



PCHC Spotlight

February 2010

FEBRUARY NOTES

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February is ALL About Love and Hearts

Love is in the air and hearts are everywhere. Don't forget to tell your children that you love them every day. I love them too and I enjoy my daily hugs from all your special children. It always brightens my day and makes my heart feel good. Have a Happy Valentine's Day on February 14th!

Parent Communication Logs

We now have communication logs in each classroom. If you wish to leave a message for your child's teacher, you may enter it in the notebook in the classroom. Your child's teachers will get the message when they arrive. We hope this improves communication between you, the parent, and your child's teacher. Please do not enter messages that are of a confidential nature. You may communicate this in a separate note or verbally to the teacher or the office staff.

MSDE Accreditation Update

We are excited that our staff will be provided with state grant opportunities to continue taking classes in early childhood. This will move us forward with attaining the high quality of staff that Maryland requires. It will directly benefit your children and enhance the educational program that we currently provide for your children. As always, your suggestions are welcomed.

Ms. Florence has also ordered the new curriculum. We expect to receive them in the next couple weeks and the teachers will begin to review them prior to implementing them. Additional information will be shared with you separately regarding the curriculum. Again, this is a state recommended curriculum for preschoolers and we are excited to have the opportunity to implement it.

Ms. Pat, Director
pseiple@homeworkcenters.com

Referral Program

PCHC 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.

February Birthdays Congratulations to:

Joshua – 2nd
Trevor – 19th

David – 7th
Kailah – 26th
Emily – 28th



Classroom Updates

Incredible Infants

Ms. Dar is being joined by our new infant teacher, Ms. Kristy. We welcome her to PCHC. Ms. Kristy has her associate's degree in early childhood education and has lots of experience with infants and toddlers. She has two children, Alexis and Joey, who are joining us as well. She will be planning many learning activities for your infants to develop their social, motor and cognitive skills. The infants will continue to receive lots of tender loving care as always.

Ms. Kristy and Ms. Dar

Tiny Toddlers

I'm pleased to be the toddler teacher and I look forward to working with your children. I am enjoying getting to know each individual child. Be sure to let me know if I can make your child's transition easier. During the month of February, I plan to create several touch-n-feel projects to provide opportunities for the toddlers to experience different textures.

Ms. Amber

Terrific Twos

We are glad to see everyone had a wonderful holiday and everyone one in the twos is off to a great new start. Our theme for February is Fun Around Town. This unit is designed to help young children become more familiar with their communities and neighborhoods. We will show and discuss people who keep us safe and help us. We will learn about places to buy things and places to visit. We will continue to teach the children about eating healthy and taking care of ourselves. Projects for the month include police badges, fire trucks, food collages, stamp art. Our friends are going to celebrate Valentine's Day with a special party and projects. There will be a sign up for party items. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

If there are questions or concerns with your child, please feel free to see Ms. Sarah or Ms. Tia.
Ms. Sarah and Ms. Tia

Cosmic Threes

Welcome to the new threes classroom. First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mandi Walker. I have been working with children for about seven years now and love every minute. I am currently working on getting my degree in early childhood. I look forward to working with your child in this important time of their life.

We have jumped right in to our new daily routines. We will be having the children practice writing numbers and letters especially the letters in their name. We will also work on naming and identifying shapes and colors. Assessments will be completed for each child this month. Please keep an eye out for them and feel free to schedule a conference if desired. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a party. Additional information will be shared with you later. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Ms. Mandi and Ms. Jackie

Fabulous Fours

This month we've got a lot in store for the children. We will continue to focus on a letter and number of the week, as well as calendar, time and weather concepts. We will be expanding our knowledge about places we see in our neighborhood, and the many different jobs that people can do. We will talk about the jobs that the children's parents have and why the jobs are important.

We have planned some creative activities for Valentine's Day. We will make wonderful take home crafts and have a super fun party. On Valentine's Day we will exchange valentines during our party. There will be a sign-up sheet on the parent info board and a list will be sent home with the names of the children in the class.

Recently, our class has grown and we have new friends, Riley, Justin, Taylor and Mikaela. We love welcoming and making new friends.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to share. We want to be as helpful as possible

Ms. Alicia

Sensational School- agers

January left very quickly and so did the holidays. As we quickly approach February, we have some exciting new resources to add to the classroom. A trip to the movies is planned for the next school holiday on Feb. 15th. Also, please check the parent information board for updates and the craft schedule.

We welcome Ms. Heather, the new school-age teacher, to our room. She will be here every afternoon to assist the children with homework along with Ms. Mac. If there is anything that we can do together to help make your child be the best they can be, please let us know.

Thank- you, Ms. Mac and Ms. Heather

PARENT EDUCATION TIDBITS

Parents as Advocates

Parents are often the best educational advocates for their children, especially children with a learning disability. True advocacy is a largely positive process, which should build on your child's strengths and challenges. As your child's best advocate, you are in a unique position to identify and implement positive changes.

Connect with educators and administrators in both casual and formal settings. Talk with your child's teacher on a regular basis. If possible, volunteer in the classroom and help out with school functions. If you have concerns or problems that a teacher can not or will not address, be willing to follow the chain of command through the school,

Keep records

Parents should maintain an organized file of educational records and assessment information. Take notes during telephone and face-to-face meetings, and ask for people's full names and contact information when communicating by phone or by email. In addition, keeping less formal examples of children's academic progress, such as homework papers, artwork, and writings, may be useful in establishing patterns and documenting both abilities and challenges.

Gather information

Read books and articles on learning, attend conferences, and join a parent support group or affiliate organization in your area. Get comfortable with education acronyms and jargon. Ask professionals lots of questions, and don't be afraid to ask for clarification if their answers are confusing or complicated.

Communicate effectively

Come to meetings prepared, and know the specific outcomes you want. Be clear, calm and direct when speaking and put things in writing whenever possible. Listen, and take time to think about pertinent information. Consider when documentation or data might help your case, and present it in an orderly and readable format. While assertiveness and persistence are crucial, anger and aggressiveness can work against you and can damage important relationships.

Know your child's strengths and interests and share them with educators

By highlighting a struggling child's capabilities and talents, you not only help professionals know your child as a whole person, you can also assist in identifying learning accommodations.

Emphasize solutions

While there are no miracle cures or magic bullets for learning disabilities, it's important to stress the positive, and to help identify ways to improve your child's experience. Once appropriate

programs have been identified and agreed upon, make every effort to encourage follow-through.

Focus on the big picture

Simply put, don't sweat the small stuff. Knowing the specifics of a law may be important on one level, but constantly arguing technicalities can ultimately waste time and inhibit rapport. Try not to take things personally, and always consider both sides of the story. Details are important, but don't let them get in the way of negotiating the best educational experience for your child.

Involve your child in decision making as early as you can

Learning disabilities are a lifelong issue. Mastering self-advocacy skills is one of the keys to becoming a successful adult. Resist the natural urge to pave every road for your child, and respect and support your child's need to take informed academic risks.

References:

Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities (CCLD), a collaboration of leading U.S. nonprofit learning disabilities organizations.

Community Resources Features

BEST Program Behavioral, Emotional Support and Training

Free Services

- Program Planning
- Behavioral Assessment
- Behavioral consultation for children exhibiting difficult behaviors at home or in the child care setting
- Training for center staff who work with children from 6 weeks to 5 years age

PCHC Contact: LaTanya McFadden 410-777-2041

Upcoming Events

February, 2010

- 12th Classrooms celebrating Valentine's Day
- 15th AACPS Closed – School-age children may attend PCHC (Field trip to the movies)

Administration

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