

CHILDREN'S CHATTER

F.I.R.S.T: Friendliness, Innovation, Respect, Service, Trust

MISSION: To be the leading provider of quality child care for the children and families we serve.

A publication by and for the Associates of A Children's Place

Parents should like our new registration process



rosters and parents searched through the names in a roster book, and then signed their children in and out by hand. Now this process can be done with the touch of a button. All of our families will have a password assigned to their child and they can sign in and out by entering the password.

By the end of the year, we hope to convert our billing and family information to this system. At that time, parents will be able to access and review their billing and contact information when they sign in each day. We will also be able to update our parents with program changes and other pertinent information when they sign in each morning. We hope that this technological improvement will also increase communication with our parents.

We are going electronic! Beginning November 1, we will begin using a new software system called Procure. We are so excited because this software will enable us to merge all of our medical, billing and attendance data into one system. We expect Procure to increase the efficiency of our operations as well as be more convenient for our parents.

Immediately, parents will notice the difference of this new software system through the ease of signing children in and out. In the past, we have used paper

Family Fridays resume

We are resuming our "Family Fridays" in November, on the third Friday of each month. This activity will be held from 11 a.m. to noon for the Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood units and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the School Age Child Care. This is a great opportunity for parents, grandparents or other family members to come in and have lunch with their children and learn more about what is happening in their classrooms.

“Where Culture and Children Meet”

Listening to Our Children

As parents in today's busy world, we don't always have the time to listen. However, listening to what our children have to say tells them that we're interested in them and that we value and appreciate them. To a child, an attentive ear is more important than a parent's advice. Take a few minutes each day to ask children about their interests, activities and friends. A good time to do this is on the way home from school, at dinnertime or before bed. Some things to remember when talking with your child:



- Stop what you are doing.
- Give your child your undivided attention.
- Look at your child and listen attentively.
- Watch your child as he/she talks. What you see can help tell you how they feel.
- Notice the things that your child doesn't say. Young children cannot always say what they mean or know how to ask for what they want.
- Ask your child questions.
- Praise them for what they have done. Positive reinforcements build self-esteem.



Happy
Fall,
Y'all!

Meet our new Associates



Beth Kidd



Nicole Burton



Ashley King



Kim Gilliam



Janie Leathers

Recipe for you and your child

If your child likes play dough, try making a homemade version. Add cinnamon for a nice, seasonal smell!

Cinnamon Dough

2 C whole wheat flour
1 C salt
1 C water
2 Tbsp. oil
5 tsp. cinnamon
Food coloring



Mix all the dry ingredients in a bowl. Add the oil and food coloring into the water and then mix into the dry ingredients. Stir until the dough forms a ball (add more flour if the mixture is too sticky; add more water if it is too dry). Knead on a lightly-floured surface until the dough is pliable. Refrigerate in a plastic bag when not in use.

Early Childhood Unit

The teachers in the Early Childhood Unit have many exciting things planned for the children during the next two months. We will learn how to carve pumpkins and see what the insides look and feel like. We will also be doing some apple tasting and, using plastic knives, we will cut some up and taste them and also do apple art with them. We hope these activities will help the children improve their cutting skills, learn how to use scissors and improve hand-eye coordination.

With the upcoming holidays, we will learn about the different kinds of holidays that people celebrate around the world. We want to learn about the types of meals that are eaten on Thanksgiving Day, and how the holiday of Kwanzaa and Hanukkah are celebrated. For Hanukkah we will be making candles (from construction paper and paper towel rolls) and decorations for the Christmas tree. In order to celebrate Christmas with our Spanish-speaking families, we plan to make a piñata and fill it with candy and break it like the Spanish tradition. These activities will help the children to learn more about cultures and traditions around the world.

Another activity that the children like to do at this time of year is wrapping boxes. We will get out our boxes, wrapping paper, scissors and tape and learn how to wrap presents. The children love this, and their skills may come in handy to help parents with gift boxes!



Holiday Happenings

November 18

Family Friday - 11 a.m. to noon for the Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood Units; 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the School Age Child Care

December 9

Early Childhood Unit's Winter Program at 7 p.m., with the children performing winter music

December 16

Family Friday - 11 a.m. to noon for the Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood Units; 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the School Age Child Care



Happy Birthday

November

November 21

Stephanie Phillips

November 28

Gena Cox

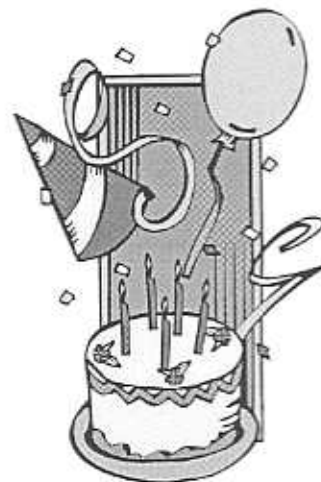
December

December 6

Kim Gilliam

December 12

Janella Villarreal



Infant and Toddler Unit

Our little ones are continuously changing and growing as they learn to crawl, walk and talk. We delight in being with them as they take their first steps and speak their first words. Our teachers work every day to stimulate the children and to help them learn new skills.



In the Nursery and Crawler room we are trying to get our parents into the habit of wearing booties before they enter the classroom. There is a lot of traffic in and out of these classrooms each day, and since our babies are down on the floor so much, it will make their play space much cleaner and sanitary if everyone who enters one of these two classrooms will wear the booties. Inside the door of each class, there is a chair and a cart filled with the disposable footwear for your convenience. If you are a parent or a visitor, please remember to wear the booties!

Our two-year-old classrooms have been very busy expanding their vocabulary. The teachers use flashcards, pictures and objects that start with each letter to help the children begin learning the alphabet and object recognition. They will also use games and songs to make learning fun, while teaching the children new words.

Meet Our Staff

Hi! My name is Melinda Ennis and I am the young two-year-old classroom teacher. I have been with A Children's Place for the past eight months since my family moved here from Virginia Beach in February. I am married, and my husband Jody and I have two children, Kaitlyn who is 3 ½ and Tyler who is 2. One of my favorite hobbies is to learn a new language. I have recently been practicing Japanese and Spanish. I hope my newfound skills will help me to communicate better with some of the children who attend our center.



I have worked in childcare for the past five years and am currently taking classes to obtain a Child Development Associate credential. I am CPR and First Aid certified and I have taken several childcare classes and trainings during my time in Virginia.

I believe that children learn best when they are given a structured environment and routines to follow. This is so important, especially at the two-year-old age when children are learning how to verbalize their feelings and communicate with the world.



In this photo, Melinda enjoys reading with Kaho Hattori, a 2-year-old from Japan.

Easy-to-prepare meal

Tired of cleaning up after the evening meal? Here's a simple, delicious suggestion that children love because they get to help make it.

Hobo Packs

Give each child a large piece of aluminum foil. Spray the foil with cooking spray. Add smoked sausage pieces, potato wedges, baby carrots and any other raw vegetables that your child likes. Fold the foil over to make a seal. Write the child's name on each foil packet (they can help do this) and bake for 30 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

After baking, take out of the oven and cool until the aluminum is safe to touch. Children can eat right out of the packet!

Rate increase now in effect

In September, the weekly rate for children enrolled in the Early Childhood Unit increased by \$5.00. Parents, please remember to include this amount when you send in your child's tuition.

Thanks!

Life can only be understood backwards, but must be lived forwards.



A Children's
Place

A service of Ephraim McDowell Health

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