

CHDCC Newsletter

February 2008



In This Issue...

- Letter from the director
- Letter from CHDCC Parent

with us to lead a discussion about the impact of teacher relationships on children's social emotional development and classroom behavior. Sharon is the author of "A Matter of Trust: Connecting Teachers and Learners in the Early Childhood Classroom" We are thoroughly exploring the relationship part of the training because that is what enables teachers to support and foster each child's social and emotional development.

Letter from the Director



As I read early childhood journals and other information related to child development and group care, I have noticed a shift in focus. For a number of years there was tons of information related to brain research and cognitive development and the role of early childhood education in facilitating these areas for later school success. But more and more I am seeing and hearing about children's early social and emotional development.

Beginning in September the staff and I have been engaged in an on-going training called Promoting Social Emotional Competence. Its focus is on addressing and preventing challenging behavior by building relationships with children and using social and emotional teaching strategies. At our January staff meeting Sharon Richie from Frank Porter Graham Research Institute met

Last year the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction adopted Early Learning Standards for preschoolers, with strategies for parents and teachers to guide children's success. In the standards the first two domains of development that are elaborated upon are *Approaches to Learning* and *Social and Emotional Development*. They have chosen to flip the order of the words to emphasize the social aspect over the emotional. The document quotes Willard W. Hartup as saying, "*Peer relations contribute substantially to both social and cognitive development and to the effectiveness with which we function as adults. Indeed, the single best childhood predictor of adult adaptation is not school grades and not classroom behavior but, rather, the adequacy with which the child gets along with other children.*"

The standards identify Widely Held Expectations for emerging behavior in preschoolers, such as

- Developing awareness of personal behavior and its effect on others
- Following social rules, transitions, and routines that have been explained to them

The standards are not a “test” of kindergarten readiness, but they are a good foundation for discussion between teachers and parents about each preschool child’s development. I understand that standards for infants and toddlers are also in the works.

Copies of the first two standards are available on the bulletin board next to the kitchen. The standards in full can be found at www.ncpublicschools.org/success/downloads/foundations.pdf

Also...

P Thank you to whoever put up the wire to help our unruly jasmine vine climb in a more attractive way



P A Bulletin board for the parents is going to put up where parents can post business cards or information about pet projects or other information that you think might be of interest to other parents.

Update from the CHDCC Parent Planning Committee



The CHDCC Parent Committee wanted to make you aware of what the Committee has been working on over the past few months, as well as how funds raised by families over the past several years are being put to great use.

Your Fundraising Time and \$\$ Put to Good Use

Many of you may have noticed the changes and renovations made to Pam’s office and the Teacher Resource room. A portion of the upgrades were paid for with fundraising income. The teaching staff is extremely pleased with the changes. “I feel like a real professional!”, said one teacher. The following things have also been accomplished using fundraising dollars:

- teachers who played key roles in the Center’s recent NAEYC accreditation were granted bonuses;
- \$7000 was made available for emergency scholarships (families currently enrolled at CHDCC who experience some a hardship that makes it difficult for them to afford tuition);
- \$5000 was allocated to the scholarship endowment fund (pays for the gap in costs between what subsidy pays the Center in tuition versus actual tuition costs);
- the windows were darkened on the parking lot side of the building so help cool the rooms in the summer heat;
- toys and educational materials requested by classroom teachers were purchased;
- new playground equipment was purchased for the toddler and two year old playgrounds;
- playground fencing was repaired;
- an ice maker was purchased and installed in the Kitchen

Plans have also been made to lower sinks in the toddler classrooms, install handless, automatic faucets at all sinks, make plumbing and ductwork repairs, and install plastic timbers and waterproof the base of the building.


It’s pretty impressive to see the benefits of our fundraising utilized to improve the center!

How You Can Continue to Help...

