



FCCC NEWSLETTER

Play to Learn, Learn to Love

MAY 2015

Director's News

Curriculum Development
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (sounds like curricula for primary grades, right?) more commonly known in the early childhood field as STEM, was the topic of discussion in the April 3rd in-service. Young children are far more engaged and equipped with intuitive learning skills for these seemingly sophisticated subjects.

Teachers gained a lot of new information about how to create age-appropriate experiences for infants through preschool that invite children to explore, question, predict, experiment and problem solve using everyday materials. An example of what STEM might look like for an infant/toddler would be routine opportunities to explore cause and effect materials that engage looking, touching, tasting, smelling and hearing. An infant teacher looks for



opportunities to engage a baby's natural curiosity by offering various objects to look at, listen to, hold and manipulate. Preschool classrooms provide daily materials for engineering (small toys to connect/build), investigate the how's, why's and what if's through science and nature observations and experiments; and incorporate mathematical concepts into routine activities like setting the table for lunch, sorting and putting away materials after play,

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Care Bear News

What does May flowers bring..... Pilgrims, hahahahaha. Warmer weather means more outside time for our Care Bears. Please apply sunscreen before arriving to school. We will reapply throughout the day as needed. Make sure to bring in sunscreen and sun hats, labeled and placed in your child's diaper bin. We will continue our walks to surrounding parks and playgrounds.

Transitions are here again. The Care Bears have eight

Bear Cub News

Spring is in full swing and the Bear Cubs are happy to be getting more outside play time and the teachers are happy too.

Throughout the month of May, the Bear Cubs will be focusing on Spring Time, Colors and Mother's Day. We will create different projects to make our classroom look spring-like and colorful, such as creating a big sun, flowers, grass, trees, leaves, butterflies, etc. We also will be

children moving up. Although it will be difficult to see them go.... they are more than ready to move and grow. The last two weeks of May will be spent helping these older children transition to their new class. The first day in their new class will be June 1st. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to ask the office or Markita.

We have many "babies" walking, crawling, rolling, and scooting. Our newest

reading books on colors and creating activities using different color items, such as cotton balls, tissue paper, etc. Aside from this, we will also be working on a special project for Mother's Day.

Birthday wishes go out to Adelaide and Jack. Adelaide turned two on April 27th and Jack turned two on April 30. Upcoming Birthdays: Leo & Ella celebrate on May 4 and Mabel on May 5.

additions have adjusted very well to their new environment. We are sure that they will grow before our very eyes.

Wish list

Baby/toddler friendly books, new or gently used.



Last but not least, June moved up to the Cuddle Cubs on April 1st. We will miss her, but we wish her well.

Wish list: Hardback books, cd's and AA batteries.



Cuddle Cub News

Happy May! Thanks to the lovely weather the Cuddle Cubs have been having a ball playing outside, often times digging in the dirt and marveling at ants and other bugs. Let's hope this month is full of sun shiny days for outdoor activities and walks.

This is the time of year we like to take our little one's on impromptu walks to places like Love Park, The Library and sometimes even to Trader Joe's. This is a great opportunity for the kids to explore and identify the many different colors and textures of fruit, vegetables and other items. Staff members are always happy to see us and are generous with food samples and stickers.

Our theme for the month of May will be "Once upon a Time." We'll be reading lots of nursery rhymes and fairytales, such as Goldie Locks and the Three Bears, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and the Three Little Pigs. We encourage you to



follow with the theme at home and maybe even bring in one of you or your child's favorite fairytale to read during circle time.

In keeping with the theme, the Cuddle Cubs will do loads of fun stuff like watching their favorite stories come to life on felt boards, dressing up like some of the characters, creating art work revolving around the stories and maybe even make some porridge and gingerbread men!

May is a very special month for FCCC because we will also be working on our very special

and unique Mother's Day gifts.

We hope you all have a fantastic month and a very Happy Mother's Day!

Reminders: Please remember to label your child's jackets and to update their extra clothes according to size and season. Also, please be sure to apply sunscreen on your child before they come to school. We also encourage you to bring in your own tube (labeled with your child's name) so that we may reapply when going outdoors.



