



community connection

November 2009

Special point of interest: Read about the new Ohio Booster Seat Law and a related educational opportunity for families on page 5.

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The Child Care Program will be closed on:

NOVEMBER 11:
VETERAN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 26 & 27:
THANKSGIVING DAY
COLUMBUS DAY
(OBSERVED)

The Ohio State University

Red Paint in the Hair??!!

Red paint in the hair? Blue paint on the jeans? Sand in the shoes? Spaghetti sauce on the favorite shirt? White socks that look brown? Sleeves a little bit damp?

Your child probably...

- Worked with a friend
- Solved a problem
- Created a masterpiece
- Learned a new skill
- Had a great time
- Developed new language

Your child probably didn't...

- Feel lonely
- Become bored
- Do repetitive tasks
- Do "sit down" work that isn't appropriate for young children

You probably...

- Paid good money for the clothes
- Will have trouble getting the red paint out
- Are wondering if the teacher isn't paying close enough attention to your child

Your child's teacher probably...

- Was aware of your child's needs and interests
- Spent time planning a challenging activity for the children
- Encouraged the children to try

new things

- Made smocks available for the children
- Was concerned you might have questions



Try to remember your favorite activity when you were four years old. Was it outdoor play with water, mud, dress-up clothes? Young children really learn when they are actively involved in play - not when someone is talking to them. There is a difference between "messy" and "lack of supervision". The teacher made sure your child was fed, warm, took a nap, washed hands after toileting and before eating, and planned messy fun things to do because that is how young children learn! Send your child to school in clothes that can get dirty! Keep extra old clothes on hand for times when the child gets really wet or messy. If you need to take the child out, bring

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Director's Corner By Maggie Summers



Maggie Summers
Program Director

2010 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DATES

The Child Care Program will be closed on the following Fridays in 2010 for staff in-service:

February 26
August 20

Reminders will be sent - mark your calendars!

The field of Early Childhood Care and Education is constantly changing. This has always been true, but the present time is one of amazing growth at even more amazing speed. The biggest change yet is the transition of all state early childhood administration and regulation moving from several state departments to the Center for Early Childhood Development within the Ohio Department of Education.

This move is being made after years of many in the field working to create a comprehensive and seamless system in Ohio bringing together early childhood care and education, early intervention/special needs, health/mental health/nutrition and family supports.

In his 2009 State of the State address, Governor Ted Strickland said:

"To better serve our youngest learners and help them thrive in school and in life, we will unite all of our early childhood development programs and resources into the Department of Education. This comprehensive early childhood system will focus on the whole child and provide quality early learning and care while improving our efficiency and effectiveness."

This center, currently under development, will create a single administrative structure with the authority and responsibility to implement and coordinate state funded or administered early childhood programs and services for children prenatally until entry into kin-

dergarten. The goals of the center will be:

- Increase awareness of the importance of the early childhood period
- Establish a common vision and direction
- Integration versus coordination
- Maximize resources available for the work
- Streamline accountability

This new center will also bring with it additional changes: updated quality standards, new regulations, increased professional development requirements. It will be our responsibility as early childhood professionals and as The Ohio State University community to not only embrace these changes, but to champion them in our own programs and in the community.

As many of you know we set aside two days each calendar year for our own professional development. On these days the program is closed for families and staff engages in professional development activities and community-building. We appreciate the important role our families play as partners with us in this professional development time. The 2010 dates for professional development days are listed in the box on the left of this page.

We anticipate exciting growth ahead for each of us as professionals and for our field.

Q and A

Do children continue to have outdoor playtime during the cold weather?

Yes! Classroom staff take children outdoors during the colder months as long as the temperature is above 20 degrees. The temperature, including the wind chill factor, and children's needs and appropriateness of outdoor clothing will determine the length of time classrooms stay outdoors.

What type of clothing should I keep at school for winter weather outdoor play?

Having a warm coat or snowsuit, gloves or mittens, a scarf, hat, and boots in your child's cubby will adequately prepare her/him for the outdoors, even if the weather is chilly. As with other per-

sonal items, labeling each with your child's name is very helpful to staff.

Does going outside in cold weather cause a cold?

Contrary to popular belief, cold weather or getting chilled does not cause a cold, according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. However, more colds do occur during cold weather, probably due to factors including the reality that people stay indoors more and the low humidity which causes nasal passages to dry and become more susceptible to cold viruses.

... Red Paint

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the dressier clothes when picking up, and allow time to change. Keep calm. Remember in a few years the teenagers will use the shampoo, mirrors and all the towels! Young children need time to be children. If you have concerns talk to your child's teacher about active play!

Excerpted from the YMCA/CRS Newsletter, Summer 1996, who gave credit to OPTIONS Summer 1995 Newsletter for the article. Made available through Ooey Gooey, Inc., an educational consulting firm created in 1997 by Tom and Lisa Murphy in order to bring high-energy, exciting and informative hands-on workshops to teachers, directors, parents and family child care providers.

Ooey Gooey Inc. supports the creation of child-centered environments where children are actively engaged in real, meaningful experiences, not "cute" fluffy time fillers and is committed to providing parents and educators with the knowledge, facts and research that supports this educational philosophy.

<http://www.ooeygooey.com/>

INDOOR ACTIVITIES for a RAINY DAY

- Fill the kitchen sink with soapy water and lots of plastic dishes. Young children just need a step-stool and a sponge for some extended play time.
- Toss a blanket over the dining room table and make a cave - perfect for hibernating bears, campers, a good story and a cozy nap.
- Place a thin layer of flour or cornmeal on a cookie sheet. Draw with your fingers, interesting kitchen tools or small toys. Just smooth it out with your palm to start again.