To that end, we'd like to continue to encourage all of you to participate in the Food Certificate Program. This is our major fundraiser and doesn't cost you any extra money. Families and teachers can purchase food certificates for Food Lion, Lowes and Whole Foods. You just use these certificates rather than cash when buying your groceries. Certificate orders are placed the last week of the month. Checks and orderforms need to be to Kate by the last Friday of the month. You will receive your certificates during the first week of the next month. Email reminders are sent monthly with the forms attached.

For those of you who don't shop at the stores listed above you can still help by linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to Chapel Hill Day Care Center (#3997) or by buying rechargeable gift cards at Weaver Street Market linked to the Center (#105). [This is such an easy way to help support the Center. Please join in!](#)

Food Allergy Subcommittee

The Food Allergy Subcommittee has made great strides in drafting new Center and Classroom procedures for addressing the growing needs of children with food allergies. Food allergy notebooks have been made, special shelving and refrigerator spaces have been created, changes have been made to the kinds of soymilk and bread the Center provides, and staff are receiving specialized training in this area. We thank this group for their thoughtful and involved work. Thanks also to Valerie and the teachers for all their help and adaptations.

Next Parent Workday

Please mark your calendars...[the next Parent Workday is scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd from 9:00-12:00](#). We need family representatives from each classroom to help with clean up and simple repairs. Sign up sheets and "To

Do Lists" will be posted in each classroom within the coming weeks. CHDCC policy asks for each family to provide 3 service hours to the center each year. This is a chance for your family to meet that commitment. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please let anyone on the Parent Committee know if you have questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Juliellen Simpson-Vos (Manatees Parent Rep)

Erin Malloy (Manatee and Bunnies Parent Rep)

Modi Weiss (Manatee and Dolphin Parent Rep)

Margaret Barrett (Grasshopper Parent Rep)

Helena Furberg (Grasshopper and Starfish Parent Rep)

Kristen Malzahn (Starfish Parent Rep)

Stephanie and Chris Adams (Starfish Parent Rep)

Mary Thompson (Dolphin Parent Rep)

Kim Rogers (Butterfly Parent Rep)

Ana Felix (Eagles Parent Rep)

Taking Action to Meet Children's Special Dietary Needs

FACT: "In the past five years, peanut allergy in children has doubled. The estimated number of Americans with a food allergy has increased from 6 million to approximately 12 million, and we don't know why." *The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network*

FACT: In the last year, the number of CHDCC children with food allergies has nearly tripled.

FACT: CHDCC has formed a **Food Allergy Parent Sub-Committee** this year.

What is This Parent Group All About??

The group is currently working with the center to develop guidelines and procedures for meeting the needs of children with food allergies and restrictions. Works in progress include:

- Standardized action plan forms
- 5 week rotating menus
- Staff training opportunities
- Food allergy notebook containing ingredient labels

When Does this Parent Group Meet??

The group meets **every third Thursday of the month** from **3:30-5:00** at Weaver Street Market.

Who Can Participate??

All parents and CHDCC staff who are interested in learning more about what the center is doing to meet children's special dietary needs, or who have ideas to contribute to this cause. We'd love your feedback!

Contact Pam if you have any questions.

Help our center; Buy food certificates!

- ü Food certificates could easily bring \$5,000 per year to the center. Shop at:

Food Lion
Lowes
Weaver Street Market
Wholefoods

- v The center gets 5-6% of dollars spent
- v Assuming \$200/ month per participant:

Number of Participant	Center Funding
v 40	v \$4,800
v 50	v \$6,000
v 60	v \$7,200
v 70	v \$8,400

- v Full participation is CRITICAL!!
- v Goal of at least 50 families & teachers
- v Standing orders work best
Why?
 - v We all buy groceries
 - v No cost to you
 - v Program is in place
 - v Everyone Wins

How?

- v Place your order with Kate by the last Friday of each month.
- v Pay for your order with a separate check.
- v Pick up your certificates in the office on the first Friday of the month.

Register Your Harris Teeter VIC card annually #3997.

A Few Important Reminders...

E The center will be closed on Monday February 18th (President's Day) for a Teacher Workday.