Puddle Jumper News

Throughout the month of May, the Puddle Jumpers will continue learning to use the potty. In addition, they will plant seeds and watch them grow. Puddle Jumpers will also plant a potato eye. They will also become familiar with different bugs/insects. In addition, we will talk about mothers and how important they are in the lives of their children. Photos and paintings and drawings of mothers will be displayed around the room. Our goal is to build your child's verbal, listening, and memory skills as well as self-esteem.

Activities for the month will include:

Language: Listen to stories about bugs and plants. Name four parts of a plant. Name three things plants need to grow. Name some parts of a person that is similar to a plant.

Name some parts of bugs/insects

Art: Bug/ insect collages, painting

pictures of plants, mother collages, painting/drawing of moms, and putting together Mother's Day gifts.

Cooking: Make edible dirt. Make a fruit salad. Make ants on a log. Shuck and cook corn. Make bug juice (a sugary treat for bugs). Make bug pops (frozen yogurt treats with a gummy bug surprise). Make a toss salad. Make vegetable soup.

Math: Count legs on bugs and insects and people? How many Puddle Jumpers are there? How many Puddle Jumpers names begin with the same letter?

Dramatic Play: Move like your favorite bugs/ insects. Listen to Flight of The Bumble Bee. Do the jitterbug. Dance and sing Ants Go Marching.

Science: Search the premises for bugs.

Name some insects/bugs that are good for your garden. Name some insects/bugs that destroy your growing plants. Look at insects/bugs with a magnifier. Do earth worms have legs? How do earth worms help a garden? We will attract ants with some food scraps or sugar. Discuss the use of a bug's proboscis. Name some parts of a bug and their use. Name some parts of a plant and their use. Water our plants. Use food coloring and celery stalk in water to observe that plants "drink".

Happy Birthday Elvis on May 4, Riley on May 13 and Race on May 14.



food coloring, understanding that most plants make seeds for new plants, and that seeds grow into plants with roots, stems, leaves and flowers. We will also experiment with mixing colors to make a new one.

Our goal for this theme is to have your child feel good about themselves and their abilities, and most of all have fun .

Birthday Celebrations:

Anika-May 6, Danielle-May 7, Jackson-May 8, Jehan-May 12, Vivian May-12, Charlotte-May 22, Abigail-May 29

Reminders:

Charlotte's Web May 6

Miss Nelson is Missing May 20

Center is closed May 25 in honor of Memorial Day

We would like to wish you a HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!

Triangle News

Throughout the month of May the Triangles will focus on the theme of "Renew and Review" We will focus on self- concept as we offer opportunities for each child to engage, grow, and learn at their own pace. We will include activities that will help to make a connection with each developmental area focusing on one major area a week.

The first week we will concentrate on fine motor. Activities such as using a writing tool or cutting with scissors with intentions, copying horizontal lines, vertical lines and circles, exploring with a variety of manipulatives, practice with buttoning and zipping, putting together a ten or fifteen piece puzzle, and lacing following a sequence of holes. Next, we will focus on gross motor skills. There will be choices such as catching a ball from a distance, throwing a ball overhand, throw a beanbag at a target, walk forward/backward on a line, hop on one foot, moves body in response to simple teacher

commands, ride a tricycle or scooter, and dig with big wooden blocks. Math will include performances such as rote counts to ten, understanding number concepts (when presented with a given number of objects, child can tell how many there are up to six), sorts objects into two given categories (by size, shape, or color), matches sets containing up to five objects, and constructs sets of blocks when given a model. While engaging in language, we will continue to have weekly show and tell presentations, engage in simple conversation, memorizes and repeats simple rhymes and songs, describe action pictures, listens to short stories, follow two directions, names concrete objects in environment, recognizes and names articles of clothes worn, points to and names body parts, tells own full name, sex, and age. As we explore and investigate with science we will do a variety of hands-on activities such as planting grass seeds on a sponge, start a sweet potato vine, see what happen when a stalk of celery is placed in a container of

Quad News

We cannot believe the school year is coming to a close. All of us have made great progress and cannot wait to enjoy the summer! To end the year, the Quads will focus on one of their favorite topics, Bugs! We can't wait to get our hands dirty and learn about these tiny creatures! We can't wait to go outside using magnifying glasses and search for bugs. We will read a variety of books about our favorite bugs, as well as compose a graph of our favorite ones. In addition, we will make a chart of what bugs are, what they can do, and what they have. The Quads will make our own rock bug and play a bug guessing game. We are looking forward to taking walks around the neighborhood and identify the bugs we may

find. Also, all of us will make our own fossils and create our own worm painting using spaghetti.