Did You Know?

The Benefits of Organized Make-Believe Play

Over the past decade there has been a raging debate in the early childhood field between those who favor accelerated academic instruction and those who favor free play for three, four, and five year olds. The [New York Times Magazine](#) (September 27, 2009) joined in on this debate with an article, "The Make-Believe Solution," which described a curriculum of organized make-believe play called "Tools of the Mind." This curriculum is said to be based on these concepts proposed by Lev Vygotsky in the first quarter of the 20th century:

- At 4 or 5, a child's ability to play creatively with other children is a better indicator of her future aca-

ademic success than any other indicator, including her vocabulary, her counting skills, or her knowledge of the alphabet.

- Dramatic play is the training ground where children learn to regulate themselves, to conquer their own unruly minds.
- In dramatic play children are guided by the basic principles of play. Make-believe isn't as stimulating and satisfying if players don't stick to their roles. When children follow the rules of make-believe and push one another to follow those rules, they develop important habits of self control.

From Exchange Everyday, the official electronic newsletter for [ChildCareExchange.com](#).



2009 FAMILY ROSTER

2009 Family Rosters for Ackerman Road and Buckeye Village families are now available. Stop by the front desk if you would like a copy of the roster for your building.

Managing Your Child's Health

Wondering how to keep your child healthy this winter? Join us for a program on children's health presented by Deborah Kibler, BSN, RN and Allison Levering, BSN, RN. Deborah and Allison, experienced family nurses, will share information on preventing illness, recognizing illness in your child (including flu) and tips for caring for ill children. The program will be held at both facilities and parents are welcome to attend at either facility.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to tap the expertise of health professionals. Bring your

children's health questions and come to either the November 10th or November 17th program.

Managing Your Child's Health

5:00 - 5:45pm

- Tuesday November 10, Buckeye Village
- Tuesday November 17, Ackerman Road

Annual Income Update

Because our tuition schedule is based on family income, it is important that we maintain accurate records, including income changes. Each year in November, we ask all of our families to provide information for our annual income update.

During the first week in November, you will receive an e-mail message with instructions for this year's update. The message will provide you with links to the updated tuition schedule which incorporates the 2 ½% tuition increase, program financial policies and the "Tuition Documentation" form. If your family will not be paying tuition in the highest income category in 2010, you

will need to provide income documentation as follows:

- October 2009 pay receipt if paid monthly
- All October 2009 pay receipts if paid weekly, bi-weekly or twice monthly
- 1040 with schedule C if self-employed

Information will need to be returned by Friday, November 20. Thank you for helping us with this important update.

New Ohio Booster Seat Law

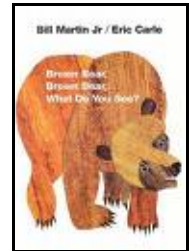
As of Oct. 7, 2009, Ohio's children are required to use belt-positioning booster seats once they outgrow their child safety seats (usually at 4 years old and 40 pounds) until they are 8 years old, unless they are at least 4 feet, 9 inches (57 inches) tall.

Ohio's revised child restraint law requires the following:

- Children less than 4 years old or 40 pounds must use a child safety seat.
- **Children less than 8 years old, unless they are at least 4 feet, 9 inches tall must use a booster seat.** Children ages 8-15 must use a child safety seat or safety belt.

Law enforcement will issue warnings only for the first six months. Full enforcement will begin on April 7, 2010. Fines will range from a minimum of \$25 to a maximum of \$75 per occurrence. A booster seat can be purchased for as little as \$15. Don't wait for a warning or ticket!

In support of the change to Ohio law, outreach officers from The Ohio State University Police Department will be outside the Ackerman Road facility on Monday, November 2 from 4:00-6:00pm to distribute information about the new safety seat requirements and demonstrate proper car seat installation. Plan to stop by!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Child Care Program's fall Scholastic Book Fair was another huge success with book and merchandise sales totaling \$3,402.43!

Thank you for your support~

PROGRAM CALENDAR

2009 Closures:

January 1

New Year's Day

January 19

Martin Luther King Day

March 20

CCP Professional
Development Day

May 25

Memorial Day

July 3

Independence Day

August 21

CCP Professional
Development Day

September 7

Labor Day

November 11

Veteran's Day (observed)

November 26

Thanksgiving Day

November 27

Columbus Day (observed)

December 24

President's Day
(observed)

December 25

Christmas Day

Customer Service Awards

Lori Bolen, Becca Levitt, Jan Kriebel, Paula McGurk, Kathy McNutt, Barb Mount, and Donna Swaneck: We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to Lori, Becca, Jan, Paula, Kathy, Barb and Donna for planning and implementing this year's Harvest Celebrations. Children and families were treated to a wide variety of fun and educational hands-on activities during our family events including an interactive clogging demonstration by Barb Mount and old fashioned agriculture experiences using a corn sheller and rope making machine. In addition, classrooms activities featuring locally grown produce (apples, potatoes, pumpkins and corn) and seasonal items (leaves galore!) have quite naturally been the focus over the past several weeks. If you haven't already, check out the documentations of cooking, painting and charting activities displayed in our facilities.

Thank you very much for your time, energy and inspiration!



To recognize a member of our child care community for demonstrating outstanding customer service, please email Amy Brandon at abrandon@hr.osu.edu or complete a nomination form available in our program offices.

PROGRAM DIRECTORY

<http://hr.osu.edu/ccc/home.htm>

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