



Inside the CCC

Newsletter of the Child Care Center of Evanston
Child Care Center of Evanston Preschool
and Family Child Care Connections
1840 Asbury Ave., Evanston, Illinois 60201

Winter 2009

Child Care Center of Evanston

New Creative Curriculum for CCC

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Calendar

- * Thursday, Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m. Board of Director's meeting.
- * Monday, March 2: Teacher Institute Day—NO SCHOOL for children
- * Friday, March 20: FIRST DAY OF SPRING!



This past September the Child Care Center began implementing the Creative Curriculum—an evidenced-based curriculum designed for early childhood programs. The Creative Curriculum is aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Standards which were developed by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The most important goal of the curriculum is to help children become enthusiastic learners. This means encouraging children to be active and creative explorers who are not afraid to try out their ideas and to think their

own thoughts. Our goal is to help children become independent, self-confident, inquisitive learners. We are teaching them *how* to learn, not just in preschool, but all through their lives.

Have you noticed the signs for the various “centers” in your child’s room? Ask your child how they know which center they can choose to use. Each classroom is a little different, but they all allow their children to choose and the children know how to choose a center so that none become too crowded.

Creative Curriculum allows your child to learn at his/her own pace and in ways that are best for them. Your child’s teachers are encouraging good habits and attitudes, particularly a positive sense of themselves, which will make a difference throughout their lives.

The Creative Curriculum identifies goals in all development areas:

- * Literacy
- * Mathematics
- * Science
- * Social Studies

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The Child Care Center of Evanston is a community-based organization whose mission is to strengthen families by providing high quality, affordable child care for their children. Its highest priority is to help children from all socioeconomic backgrounds gain the skills they need to succeed in school while fostering the shared community values of cooperation and respect for one another.

The Child Care Center is a United Way Agency

Funding is provided in part by the Illinois Dept. of Human Services

Family Child Care is a fund recipient of the Evanston Mental Health Board and The Evanston Early Head Start Program of the Childcare Network of Evanston

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*** Technology**

The activities the teachers plan for the children, the way they organize the environment, select toys and materials, plan the daily schedule and talk with the children, are all designed to accomplish the goals of our curriculum and give your child a successful start in school.

Please feel free to talk to your child's teacher about the Creative Curriculum.

Comings And Goings

Leaving Us— David Hibbitt was a new teacher this past September and was a “floater”, helping out where he was needed. Regardless of your child's class, they probably knew David. He was a favorite everywhere! Unfortunately for us at the CCC, he has followed a new opportunity in Columbus, Georgia. We will miss him and his ready smile!

Coming— Please welcome Paul Lavigne, who is doing his student teaching this semester in Group C under the tutelage of Bettye and Belinda. He is working on his AA degree in Early Childhood Education at Oakton Community College and will be with us through mid-May. We are glad to have him on board!

Pre-K Program at the CCC

As part of an Illinois State Board of Education program, “Preschool for All”, the Child Care Center receives funding to expand resources and enhance the quality of our program.



Our two Pre-K teachers, Tracey Neumarke and Darcy Carter, work with classroom teachers to provide support in the classroom setting and enrichment activities that help children de-

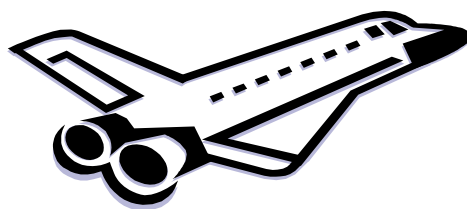
velop speech, language, literacy, cognitive, fine motor, and social skills, all within the regular classroom.

The funding for this program comes from State Board of Education grants to the Childcare Network of Evanston and School District #65.

If you would like more information about Pre-K, please see Tracey or Darcy.

Inside the Classrooms

Group A

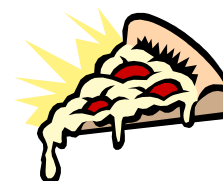


Group A has been working on an extensive transportation project. The children started out with cars in November and then went on to learn about buses. They made their own bus out of a cardboard box and made personal bus passes. They also pretended to be construction vehicles and specialty trucks like snow plows, tow trucks, and garbage trucks. In December their class went on a focused field trip to the Kohl Children's Museum and saw their current exhibit “Let's Play Railway”. The trip and bus ride were complimentary because

teacher Ann Rappelt is Kohl's Museum Project Approach Mentor. Now they are busy making their very own trains and planning train trips. After this who knows—perhaps space travel?

Group B

Pizza is the theme for the children in Group B. They cooked pizza, ate pizza, painted pizzas and will be making pizza that goes in the refrigerator. (This sounds like Mark's idea.)



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Parent Education

Have you ever asked yourself these questions. . .

How do I get my child to go to bed without complaining?

How do I help my children get along better?

What can I do if I want to stop yelling and threatening?

A program called Tuesday's Child, which is a non-profit parent training and early intervention program, will be providing a 4 week positive parenting workshop to address every day issues such as mealtime, bedtime, tantrums and sibling relationships. In addition, Tuesday's Child will teach techniques and strategies to help parents develop age appropriate behaviors, set limits, and develop a more positive parent-child relationship.

These workshops are for preschool and Family Child Care Connections parents, and will be held at the preschool on Wednesday evenings (Feb. 13, 20, 27 & March 5) from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Dinner and childcare are included. Please call Tami Biordi at (847) 864-5610 to register. There is no fee for the workshops.



