

TAKOMA PARK



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

NEWS

MAY 2006

310 TULIP AVE
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www.tpcdc.org
tpcdc1111@yahoo.com

CALENDAR

May 8-12
Staff Appreciation Week

May 29
TPCDC CLOSED
Memorial Day

June 9
Graduation Ceremony for
Explorers entering
Kindergarten, Fall 06
&
Parents' Day Cookout
4:30-5:45 PM

June 14
Last Day of Public School

June 19
Summer Program Begins

August 23-25
TPCDC CLOSED
For Staff Professional Days
& Planning for 2006-2007

FROM THE DIRECTOR

PLEASE KEEP TPCDC INFORMED – HEALTH ISSUES

It is important to keep the teachers and office informed of children's health issues. Please bring emergent health issues to the school's attention, particularly head lice and strep throat.

STAFF RETIREMENT

After 11 years of service, at the end of April, Joyce Silver retired from TPCDC. We wish her the very best. Romaine Roy, who has been with us since 2002, will be filling in for Joyce in the Rainbow classroom until a new permanent teacher is hired.

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL AGERS

Just a reminder that summer is just around the corner. Spots for TPCDC's summer program are filling up quickly. TPCDC offers five 2-week sessions beginning on June 19th and ending on August 22nd. Brochures are available in the office. As always - weekly field trips and swimming twice each week:

GENERAL REMINDERS & POLICIES

PARENTAL ASSISTANCE ON THE PLAYGROUND

There has been difficulty in defining when teachers turn over responsibility of the children on the playground at dismissal time. We ask that when parents arrive to pick up their child and the children are already on the outdoor playground that the parents officially take over responsibility for their child as soon as you enter the playground and your child becomes aware of your presence. We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

CLOTHING

Children should wear comfortable clothes that they can remove easily. Children should not wear 'dress' clothes as they are likely to get messy. Weather-appropriate clothing should always be provided: hats and gloves in the winter and shorts in the summer. Children must always wear shoes. Sturdy footwear is recommended, and for the children's safety, they may not wear shoes in which their toes are exposed: close-toe sandals only for the summer time.

TOYS FROM HOME

Because toys from home are often difficult to share, easy to lose and breakable, we ask that children do not bring toys from home to the center expect for show and tell. If your child has a special item he or she would like to share, please let your child's teacher know. The Center does not allow toys that promote aggressive behavior such as guns, knives or swords. Please spend some time with your child and help him or her choose an appropriate item to share. Some popular and appropriate items include photographs, hand made toys and games, books, objects found in nature, and art work.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please update your emergency contact information. Make sure to keep a full set of extra clothes in your child's cubby. Please remember also to bring a sheet and blanket for nap time and take them home each weekend to be laundered.

LATE PICK-UP POLICY

Please ensure that you pick up your child early enough so that you have time to gather your child's belongings and exit the Center by 6 P.M. A \$15 late fee for each 15 minutes or portion thereof will be charged for children who are left at the center after 1 P.M. (for children attending the morning-only program) or 6 P.M. (for children attending the afternoon-only or full-day program). Fees are as follows: 6:00-6:15 PM = \$15; 6:16-6:30 PM = \$30; 6:31-6:45 PM = \$45; 6:46-7:00 PM=\$60

Chronic lateness will be assessed an extra surcharge of \$50 for each occurrence. (Please refer to the TPCDC Family Handbook on page 17).

FOR CHILDREN ENROLLED PART-TIME

Please remember that your contract is for specific days of the week and not for a number of days per week. If TPCDC is closed on a day that your child normally attends, you may not bring your child on another day that week to make it up. If you wish to bring your child on a day that she or he is not contracted for, please check with the Director in advance to ensure that there is space available in the classroom. If so, you may pay a drop-in fee for that day. We regret any inconveniences this may cause.

-Nalini

AUTHORIZATION FORMS



Effective immediately, children will only be permitted to leave the Center with individuals listed on each child's authorization form. If someone other than the person(s) listed on your child's authorization form is going to pick your child up from school – *even just one time* – they must be listed on the authorization form.

From now on, no children will be permitted to leave TPCDC unless they are with an adult named on their authorization form. Although this policy is expressly state don page 17 of the current TPCDC Family Handbook, it had not been strictly enforced and children were permitted to leave the classroom with other parents in order to wait for their own parents in the school yard. This practice, will no longer be permitted unless these individuals are listed on the child's authorization form.

