
October 2018

Preschool News!

Fall brings exciting changes to Jill's House!

Intergenerational Time

It has been a long time since you have heard about our intergenerational time! I apologize for that. Now that we are fully staffed and stable, I plan to send a newsletter at the start of each month. Since we began our infant and toddler rooms out intergenerational time has changed a bit.

Our 3-5-year-old room, the Beetles go up to visit with residents on MWF. Activities have been primarily run by their teachers and range from games, arts, songs and just spending time together. The Beetles will be beginning the robot study again here in the next few weeks.

In the 2-3-year-old room, the Caterpillar's, the students go upstairs on T/Th and usually spend time singing and reading stories. Both of these groups are also frequented by a few of our residents who want to come and play in the preschool in the afternoons.

The infant/ones room, the Bumblebees are the least organized, but when all students are feeling well, they go upstairs in the morning and afternoon to say hello, smile, coo, and bring joy to the residents upstairs.

Important Information

Staffing

Beetles- In the Beetles room the lead teachers are Jessica and Kelsey, and assistants are Taylor and Vanessa

Caterpillars – In the Caterpillar room the lead teachers are Sienna and Sigal, and assistants are David and Jessica

Bumblebees- In the Bumblebee room the lead teachers are Jennifer and Abby and assistants are Abbi and Tonya (starting 10/10) Tonya is a Bloomington native who worked at the YCCF and moved to Illinois last winter. She is happy to be returning to Bloomington, enrolling her son in our program, and working as the afternoon assistant with the Bumblebees.



Important Announcements

- Please make sure that your child is 24 hours fever free WITHOUT Tylenol or Advil before returning to school. Thanks!! 😊
- Conference information should be coming your way soon!
- Make sure to take water bottles and nap time blankets home to clean each week, but please do not forget them on Monday. 😊
- Donations of extra old towels are needed for wet and muddy days.
- Please remember to check your child's cubby and make sure we have extra clothing and that it is weather appropriate.
- We are looking into Fall portraits for students, I will be in touch with more details soon!

Parent Resource!

Never underestimate the power of play in your child's educational and developmental journey. Here are some amazing books on the subject:

A Child's Work the Importance of Fantasy Play by Vivian Gussin Paley

Lisa Murphy on Play the Foundation of Children's Learning by Lisa Murphy

Substitute teachers- Rachel is currently an Early Childhood education student at IU who was placed in our program for her Spring practicum last year. She loves being with us, so she has offered to sub anytime it fits her schedule.

Floating assistant – we currently have a floating assistant, Maranda. She has been working in the infant/ones room in the afternoon, but when our new assistant for that room begins, she will then help in any space that is needed.

Conferences

If you have not yet, you should be hearing from your teacher's regarding a time to set up a conference in October. These conferences are important in building that trusting relationship with your child's teacher. If the available times do not work with your family, please reach out to your teachers about a different time that may work and we will do our best to accommodate that. If you choose not to participate, please respond by email to let your teachers know that you do not wish to participate.

Changes

Just when it seems that we are settled, we have been given a grant from the City of Bloomington to create more spaces for children in our community. This grant will allow us to add our fourth and final class. This room will be created along the new hallway that was added when the Bumblebees room was created. It will allow us to add space for 10 one-year olds, which will in turn allow us to have 8 full time infants in the infant room. That being said, we will have openings for infants starting January of 2019. At this point we still have availability for two one-year olds, and for two, two-year olds in the Bumblebee and Caterpillar rooms. We know that it will take a while to be full and to move toward Continuity of Care in our infant/toddler rooms, but we strive to make that work for the best quality of care.

Illness

Unfortunately, since the start of the infant/ones room, we have had a lot of illness fly through the program. The latest one to settle in is Hand Foot Mouth disease. This has been starting with a moderate to high grade fever for a few days and then a rash on the hands, feet, and mouth. It will often present as a diaper rash as well. Please be diligent about hand washing when entering the classroom and keeping students home when a fever presents itself. Please keep your child home until s/he is fever free without the aid of fever reducing medicine. These illnesses can be very hard to contain.

Playground

The playground improvement was placed on the backburner when we moved forward with the infant/ones room. Our kids always have a blast, but I am ready to begin work on these areas. Hopefully in the next few weeks you will see some improvements taking shape. I thank you for your patience!

On another note, our kids love their mud play, but I have recently heard some grumblings when parents are coming to pick up and their child is messy. Messy play is a big part of what we do in our program, so we do not want to lose that developmentally appropriate component, or to have to tell one child they cannot partake, while another one does, but we also want to be understanding of your needs as well. I would love to eventually purchase these for the entire program, unfortunately we cannot afford it at this time, but with the cooler weather setting in, you can purchase one-piece coveralls for rain and mud play. You can find them at Amazon under the names of "muddy buddy coverall" or "mud stopper coveralls". These range in sizing from infants all the way up to 8. There are many different price brackets as well starting at around \$25. This could make that transition from school to car a little easier. Please express to your child and their teachers that you want them to wear their boots or coveralls to play in the mud, so there is not a battle with their teachers when getting ready to play and there are no misunderstandings. Please keep in mind

that these things are also best put into notes for both teachers because communication can often get confused when you share the info with the morning teacher and not the afternoon teacher.

Thank You!

As always, I am forever grateful that you choose us to be with your children each day. I promise you that we do this because we believe in providing the best experience for you and your children. We are dedicated to building amazing opportunities and quality care with a focus on building relationships with the residents and each other. We love what we do, and we love sharing that with your family!! Thank you! Happy Fall!! 😊