Inside the Classrooms

Group A is building a restaurant. The children enjoy playing restaurant and were learning about construction with Project LEAP. Why not combine the two? They were given hard hats and tools to make a blue print of a building. They have been reading books about building, making building plans on paper, and using different kinds of classroom blocks and manipulatives to execute the plans. This week they made walls for the restaurant using Styrofoam panels. They cut square and triangle windows into the walls.

They have also been studying penguins. The children pretended they were penguins moving with eggs on top of their feet (beanbags), and hopping on letter icebergs.

Group B is learning about what is under the sea. The children are making two octopuses out of balloons and paper mache. Be careful walking into Group B—octopuses may be hanging from the ceiling!

The children in Group B are also learning balance and coordination. They are balancing on one foot,

Successful Annual Appeal

The Child Care Center's Board of Directors has completed a successful annual appeal for contributions. The appeal raised almost \$50,000 for the center's programs. Many thanks to all of our Board and to the many contributors to this appeal. Our program would not be what it is without you!

*** 3 Star Quality Rating System



The Child Care Center has met the eligibility requirements to participate in the Quality Rating System (QRS), which is a program sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Our center has met the requirements in the areas of Learning Environment, Program Administration, and Staff Qualifications & Training to achieve a **Star Level 3** (out of a possible 4). This will allow the center to receive some additional funding for each child in the center whose childcare is funded through the Child Care Assistance Program.

Parking Protocol

It can get a bit crowded at the CCC during drop off and pick up time. In order to help reduce the bottle neck in the front, the jam ups in the back, and rising blood pressure for anyone who is caught in a quagmire, please follow these guidelines:

1. Park on the street if possible. Parking is available on the north and south sides of Emerson and on the west side of Asbury directly in front of the Center.
2. If you pull into the front driveway, pull as far south as possible and curb your car. Park as far to the left or right as you can and **DO NOT** park in the middle of the drive. If cars are curbed, it is possible for others to pull through, avoiding the bottle neck of cars in the street. If there is no room in the driveway without blocking others, try the back parking lot or the street.
3. When you park in back, do not park behind other cars. Drop off and pick up time can be unpredictable, and you may be there longer than you expected. Also, do not block the alley.

Thank you!



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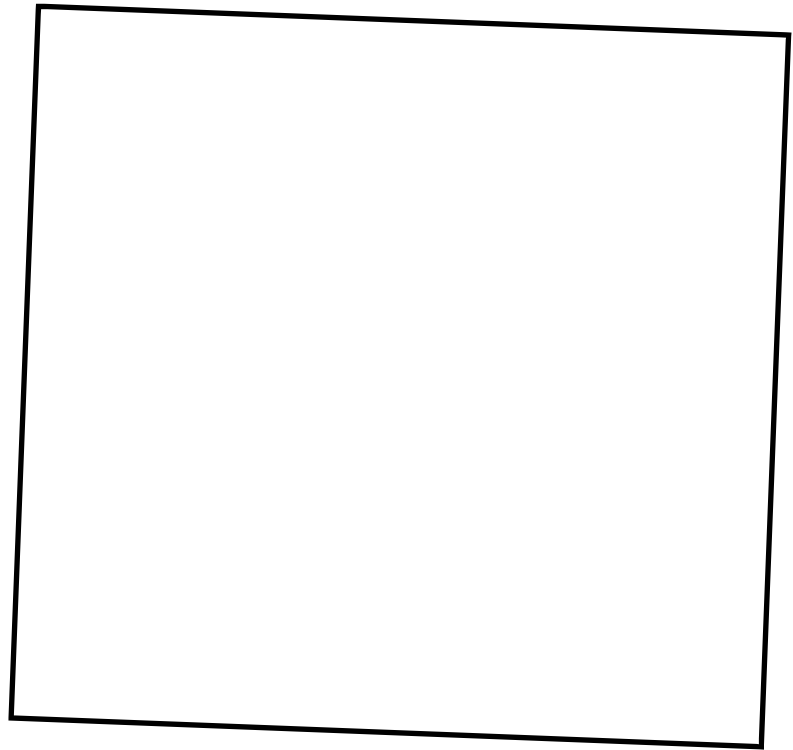
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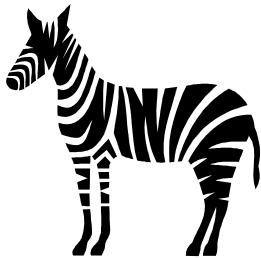
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Inside the Classrooms (continued from p. 2)

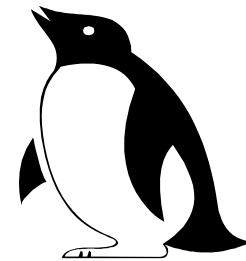
Group C

The children are starting the new year with “At the Zoo”, experiencing activities focused on animals that we see at the zoo, exploring the parts of the world they come from, the foods they eat, and how they are cared for.



Group D

Group D has begun a unit on winter. They read *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats and talked about the things they like to do in the snow. Each child made “a snowy day” scene using black paper with white paint, cotton balls and a cut-out of Peter from *The Snowy Day*.



Group E

Group E children are also learning about winter, specifically about Antarctica and the plants and animals that can live in such a cold environment. The children made snowflakes to decorate the classroom and made mini snowmen inside the classroom.