

Creative Learning Center

Parent Connection Summer 2009

June & July



Happy Fathers Day
June 21, 2009

A Note from the Director

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the beautiful newness of spring. I love to see all the new growth in our surroundings, the sounds of the birds singing in the morning, and of course the wonderful smells of the blooming flowers and trees. Here at Creative Learning we love to get all the children outside to get a personal view of our beautiful surroundings. The preschoolers have started our garden in the courtyard with a new set up. What a great opportunity for the children to learn about how things grow and the patience it takes to make the vegetables that we eat everyday.

With summer right around the corner please remember to keep in touch with the office on vacation dates. All full-time families may be eligible for 1 week at 1/2 off tuition. In order to receive this benefit you must talk with Becky or myself before your vacation.

CLC staff have been very busy with our Accreditation process. We cur-

rently have our accreditation until fall of 2010. As we gear up for the new process staff have been working very hard on classroom portfolios as well as children's portfolios. These are very time consuming but show growth for each child throughout each classroom. I am also working on a program portfolio that is having me take a look at policies and procedures in many areas of the center. There will be more information to come on this detail. One other thing that will need to go out very soon is another family survey. As we are improving on quality we look to you for your input to make goals for each classroom. I will be doing this electronically to all families in the next couple of weeks.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at anytime. I will be traveling with my family starting Friday June, 19 and returning Tuesday, June 30. I will have limited access to e-mail if you need me. Have a great summer!

Lisa

CLC Dates

CLC will be closed
July 3rd
in observance of
Independence Day.

CLC will be closed
September 7th
In observance of
Labor Day

Community Events

Grand Rapids Children's
Museum
Aunt Daisy's Farm
Grand Opening June 17th

Reeds Lake Clothesline
Art Festival
June 20
East Grand Rapids

Coast Guard Festival
July 24-Aug 2
Grand Haven

Muskegon Summer
Celebration
June 25-July 5

Jazz at the Zoo
Monday nights starting June 15
6-10pm @ John Ball Zoo

Blues on the Mall
June 10-Aug.12
Wednesday nights @ Rosa
Park Circle

KDL Summer Reading Club
June 8-August 15
Free programs!

First day of Summer!!

June 21, 2009

Summer Camp

Our Summer Camp is in full swing! We have a classroom of 1st-6th graders that are on an adventure of fun for the next three months. Throughout the summer, the CLC summer campers will be having various fundraisers, all raising money towards the summer end trip to Michigan's Adventure. The first of three car washes will be today, from 330-5. Campers will be washing cars for a small donation to the MA fund. Mark your calendars for July 16 and August 13 for the other 2 car wash events.

They are also starting the pop can drive next week. They will be collecting cans all summer with a scavenger hunt contest in the neighborhoods in late July.

The month of August the campers will be focusing on supply and demand with a cooking/baking project. They will be working on a bake sale that will happen on August 6th. They will be responsible for coming up with a list of things to bake and then off to the store to purchase supplies, make the goodies and then sell them to all of our CLC families. This will be a great lesson of economics with profit and loss being a big topic. The final fundraiser for them will be the CLC store again this year. Each month the campers will be in the lobby trying to sell some great arts & crafts that they have worked on throughout the summer months. Please help them raise the funds needed to get them all to Michigan Adventures at the end of August.

New Playground Fun!!

Many staff joined forces in the evening of June 5th to update our playground. As part of our NAEYC and licensing requirements we had to conduct a playground inspection by a local inspector.

There were a few areas that needed attention and we all worked together to accomplish the task. On the preschool playground we focused more on the fall zone areas. All our areas needed to be pushed back to six feet on all sides. That required much more sand to be dumped as well as heavy lifting of timbers to hold all of it in place. On the courtyard we replaced some equipment and tidied it up a bit with a landscaped area of woodchips. The toddler playground gained a new firehouse climber as well as some general cleaning, new sand and wood chips. There were many dedicated staff that worked VERY hard after a full day of work but we very happy with the outcome. We are not quite done yet as more wood chips need to be hauled and a sandbox needs to be built on the preschool side but we have come a long way so far.

Here at CLC, we focus on the High/Scope approach to teaching. We follow the children's cues to expand daily lessons based off from their interest.

Ice Cream Truck

The Ice cream truck is visiting us again this summer. Every other Tuesday next on e will be June 23rd. Check with your child's teacher on how they are handling the costs!

Mark your calendars

CLC is closed October 2nd for our annual staff retreat. There will be more information to come!

Thank you for all who contributed to the

TSC Alliance in honor of Cole.

We were able to give them a check for \$335 for research that will stay in our area.

Thank you again.

Staff Training Updates

May 29 & 30 CLC hosted a High/scope training on Problem Solving and the Challenging child. We had 4 of our preschool staff attend this training (Kathleen, Tennessee, Erin and Deb) They walked a way with some new "tools" for their tool bag in the classroom. We are looking to host another training here in the fall that will coincide with retreat.

We also recertified all staff who's CPR & 1st aid training was expiring this month as well.

High/Scope Key Experience: Literacy

Young children begin to read in a variety of ways. They "read" familiar picture books, by memorizing a story that has

been read to him/her over and over and by describing the pictures that they see on each page. They also read by recognition. They can "read" sign, labels, and symbols from things that are frequently exposed to. As children experiment with writing by scribbling, or actually forming letters they can also read what they have written. These early attempts to find meaning in written language are important experiences that help prepare children to meet the reading challenges of elementary school. We have some tips to grow a healthy reading environment for your child. First create a home environment that encourages reading. Surround your child with a wide variety of printed material. Well illustrated picture books, poetry books, magazines, catalogs, phone books, travel brochures, empty food boxes, calendars, old greeting

cards, and business cards. Daily exposure to print material can help children understand how print is laid out. Front to back, top to bottom, and left to right.

Second, participate in reading activities with your child often. You do not have to spend a ton of money on workbooks or programs to help your child to become a successful reader. Reading to your child is free and should be done daily. Set a consistent time each day to read together. Choose a cozy place away from distractions. Visit the library often as well as utilizing the great programs and they offer. Third, watch your child to see how they read in their everyday lives. This information will help you understand where they are in the gradual process of becoming readers and communicators. Asking you to read them a story or quietly placing a book in your lap, may

show an early love of reading. "Reading" picture books to younger children will expand their vocabulary by leaps and bounds. The more words they are exposed to the more enriched their vocabulary will be.

Lastly, let your child see you read. If they see you read it will encourage them to do the same rather than turn on a TV or video game. Do everything you can to make reading time a relaxing pastime and a desirable activity. Because parents realize what an important role reading will play in future school success, we can often feel pressure to "teach" young children to read letters and recognize sounds. This sort of pressure can make the act of reading an unpleasant experience for young children. A much more successful approach is to take the time and patience needed to support your child's early interest in reading and to encourage their reading skills as they develop, according to your child's unique

timetable.