E The next Parent Workday is Saturday, February 23rd from 9-12. As we get closer to that date sign-up sheets will be posted in each classroom. Last minute drop-ins are also welcomed!



Some Questions for the Newer Teachers...

An Interview with Emily Stuart Horner, new teacher in the Dolphin room...

CHDCC Employee since Nov. 29, 2007

- How is it being the new person?

--It's always a little weird being the new teacher, but now that I'm more familiar with the kids, parents, and staff, I'm having a ball.

- How does the center compare with previous centers you've worked at?

--CHDCC takes *very* good care of their teachers. All of the extra planning time, the resource room, the benefits, etc. I could go on, but to simplify, thanks, I appreciate what you guys do for us.

- What are some of your goals for the rest of the year?

--To help the Dolphins learn new skills and put them to use, explore the world around them and master new concepts. Also to work toward finishing my degree.

- Anything else you'd like to say about your first couple of months at the center?

-- Just thanks to the Dolphin parents for being so supportive when my son was sick. I know how important it is for the teachers to be here and I really appreciate your understanding.

An interview with Tammy Jo Hays, new teacher in the Penguin room...

CHDCC Employee since Nov. 26, 2007

- How do you like the CHDCC so far?

--I love it so far.

- Have there been any surprises for you?

--No surprises. The environment and team, and co-teacher, are great and provide a lot of support.

- How are things working in the classroom?

--Great. Everyone seems to be on the same page!

- How does CHDCC compare to other centers you've worked at?

--It's good! It can't even compare to the support and willingness all around.

- What are some of your goals for the year?

--Get to know my kids and their families more. Go back to school in the fall.

Individual Classroom News

A Dolphin Update

The Dolphins have been having a lot of exciting adventures since we returned from winter break. We have explored bubbles and even stood inside giant soap bubbles, we turned our room into a library and checked out some great books. And Alas Matey, we even walked the plank aboard our own pirate ship. Our themes are planned around whatever the children in our group seem to have an interest in, so coming up next are: the circus, construction sites, and transportation.

Happy Birthday to Mackenzie W. and Hailey who celebrated turning three in January and Chris, Suzuha, and Mackenzie G. who all turn three in February. Please see Emily or Kandice if you would like to schedule a birthday celebration in the classroom.

Also, please check your child's cubby to make sure there are just enough extra clothes and that they are seasonally appropriate. Please remove anything above 3 changes of clothes, 1 sheet, 1 blanket, and a pillow if your child sleeps with one. Overstuffed cubbies are hazardous to the children in that they pull them over onto themselves trying to get the drawer open. Please rest assured that we keep extra changes and bed linens in the classroom for accidents (please return these items in a reasonable time frame if they are loaned to your child--thanks!).

Thanks so much for all you do!
Kandice and Emily

A Grasshopper Update

The Grasshoppers are growing and learning every day. We now have 5 children who are 4 years old. These past

few weeks, children have enjoyed learning about opposites and rhyming words. A favorite book with rhyming words is "Down By the Cool of the Pool." As the children get to know one another better, change friendship partners, and become more aware of what they like and don't like, they are learning to express feelings of sadness and anger in ways that are safe for them and their friends. A highly recommended video for young children is from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, "What to Do with the Mad You Feel." Let us know if you would like to borrow the Center's copy. Many thanks to those of you who have been vigilant in keeping toys home until Sharing Day. It really helps the children avoid unnecessary conflict and keeps their teachers sane. We continue to work on table manners (saying "please" and "thank you"), taking the right amount of food, and saving "silly stuff" for free play or the playground. During outside and inside play, children are very conscious of using "gentle hands," so we're hoping to see continuing improvement toward kindness and cooperation. We will appreciate support in any of the areas mentioned above - and especially in helping the children learn the importance of listening to their teachers and doing what they ask--even if they don't want to right them :) We just finished lessons on Winter Sports and tried out waxed paper skates on the carpet - lots of fun! Now comes lessons on LOVE!! Have a great week! We're always glad to see you!