- agers**

Hello Spring! We are working hard to move into the fourth and final quarter of the school year. We have upgraded our resources at the homework center to reflect some of the advances in the class curriculums.

Remember that we play as hard as we work. Please check our parent board on a regular basis to see the trips and craft activities that we have planned. Thanks to the parents who assisted with our last party. We had a great time! Let me take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Jena who is a high school volunteer in our schoolage environment! Ms. Jena has been very helpful and supportive in our room.

During the spring changes in weather, please check the weather daily and dress your child accordingly.

Thank- you, Ms. Mac

## LITERACY – CREATIVE CURRICULUM – PART 1

### Why is Literacy Important?

- Strong language and literacy skills are essential for children’s success in school and in life.
- Children who do not learn to read and write by the end of the primary grades are at risk for school failure.
- Effective instruction in the preschool years can make a significant difference.

### What the Research Tells Us

- Literacy learning begins at birth but many children are not receiving a healthy diet of rich language and literacy experiences.
- By age three, differences in children’s understanding and use of language and literacy skills are enormous.
- The number of words a child knows and uses is a good predictor of reading ability.

### New Expectations and Mandates

- The bar for literacy learning has been raised for preschool children and their teachers.
- Every state has developed or is developing standards that preschool children must achieve at age 4 before entering kindergarten and teachers are accountable for ensuring that children develop these skills.
- Teachers must be intentional about how they talk with children and the kinds of activities they plan.
- Teachers need to help children acquire critically important attitudes, skills, and knowledge about language and literacy.
- However, there is no magic formula or single approach to teaching language and literacy skills that will address every child’s individual needs and learning style.
- Language and literacy instruction is effective when built into a comprehensive approach that gives equal attention to all aspects of the child’s development.

### The Creative Curriculum Approach: How Children Develop and Learn

- Teachers must know what preschool children are like, developmentally and individually.
- How culture affects how they relate to others and learn
- What interests individual children
- Teachers should use this information to make decisions about appropriate activities
- How to interact and ask questions and how to motivate each child

### The Learning Environment:

- The physical environment should be organized and interesting to pique children’s interest in learning.

- Literacy materials can and should be part of every area so that children can use them in their play to learn.
- Use daily routines and schedules to offer more opportunities to involve children in meaningful read and writing experiences.

### **What Children Learn:**

- Children should acquire knowledge in all content areas: literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology.
- Teachers should understand the seven components of literacy to enable them to teach and support the development of skills in these components to children:
  - Literacy as a source of enjoyment
  - Vocabulary and language
  - Phonological awareness
  - Knowledge of print
  - Letters and words
  - Comprehension
  - Books and other texts

### **Teacher's Role:**

- After families, teachers are the single most important influence on children's learning.
- Teachers are role models in language and literacy learning.
- Teachers must observe children in order to address children's individual needs.
- Teachers can use the 13 objectives in Creative Curriculum that apply to speaking and listening, reading and writing to introduce new knowledge and skills to children.
- Teachers help children apply and practice these skills during small-group activities, interest areas, and by engaging them in studying a topic that has meaning to them.

- **The Family's Role:**

- Language and literacy experiences begin at birth and family members are children's first and life-long teachers.
- When teachers form partnerships with families, children do better in school.
- Teachers can share with families the importance of talking with their children, teaching them new words, asking questions, engaging in conversations, and picking out interesting children's books.

In part II, we will explore some of the components of literacy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [freeman@homeworkcenters.com](mailto:freeman@homeworkcenters.com)

### **Reference:**

Literacy, *The Creative Curriculum Approach* (2007); Teaching Strategies, Washington DC.

## Community Resource features:

### TOT'S LINE

The Anne Arundel County **TOT'S LINE** is a free telephone service set up to respond to a variety of questions from parents or caregivers of children from birth to 5 years old. This service is available to anyone who lives or works in Anne Arundel County and is funded through the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Family Services. The service offers advice to parents and caregivers. Although it does not give out medical advice, it is able to respond to general medical questions, identify resources, locate medical information, as well as help prepare for upcoming medical appointments.

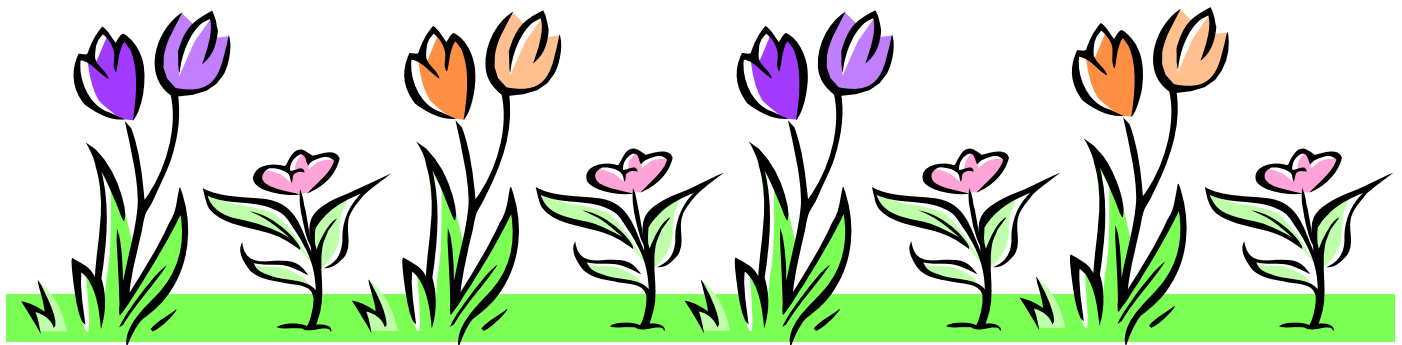
You may reach Tot's Line at 1-877-817-TOTS (8687)



# Upcoming Events

April 2010

April 1-5	AACPS closed – PCHC open for child care
April 15	Life Touch Spring Portraits for all children
April 30	\$75.00 Deposit due for summer activities
May 19	Family Fun Supper Fundraiser 5-7pm (Fundraiser for our playground)
May 10	Muffins for Mothers at drop-off in the morning



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