

Chapel Hill Day Care Center Newsletter

Fall 2009



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UPCOMING EVENTS!!

- Annual Costume Parade! October 30th at 10:00 a.m.!
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Parent Workday on November 7th!

From the Director...

At a parent meeting last year one of the members asked me who provided our IT support. My response was "you're looking at it," which was really a joke because you could fit what I know about computers in a thimble. The reality is our IT support comes from parents who volunteer their time and expertise.

One of our goals for the center this year is to use the internet for more of our communication. Much of what goes out to you from the office will be through e-mail. Please make sure we have the e-mail address that you want us to use. If you are receiving multiple e-mails and want us to delete one, just let me know. It is also my goal this year to do re-enrollment on-line for your convenience, and so that I don't have to decipher people's handwritten e-mail addresses! (Takes me back to my days as an English teacher.)

Each classroom now has an e-mail address that can be an additional means of communication between teachers and parents. This can be particularly helpful when you want to give teachers information without children hearing it. Please keep in mind that teachers usually only have one opportunity each day when they are not supervising children to check e-mail.

Each classroom now has a blog site. Different classrooms are using their sites to different degrees, depending on teachers' level of tech savvy and time availability. I imagine usage will change over the year. If you are familiar with using blogs and are willing to help, let your child's teachers know that you can be a resource for them.

We are also updating our website. Kate has been working with Connections Too and a couple of very generous parents to make our website more useful. It is not quite up and running, but things that current parents will use are right on the home page, it including the menu, any news (like inclement weather or upcoming events like the costume parade), the most recent newsletter, the parent handbook, the calendar and more. I will let you know when it is ready for you to use.

Happy Anniversary Nahija!

On November 18th we will be celebrating Nahija's 10th year as a CHDCC teacher. Nahija visited the center during summer 1999 and told me that she was a child care teacher and that she and her husband would be moving back to Chapel Hill from Boston. She would be living in Southern Village and this is where she would be working. She assured me that she was moving to Chapel Hill for good. She did not ask me if we had a job opening. Nahija immediately struck me as someone with positive determination ...which has lead to Chapel Hill Day Care Center and many children and their families having the pleasure to know Nahija over the past ten years.

It has been a privilege to work with her.

Pam



Interview with Nahija Khan!

How many families have you had while teaching at CHDCC?

Actually I can't really remember, but it's probably close to 100. Maybe 100.

Where are you originally from?

Bangladesh. It's in Asia. I lived in the city Dhuka- it's the capital.

Were you a child care teacher in your country?

No I had just finished my education there. I got a BA in Science from a University. I started as an elementary school teacher in Dhaka, but I did not work with child care until got here.

Have things changed over the past 10 years?

Yeah they have changed. My experience changes have been good. I can see lots of improvement over the last 10 years in different ways. All of these ways have been improvements, but overall my experience has always been good here. For example, the teacher's qualifications have changed. More teachers are more qualified here than before. Now we can go to school and become better qualified for our position. We have lots of Associate and BA teachers, that was not the case before that is a big change. It's good change that makes the center better.

Tell me one of the funny things that has happened while teaching.

One day a former teacher came in while I was changing diapers on April Fool's Day and she started asking me something to make conversation. So as the child and I were washing hands, she says "Nahija watch out there is poop behind you". I was like oh no I just changed everybody so I was checking everybody and she started laughing because it was "fake poop". She had brought in the fake poop to trick me. It was so funny!

What has kept you at CHDCC?

It has a very good environment. It has a good pleasant work environment, families and children. Good and helpful staff to work with. Very close to my house and has good benefits.

How do you like your co-teacher?

Super! I'm living in heaven. I can't describe how Krista is, she just excellent! Krista is very helpful, always pleasant, always happy, and I have no complaints about Krista.

Parent Teacher Conferences!

All teachers offer parent-teacher conferences during the fall and spring. Conferences are a time for parents and teachers to discuss each child's development, including strengths and challenges. It is an opportunity for parents and teachers together to ask questions and share information, as well create goals for the upcoming months.

Fall conferences have started, and our plan is to finish as many as possible by the end of November. Conferences are done in 30 minute blocks of time and are scheduled when we are best able to provide classroom coverage for teachers to be away from their rooms. Teachers often come in early or stay late or skip a break so that we can be sure to meet at a time that is possible for each family. Please notify us if you are unable to keep your conference appointment so we can reschedule.

Check out the new look for the website!

The website is an excellent resource for weekly menus, school calendar with closing and the newsletter! You can also order food certificates and pay online through the website.



Remember to send your child in weather appropriate clothing. Layers work well this time of year when it is often cold in the am and warm by afternoon.



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Food Certificates

Do you shop at Food Lion, Lowes Grocery, Weaver Street Market, or Whole Foods Market??

