COMMUNITY CONNECTION
JANUARY 2016

PROGRAM NOTES

ACKERMAN ROAD FACILITY ACHIEVES REACCREDITION

As we shared in the December newsletter, the Ackerman Road facility’s NAEYC Accreditation was renewed in November for another 5 year term! The process for becoming accredited or renewing accreditation is an arduous one that includes extensive documentation at the classroom and program levels and an on-site visit from NAEYC assessors to conduct observations, review materials and meet with staff.

Programs must meet a minimum number of criteria, as evidenced through the documentation and assessor’s observations, and demonstrate best practice in regard to the care and supervision of children.

We received commendations for 100% compliance in 6 of the 10 Standards (see text box at right) and scores in the high 90s for 2 others; programs must receive at least 80% compliance within each Standard to achieve accreditation. Classroom observations also scored extremely high, almost exclusively in the 90s (out of 100).

As we reflect on the accreditation process, outcome and feedback from the NAEYC academy, we are considering what enhancements we can make to our program that will most benefit our children and families. This spring we will be conducting a survey of our enrolled families at both facilities to gather feedback and additional input.

We will begin the process of reaccreditation for our Buckeye Village facility, which is currently accredited through August 1, 2017, later this summer!

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) strives to raise the quality of education for all children from birth through age eight. Accreditation systems are major part of NAEYC’s efforts to improve early childhood education; they allow programs to provide the best learning experiences for young children and their educators by meeting national standards of quality.

TEN STANDARDS
Relationships*
Curriculum
Teaching*
Assessment of Child Progress*
Health*
Teachers
Families
Community Relationships*
Physical Environment
Leadership and Management*
*indicates 100% compliance
**Kindergarten and Summer School Age Registration**

If your child will turn 5 by September 30, 2016 and you are considering applying to our Kindergarten please plan to complete and return a Kindergarten Application form. Forms are available in the office of both facilities and are due by Friday, February 5, 2016.

Families who apply will be notified regarding the status of their application on Friday, February 19, 2016. Eligible children are accepted into the Kindergarten program based on original entry date into the Child Care Program or date of waitlist application.

Those accepted into kindergarten can register by Friday, February 26, 2016 by paying the $50.00 registration fee and $250.00 tuition advance payment; both the fee and tuition advance payments are nonrefundable.

The Child Care Program’s Summer School Age Program provides care for children who have completed kindergarten and first grade. Donna Swaneck and Leann Birko, our kindergarten teaching staff, provide guidance for the Program in room D9.

Information about summer program registration will be sent to current families mid-to-late February. Siblings of currently enrolled children have priority for enrollments after current kindergarteners have registered. Families will be notified regarding acceptance the beginning of March.

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**It’s a Zoo in Here!**

The Columbus Zoo is coming to our preschool and Kindergarten classrooms! On February 1 and 2, the zoo’s Preschool Outreach Program staff will be at the Ackerman Road and Buckeye Village facilities (respectively) with a variety of animals, such as small mammals, reptiles, birds and creepy crawlies!

The Preschool Outreach program is designed to bring animals up-close to audiences and to provide access to animals that children (or adults!) might not otherwise see.

Many of our preschool classrooms have been exploring animal studies and we are pleased to be able to extend their curriculum with this adventurous animal visit!

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**Program Directory**

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

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**2016 Closure Dates**

- January 1: New Year’s Day
- January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- March 18: Professional Development Day
- May 30: Memorial Day
- July 4: Independence Day
- August 12: Professional Development Day
- September 5: Labor Day
- November 11: Veteran’s Day
- November 24: Thanksgiving Day
- November 25: Columbus Day (observed)
- December 23: President’s Day (observed)
- December 26: Christmas Day (observed)