

Phyllis Bodel Childcare Center at Yale School of Medicine, Inc.  
February, 2007  
Newsletter

Dear Parents and Friends of Phyllis Bodel Childcare Center,

It is with a huge sigh of relief that I share with all that our Candidacy (the final phase of the application process) Application for our Accreditation has been mailed and we now wait for its review and then a date for our site visit. There is still work to be done before the site visit but the end is in sight.

Parent Survey Results:

Thank you to all our parents for their support of this process and for their honest and informative responses. For parents who have been at the Center prior to August, 2006, and who had an opportunity to read the Annual Report, you are aware that one major goal of the Center has been and continues to be increased communication with our parents. Though we continue to work on this goal, it is apparent that we need to find new ways to reach our families. The questions that did not reach the required 80% were all in areas of communication. We do, as a Center, provide and meet all the criteria however, if parents are not aware of the information it is as if we do not. I would like to review and clarify the five questions, and there were only five, that parents did not feel we met and answered no.

Question 7. The Teacher asks about things that are important to our family and uses this information to help my child grow and learn.

Teachers find out important things about our families every day when they ask how the weekend was, how the night was, where a new book, jacket, etc came from. ( Grandma or Aunt Susie) or when they ask for family photographs. There is much about home language, parent's work, who lives in the home, etc that is retrieved from the intake form when parents register. It is through the daily conversations that we learn, who watches significant number of videos, who hikes, who is a camper, how many children went to pick apples or go skiing. It is from this constant conversation that the teachers find out interests of the children and our curriculum is based on the children's interests. The teachers are always finding out what is important to our families and the children benefit from this information.

Question 12: I know that information about my child and his or her progress is kept confidential.

I know for many of our families the information in the Parent Handbook (Where is my Handbook?) was read long ago and perhaps forgotten. Our policy on confidentiality is on page 3 in the Handbook and for all our parents it is as follows:

Phyllis Bodel Childcare Center shall maintain confidentiality and shall respect the family's rights to privacy, refraining from disclosure of confidential information and intrusion into family life. However, when we are concerned about a child's welfare, it is permissible to reveal confidential information to agencies and individuals who may be able to act in the child's interest. Disclosure

of children's records beyond parent or guardian, program personnel, and consultants having an obligation of confidentiality shall require familial consent (except in cases of abuse or neglect.) In the event that it becomes apparent that a child or family would benefit from additional services, the Center will in communication with the family request that the family sign the HIPAA Release of Information form to begin discussion with the child's physician regarding the information about health, behavior, and or social emotional development. In the event that the services are needed beyond medical, the Center will in coordination with the health provider refer to the appropriate agencies. All services to our families follow the HIPAA guidelines for confidentiality. Assessment surveys of the family's satisfaction for the services received are available in the office.

Question 19. The program staff help me learn about community events and resources that can help my child and family.

To refer back to the Parent Handbook, on page 8, resources to help children and families are available in the Center office. In addition posted on the Bulletin Board are workshops, Fairs, Common Ground activities and other events that would be of interest to families. Our wall space is limited and we need to rely on the Bulletin Boards as a space to share information about upcoming events. Events appropriate for early childhood are always posted. Please take a moment to look them over.

Question 22. I have been or will be included in program improvement efforts including a yearly program evaluation.

In the newsletter and on the calendars parents are always notified regarding Board meetings to which they are always invited. In addition, parents are invited to serve on committees as they become needed, most recently the Auction Committee. For parents who have been here only in 2006 and 2007, our last evaluation was 2005. The Accreditation form was for 2006 and there will be another evaluation in the late fall of 2007. We do indeed send out an evaluation form each year and information regarding our Center Annual Evaluation can be found on page 5 in the Parent Handbook.

Question 23: When program evaluations are completed, I receive information about the findings. The monthly newsletter is the means by which the results are communicated. The preceding paragraphs are the findings. For the majority of questions that parents answered no to that did not put us 'under' the required 80%, the answers can be found in the infamous "Parent Handbook".

As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

**Stop and Shop Cards and Peapod:** The Center is very pleased to announce that for our parents who shop Peapod, Peapod will now accept Stop and Shop Gift Cards. This is very important for the Center because, up until Peapod, the gift certificates were a major fundraiser for us. For those unfamiliar with this fundraiser, it is an opportunity to help the Center while shopping for food items that family would normally purchase. The Center purchases the gift cards in denominations of \$20, \$50, and \$100. Parents may purchase the cards from the Center and we earn 5% on the sale of the gift cards. Please let us know if you are interested in purchasing gift cards. We will deliver them to your child's cubby and you may leave a check in the tuition pocket. We hope to again build up our gift certificate support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Calendar:

February 2: All Staff, the Center opens at 8:30 am.  
February 12: Book Mobile, pre-school  
February 19: Board Meeting, Mezzanine at noon.  
(Parents are indeed invited)

Upcoming Dates for your calendar:

March 2: Staff Inservice. The Center opens at 10:00 am.  
Week of March 19: Kindergarten Report Cards  
Week of March 26: Parent Teacher Conferences

Special Thank you's:

To Zachary Brandwein for the donation of a hat for the Kindergarten.  
To Eli Driscoll's parents for the Cheerio's for First Infant.  
Keona Kuo's parents for Kleenex for the First Infant room.  
Ella Zimolo's parents for the Boppy for Second Infant.  
Raiden Imaeda's parents for the Cheerio's and bags for Second Infant.  
Miya Imaeda's parents for the ink pads and stamps for the Otters.  
Alexis Gipson's parents for the bags for Second Infant.  
Our own Linda Talley for all the crocheted blankets for the baby dolls.  
Our own Pat Copley for the bulletin board for the toddlers.  
Liliana Storer's parents for the play dough toys, the CD and book for the Otters.  
Felix Kibbey's parents for the smocks for the Otters.  
Elina Murarka's Mom for the play dough rolling pins for the Otters.  
Sandra Apfelroth's Mom and Dad for the CD's for the Otters.  
Phoebe Schechner's Mom for the music CD's for the Otters.  
Roland and Vincent Calia-Bogan's Mom and Dad for the ice cream maker balls for the Beluga's.  
Olivia Maxwell's Mom and Dad for the Kleenex for the Belugas.  
Kiku Desai's parents for the CD for the Belugas.  
Jack Van Gelder's parents for the fruit to share with the Dolphins.  
Sarah Kronengold's parents for the recyclables for the Dolphins.  
Lillie Scanlon's parents for the Chia pet and recyclables for the Manatees.  
Noah Ziff's Mom for the Soy Butter for the Manatees.  
Ryan Mao's parents for the egg cartons for the Manatees.  
Molly Drew's parents for the food pyramid for the Kindergarten.  
Fenn Suter's parents for the road signs for the Kindergarten.  
Carter Clarke's parents for the building set for the Kindergarten.

A very special thank you to all our parents for your cooperation as we have worked on the process of Accreditation. We could not have come this far without your support. Thank you all very much.