Parents, please update your child's authorization form immediately. You may also give written authorization to the Center specifying another adult will be picking up your child. The authorization must include the date, individual's name, the child's name, and be signed by a parent. Any individuals authorized to pick up your child must be prepared to show photo identification to the classroom staff.

SUNSCREEN USAGE



As you may have noticed – spring has finally arrived! With that, however, comes the need for sunscreen. Please sign the permission slip outside of each child's classroom if you would like the Center's staff to apply sunscreen to your child as needed during the day. The sunscreen the Center has decided to use is **Coppertone Waterbabies SPF 45**. We are asking that each family bring one bottle to the classroom.

This products was selected because of the following attributes:

- #1 Pediatrician-recommended Brand
- UVA/UVB sunblock protection
- Instant waterproof protection
- Waterproof to maintain effective sunburn protection for 80 minutes in water
- Gentle, non-irritating and non-singing
- Hypoallergenic and PABA-free

For more information, visit www.coppertone.com

Please alert the teachers if your child has an allergy to any ingredients in this product. We are very fortunate to have staff that will apply lotion on the kids, as many facilities suggest parents put sunscreen on their kids in the morning. To support the teachers and simplify things for them, the TPCDC Board has suggested that parents approve this brand/type of sunscreen so the teachers have just 1 bottle to carry on outings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Debra Bodner at 301-270-5040 or another Board member. Thank you – and don't forget to sign the permission slip.

SUMMER POOL SAFETY

Centers for Disease Control Press Release



This summer, swimming pools will be filled with millions of people having fun and staying cool. But did you know that germs can contaminate swimming water even if it is treated with chlorine? Learning about recreational water illnesses (RWIs), which are spread by swimming in contaminated recreational waters such as swimming pools, waterparks, lakes, and the ocean, can protect you from illness.

RWIs are caused by germs like “Crypto” (KRIP-toe, short for *Cryptosporidium*), *Giardia* (gee-ARE-dee-uh), *E. coli* 0157:H7, and *Shigella* (Shi-GE-luh) and are spread by accidentally swallowing water that has been contaminated with fecal matter. How does a pool get contaminated? You share the water with everyone in the pool. If someone with diarrhea contaminates the water, swallowing the water can make you sick.

The great news is that germs causing RWIs are killed by chlorine. However, chlorine doesn’t work right away. It takes time to kill germs and some germs like “Crypto” are resistant to chlorine and can live in pools for days. That is why even the best maintained pools can spread illness. Therefore, Healthy Swimming behaviors are needed to protect you and your kids from RWIs and will help stop germs from getting in the pool in the first place. Here are six “PLEAs” that promote Healthy Swimming:

PLEASE don’t swim when you have diarrhea. This is especially important for kids in diapers. You can spread germs in the water and make other people sick.

PLEASE don’t swallow the pool water. In fact, avoid getting water your mouth.

PLEASE practice good hygiene. Take a shower before swimming and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers. Germs on your body end up in the water.

PLEASE take your kids on bathroom breaks or change diapers often. Waiting to hear “I have to go” may mean that it’s too late.

PLEASE change diapers in a bathroom and not at poolside. Germs can spread to surfaces and objects in and around the pool and spread illness.

PLEASE wash your child thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before swimming. Everyone has invisible amounts of fecal matter on their bottoms that ends up in the pool.

Want to learn more about recreational water illnesses (RWIs)? Why you shouldn’t swim when ill with diarrhea? How some germs that cause RWIs can live for days in even the best-maintained pools? Go to www.healthyswimming.org for more information. Take the Healthy Swimming IQ Quiz and a quick look at what swimmers are asking this year. And observe Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week, May 22-29.

CLASSROOM NEWS

TEDDY BEARS

The Teddy Bears' April showers theme brought a lot of color to our activities. We did quite a bit of observing flowers in bloom: how the sun helps plants and helps the rain to evaporate.

The Teddy Bears had fun learning the Raindrop song as well as the Rain Dance. Our tissue paper sun lit up the hallway.

In May we will focus on colors: paint collages, make color charts and more! The Teddy Bears will wear their favorite color as part of our theme.

MUNCHKINS

During the month of May the Munchkins' theme is April Showers bring May flowers. The Munchkins will be talking and learning about different kinds of flowers and are planning a trip to a nursery! We will be learning many fun songs about flowers and will plant flower seeds to watch them grow!

Just as flowers grow, the Munchkins continue to grow and blossom in all areas of learning. We are very proud of our Munchkins as they develop self help skills, especially using the potty

RAINBOWS

In the month of May, the Rainbows will focus on zoo animals; they look forward to having fun doing different activities such as 3-D giraffe, animal footprints, and animal masks and puppets. We also plan to color different kinds of zoo animals and paint pictures.