If so, this is the fundraising program for YOU!!! Chapel Hill Day Care Center purchases food certificates from Whole Foods Market, Food Lion, and Lowes Grocery store. You can purchase a gift card from Weaver Street Market; school ID 105. The center earns 5% or 6% for every dollar paid for the food certificate that individuals order from the grocery stores. Complete an order form (from Kate) that is available the last week of the month. You can place a monthly order or a standing order of a specified amount. After your first order Kate will include you on a list serve so every month you will receive notice of orders due. Food Lion and Lowes provide gift cards. The dollar amount on the cards is based on your requested amount as indicated on your order form. Whole Foods sell \$20.00 scripts that you can use to purchase groceries and receive the cash difference, or can convert to a rechargeable gift card. It costs NOTHING!!!! If you pay the center \$200.00 for gift cards, you get to spend \$200.00 for groceries. The cards and scripts are distributed on the first Friday of the month. Both are kept in the office, so come by the office to pick them up.



NC-AEYC Conference in Raleigh

The last teacher workday on October 2nd the staff attended an annual conference in Raleigh for the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (NC-AEYC). Staff attended at least 4 workshops, which equaled 5 hours of training in topics ranging from different approaches to learning, to challenging behavior and guidance, to the Cognitive Development of a child!

Introducing the 2009-10 CHDCC Parent Committee



Do you know who your child's classroom parent representative is this year?
Drum roll please...

Sea Turtles	Alison Fragale (Jordan's mom)
Happy Hippos	(space open – we're looking for someone to fill this spot)
Bumblebees	Melissa Brumback (Lillian's mom)
Chipmunks	Madeline Carrig (Sophia's mom)
Bunnies	Julie Hammer (Ryan's mom)
Seal Pups	Tricia Billy (Braden's mom), Jenny Goldstein (Connor's mom, Janet Walters (Bruno's mom)
Frogs	Stephanie Adams (Paige's mom), Kristen Malzahn (Ella's mom)
Blue Jays	Caitlin Hirschman (Hailey's mom)

Why does the center have parent representatives? What can these parents do for you? First and foremost, the parent representatives serve as liaisons between parents, teachers, and directors in an effort to keep the lines of communication open and running smoothly. If you ever have an idea, question, or concern regarding the center, feel free to approach your parent representative about it; she will pass it along to the committee and director.

Secondly, parents on the committee meet once a month for an hour to help plan awesome center-wide events such as the annual fall picnic (which was another HUGE success this year), Teacher Appreciation Week, and Week of the Young Child. Parent work days are also coordinated and hosted by those on the committee.

Last, but definitely not least, the parent representatives help promote the center's fundraising projects such as the food certificate program. The money raised goes toward necessary classroom and building improvements (e.g, purchasing classroom materials or playground equipment, and paying for building maintenance).

If you are interested in hearing more about the parent committee, attending one of the meetings, or serving as a parent representative, please talk to Pam, your child's teacher, or any of the parent representatives listed above.

Contacting the Center!

The center has two phone lines: the main line (929-3585) and the baby line which rings in the baby room (929-2229) (baby). Messages are checked throughout the day, with frequency depending on how much time Kate and I are in the office that day. Unless your child is in the baby room please only use the baby line if it is important that you reach someone right away and the office phone is going to voicemail. If the office phone goes straight to voicemail without ringing then someone is on the phone and will likely be off momentarily.

Friday, October 30th, Dress up Day and Parade!

The day before Halloween, parents are invited to our annual costume parade around Market Street at around 10:00a.m. (Remember, no really scary costumes and nothing resembling a weapon.) And if your child doesn't have a costume we can create one with our dress ups! All staff are welcome to dress up as well!
After the parade teachers will take small groups of children to each classroom and the office to trick-or-treat for non-candy goodies!



10 Signs of a Great Preschool

If your child is between the ages of 3 and 6 and attends a child care center, preschool, or [kindergarten](#) program, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) suggests you look for these 10 signs to make sure your child is in a good classroom.

1. Children spend most of their playing and working with materials or other children. They do not wander aimlessly, and they are not expected to sit quietly for long periods of time.
2. Children have access to various activities throughout the day. Look for assorted building blocks and other construction materials, props for pretend play, picture books, paints and other art materials, and table toys such as matching games, pegboards, and puzzles. Children should not all be doing the same thing at the same time.
3. Teachers work with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend all their time with the whole group.
4. The classroom is decorated with children's original artwork, their own writing with invented spelling, and stories dictated by children to teachers.
5. Children learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. The natural world of plants and animals and meaningful activities like cooking, taking attendance, or serving snack provide the basis for learning activities.
6. Children work on projects and have long periods of time (at least one hour) to play and explore. Worksheets are used little if at all.
7. Children have an opportunity to play outside every day. Outdoor play is never sacrificed for more instructional time.
8. Teachers read books to children individually or in small groups throughout the day, not just at group story time.
9. [Curriculum](#) is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. Teachers recognize that children's different background and experiences mean that they do not learn the same things at the same time in the same way.
10. Children and their parents look forward to school. Parents feel secure about sending their child to the program. Children are happy to attend; they do not cry regularly or complain of feeling sick.

(From www.preschooleducation.com)