The Quads will be gearing up for our End of the Year Celebration! We will be practicing daily to put on a great performance that will take place on Thursday, May 28th.

Goals for the month include:

- Learn about different kinds of bugs
- Practice writing the names of bugs
- Practice reading short stories
- Practice recognizing large numbers
- Continue to practice simple addition

- Continue to practice writing two, three, and four letter words
- Continue to practice positive interactions with one another
- Expanding on our Dramatic Play area (Ex: Creating a supermarket, hair salon, etc.)
- *Reminders: Trip to see Charlotte's Web at the Irvine Auditorium on Wednesday, May 6 and Miss Nelson Is Missing on Wednesday, May 20. Please make sure your child wears his/her FCCC shirt and comfortable sneakers. Please make sure your child arrives to school by 9:00.
- *FCCC will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 25.



What did I learn in school today?



In honor of Earth Day, the Quads learned how we could help keep our environment clean. We practiced by sweeping and picking up trash outside. We even used our creativity to make these fun Earth Day people!

Happy Mother's Day!

Upcoming Events

- ◇ **Preschool Trips**, Charlotte's Web on 5/6 and Miss Nelson is Missing on 5/20
- ◇ **Bake Sale**, May 11-May 15
- ◇ **Memorial Day**, FCCC is CLOSED May 25
- ◇ **End of Year Celebration**, May 28
- ◇ **Summer Camp at FCCC**, 6/1-8/28
- ◇ **Instructional Swim Lessons**, Tuesdays & Thursdays in June

Announcements & Reminders



Every Wednesday is **pizza day**.

°Check children's mail slots every day.

°Friends Child Care Center is on **Facebook**. Check us out for upcoming Fundraising Events.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-Child-Care-Center/197767671575>

°**Resource Library: CHECK IT OUT**

Parents and teachers are welcome to borrow books from our resource library in the B space alcove. Please complete the borrower's

form and drop it in the right side slot. Please return borrowed materials in a timely fashion, so that others have an opportunity to borrow as well. Visit www.librarything.com, Username: fccc, Password: 1501cherry for a list of books in our library.

°Remember to show **ID cards** upon entering the Friends Center Lobby or stop and sign in if you don't have your card. This is an important security measure for the safety of our children. Additional ID Cards are available in the FCCC Office.

°Additional **Parking Placards** are available in the FCCC Office, 2nd Floor of the C space.

Just a reminder: There is no parking on Cherry Street. Please do not use it for drop-off and pick up.



School Closings:

- **Memorial Day:** Monday, May 25.
- **Independence Day:** Friday, July 3.

Director's News (Continued)

counting and numbering exercises. Our staff will continue this line of learning through ongoing professional development throughout the summer with a goal of full implementation by Fall 2015.

Speaking of STEM... It's gardening time at FCCC!! Volunteers have already rolled up their sleeves to till the area targeted for planting. The soil still needs a bit more working as we would like to bring it to a light and fluffy

look and feel. Top soil will be added and then planting will commence!! Last year we followed the concept on the lines of a Three Sisters Garden. This year we will create a "Companion Garden". Did you know that some plants are very different from one another and grow nicely together for various reasons from height of a particular plant to

provide shade for crops that don't do well in full sunlight, to the aroma of some plants that serves well to keep away insects. Who would have thought?? This theme will serve well to emphasize with the children the importance of working well together to help each other



learn and grow and that this can be accomplished even when we differ. (In the way we look, think, speak, feel.) Adding props to be staked throughout would make the garden even more inviting. The children will again partner in mixed age groupings to plant the seeds or starter plants, watering, weeding and harvesting crops throughout the summer. If you have an interest in lending a helping hand throughout the gardening season, please contact me. fcccdirector@friendschildcare.org

Have a magnificent month of May!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raechel".



