

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

Dear Parents:

We hope that everyone had a good break.

I want to share with all our parents that this month will be the “final” countdown until we file our Candidacy paperwork for Accreditation. It has been a long road and one that we continue to feel a little uncertain about as the Academy continues to make changes in the criteria. I know from the teachers that some of our families have found the new criteria challenging. All the criteria have only one purpose; that is to work toward the highest levels of health, safety, care and learning opportunities for your children. Yes, some seem to be “overboard”. There will be, as this new system continues to work out the kinks, a pendulum of extremes. It is important to remember the goal, which is to provide quality for the children. Be patient as we struggle to master the criteria and the Academy continues to define the criteria. We are almost there!

Nutrition and Young Children: Each year we find, particularly after the holidays, a slight change in the lunches brought in by the children. We have always and will continue to follow, “Nutrition in Action: Dietary Guidelines in Child Care.” We use these guidelines to help foster nutritious choices and to help ensure that all our children are eating foods that are safe, (non -choking hazards), low in fats, sugars and unhealthy refinements and, to help our parents as a resource. If donuts, etc. do come in the lunch boxes, we do mention to your child that it must be a special treat for the ride home. If anyone has any questions or would like any additional information about the guidelines, appropriate portions, developing a safe eating environment, etc. there are a variety of handouts available. Please email or stop by the office.

Kindergarten: Just a reminder to all our parents who have children of Kindergarten age, there is a Kindergarten Information Board posted at the end of the pre-school hall way with all the private kindergarten programs in the City of New Haven listed in addition, the necessary information for families interested in the Magnet Schools. Please be certain to note the dates and times of tours, etc. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Construction Update: By now you will all have noticed that the elevator by the pre-school is no longer in use, the “Big Room” is closed off and the activity on the second to fourth floors increasing. We are managing. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Just some Childcare 'Housekeeping':

Please be certain that your child has labeled changes of clothing in their cubbies.

Eventually the weather will become more winter like and they will need appropriate changes of socks, underwear, pants, etc.

Labeling **ALL** items with your child's name is a State requirement. This means lunch boxes, shoes, hats, mittens, jackets, etc.

Signing your children in and out of the Center is also a State Requirement. It is important and parents are expected to take the time to fill all relevant information about their child's morning on the sign in sheet.

Children are not to open and close the doors in the Center. This includes older siblings. Most of the doors that lead to the Center are self closing, all are heavy and years ago a child lost the tip of their finger when the door closed on them. This is an insurance issue for us and we request your cooperation

The Center closes at 5:30 p.m. This means that parents are to have arrived, touched base with the teachers, empty cubbies, sign their children out and be out the door by 5:30 p.m. After that, parents are considered late. Each family is allowed one late every quarter. If they are late a second time the fee is \$25.00 for every fifteen minutes or part of fifteen minutes. All our staff either are either continuing their education, have families and their own childcare constraints or have simply need to get on with the other part of their lives. Please, in support of our staff and in recognition of the impact of being the last child left on your child, be on time.

Calendar: January 2, 2007: Center opens at 7:30 am.
January 5, 2007 All Staff, Center opens at 8:30 am.
January 8, 2007: Bookmobile for Pre-school and Kindergarten
January 15, 2007: Center closed for Martin Luther King Day

Special Thank you's:

To Sarah Kronengold's Mom and Dad

for the recyclable's, the pine cones and shoe boxes.

To Anna and Ella Zimolo's Mom and Dad for the applesauce and the Cheerio's

To Alexandra Van Gelder's Mom for the applesauce.

To Aiden Brandwein's Mom for the Cheerio's.

To Miya Imaeda's Mom and Dad for the Ink and Stamps for the Sea Otters

To Sandra Apfelroth's Mom for the Vegetarian Jello

To Leah Tobin's Mom and Dad for the puzzle for the Sea Otters.

To Talya Braverman's Mom and Dad for the games for the Kindergarten

To Carter Clarke's Family for the book the "Kindness Quilt" for the Kindergarten.

To Pranathi Santosh's Grandparents (Dom and Prima) for coming on the Kindergarten
Field Trip to the Discovery Museum.

To Pranathi Santosh's Mom for taking Skunk home for part of the break.

To Larry Litevich, the supervisor for the Taulman Construction company and his family
for taking Skunk for the remainder of the break.

To our own Pat Copley for taking Moondog over the break