MEMORIAL DAY IS ON THE WAY!



We also look forward to going to local parks and having picnic lunches as well as going for neighborhood walks. We also enjoy our weekly library visits, music and dance classes.

EXPLORERS

This month the Explorers will learn all about bugs. Where they live, what they eat, their size and how they help the Earth. We're planning a butterfly project: we will order caterpillars, watch them grow and change, and then set them free.

Since the weather is warm, we plan to spend a lot of time walking and visiting local parks. Please do not send children to school in open-toe shoes. Shoes much cover children's toes and serve as sturdy support for the foot.

On May 10th, the Explorers are going swimming at Chillum Rollingcrest Splash Pool. Information on the trip will be posted on the wall. In preparation for

graduation, a list of elementary schools will be posted on the wall. Please write the name of the school your child will attend in the fall so that we may note it in our graduation program.

SHINING STARS

The Shining Stars really did it for our Spring Break week – 6 consecutive days of fun! We went swimming, to the park, had playground day at Jacquie. We took plenty of pictures and there will be a scrap book on our activities soon.

May flowers will bloom all around our room. Come smell the roses! We are looking forward to field trips in May as well.

SCHOOL AGERS

During the month of May, we will travel around the world. The School Agers will be trying different activities and cookies projects from places around the globe. Parents – if you have any ideas or cooking instructions from a country you have been to or came from, that would be very helpful.

This is also School Agers safety month. The children make up safety rules, turn them into photos and then we post them around the room. If you break one of the rules, the children must drop a penny inside a jar that's located in the classroom. All of the money collected will go to a charity.

We will also make eggshell art. Please donate a carton of eggs to the classroom by May 15th. We would also like to welcome Joseph Bradshaw to the School Age classroom

Please remember to sign up for summer camp!

OUR STAFF

DIRECTOR: NALINI JEEVARAJ

TEDDY BEARS: DONNA JEWELL, DORA MARIACA, VERNETTA REYNOLDS, MARTHA TALENTO, PHI THI THACH, UTOPIA DAVIS

MUNCHKINS: CECILIA GALLAGHER, PAT FRAZIER, SONYA HENDERSON, TERESA ABANTO

RAINBOWS: ANA RODRIGUEZ, BEATRIZ PEREZ, ROMAIN ROY, MONIQUE ROPER

EXPLORERS: SHERRI SMITH, INDHIRA HILL, ISABEL AGUILAR, KAFESHA STAFFORD

SHINING STARS: DONNA JEWELL, FELISIA SENG, SHERRI ROPER

SCHOOL AGE: BRENDA ROBERTS, KEVIN MEJIA, STACIE HUGHES

OFFICE: JOAN BYRD

OUR PARENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TEDDY BEARS:
LAURA KOEHNE (MADELINE WHIPPLE)

MUNCHKINS:
SANDI CHRISTINE CRAWFORD (OWEN)
KAREN HENRY (OLIVIA KATE)
JENNIFER JUDD HINRICH (KAI)
KRISTIE RUPPER (INDIGO SUCHAR) – VICE CHAIR

AT-LARGE:
LISA DOMINGUEZ (JOSHUA)

RAINBOWS:
SARAH BLENDERMANN (ELLIE)
DEBRA BODNER (NORA) – CHAIR OF BOARD
ALLEGRA CANGELOSI (LUCIA)
JENNIFER FOGEL-BUBLICK (SIERRA)
JENNIFER LAYKE (NICHOLAS)
ANN MCCULLOCH (WILL) – SECRETARY
MARAH STETS (LOGAN TYLDESLEY)

EXPLORERS:
MARY FALTYNSKI (JONAH WILLIAMS) - TREASURER
WENDY FITZGERALD (CLARE)
MARAH STETS (MARLENA TYLDESLEY)

SHINING STARS:
SANDI CHRISTINE CRAWFORD (CLAY)
MARY FALTYNSKI (CASSIDY) - TREASURER
KRISTIE RUPPER (XAVIER) – VICE CHAIR

Although parent board members are listed by their children's classrooms, they represent the entire school. Look for pictures and contact information outside of the classrooms. The center can always use project volunteers. If you are interested in fundraising, promotion, programming or have a creative idea, please contact one of the Board members.

Board Meetings are held every month. These meetings are open to anyone in the entire TPCDC community. Feel free to attend and get involved with your community! Think about running for the Board next year!