Allergy Information & Health Policy

Classroom Allergy Alerts:

NUT FREE CLASSROOMS:

CUDDLE CUBS AND PUDDLE JUMPERS

SEAFOOD FREE CLASSROOMS:

CUDDLE CUBS

»Please be sure to check the expiration dates on your child's epipens (and all other medications). All medications should move with a child into their new classroom when they transition.

»Please be sure to wash both you and your child's hands immediately upon arrival into your child's

classroom.

Illness Policy:

It is in the best interest of the children and staff that everyone participates in reducing the spread of illness and maintaining a healthy environment. FCCC bases its health and wellness policies in accordance with DPW Regulations and the American Academy of Pediatrics Caring for Our Children Performing Standards. Please call to inform us whenever your child will be absent due to illness. Your child may not be brought in for child care unless she/he is able to participate fully in all activities including outdoor play.

You will need a back-up plan you can use when your child is sick.

Please be alert for pre-illness symptoms such as lethargy, glassy eyes, diarrhea, fever, etc., and keep your child home if she/he seems to be coming down with something.

When a child has been diagnosed with an infectious (contagious) illness, FCCC issues an Infectious Disease alert via email to the affected classroom. If multiple cases occur throughout the Center, a center-wide notification will go out via email. The identity of the child will not be given and personal information will be kept confidential.

FCCC Website Information



Be sure to visit our website at www.friendschildcare.org to download forms, check out calendar events, and visit the classroom portal to see what is happening in your child's classroom. Parent Password is 'letmein.'



Thank you for helping to make FCCC the best it can be.

Meet Our Staff

Care Bears Teachers:

Markita, Toni, Erica, Kyra, Nathalie, Robin

Bear Cub Teachers:

Michelle, Linda

Cuddle Cub Teachers:

Shannon, Barbara, Lea, Vickie,

Puddle Jumper Teachers:

Cordella, Jeanette, Zakiyah, April



Preschool Teachers:

Teresa, Susan, Missy, Bjay, Kiyana,

Floater:

Andrea Thomas
Ashley Osborne

Subs:

Gail Centola

Administration:

Raechel, Susan, Eileen

Baby Announcements

The Stork has Stopped By..'

And delivered Luna Epstein

On April 28, 2015

A precious little bundle at 7 lbs. 11 oz.

Max (in the Puddle Jumpers Classroom) is very proud
of his new baby sister.

Gaetane & Peter are doing just fine.

and

And delivered Eleanor Graham

On April 29, 2015

A precious little bundle at 7 lbs. 15 oz.

Jack (in the Bear Cubs Classroom) is very proud
of his new baby sister.

Nicole and John are doing just fine.

Bake Sales

FCCC runs semi-annual bake sale fundraisers throughout the year to help offset programming costs. We look to our families to volunteer to help with these events.

Upcoming 2014-2015 Bakes Sale
Schedule: weeks of

May 11-15

Families are asked to sign up to bake goods to be sold in the Friends Center Lobby to building tenants and visitors.

Bakes sales run from 8:00am-3:00pm daily. Please provide a list of ingredients in order to maintain safe options for all those with food allergies.

Parents are also needed to help table-sit during these bake sales.

We appreciate your support.





Friends CHILD CARE CENTER

Play to learn, learn to love



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(215)864-6973 (fax)
www.friendschildcare.org

FRIENDS CHILD CARE CENTER

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Director	(215) 241-7108	fcccdirector@friendschildcare.org
Finance	(215) 241-7011	fcccfinance@friendschildcare.org
Care Bears	(215) 241-7013	carebears@friendschildcare.org
Bear Cubs	(215) 241-7012	bearcubs@friendschildcare.org
Cuddle Cubs	(215) 241-7027	cuddlecubs@friendschildcare.org
Puddle Jumpers	(215) 241-7007	puddlejumper@friendschildcare.org
Triangles	(215) 241-7012	triangles@friendschildcare.org
Quads	(215) 241-7012	quads@friendschildcare.org