

CCC Newsletter

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The mission of Concord Children's Center is to cultivate an intimate, welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared and inspired to learn



November, 2017

Calendar

Nov1-Nov.29	Annual Appeal Giving Challenge
Nov. 4	CCC Enrollment Open House
Nov. 7	Optional AM After School
Nov. 8	Board Meeting
Nov. 15	Dec. Optional Days Requests Due
Nov. 18	Bookshop Fundraiser
Nov 23, 24	CCC Closed
Dec 13	Board meeting
Dec 25	CCC Closed
Dec 26 – 29	Optional Days

You're never too old,
too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book
and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss

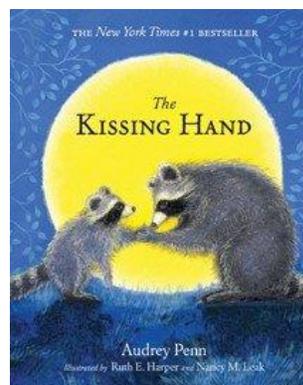
Bookshop Fundraiser November 18th.

Kick off your holiday shopping at **The Concord Bookshop, 65 Main Street, Concord Center** and support CCC at the same

time! The Bookshop will donate a percentage of all purchases on the day to CCC. We especially love the Bookshop gift certificates!

From 9:30-11 and 3:30-5 PM CCC teachers will be reading to children, and CCC volunteers will be on hand throughout the day to help you select a favorite children's book. If you would like to help in the Bookshop during the Fundraiser, please contact CCC Development Coordinator Jennifer Saxe at development@concordchildrenscenter.org.

Pat's Pick for the Bookshop Fundraiser



"School is starting in the forest, but Chester Raccoon does not want to go. To help ease Chester's fears, Mrs. Raccoon shares a family secret called the Kissing Hand to give him reassurance of her love any time his world feels a little scary. Since its first

publication in 1993, this heartwarming book has become a children's classic that has touched the lives of millions of children and their parents, especially at times of separation."



Annual Appeal Giving Challenge



The Challenge is on! From November 1 until *Giving Tuesday* on November 28, we are holding a CCC-wide Annual Appeal **Giving Challenge**, focusing on participation!! As families make donations, "feathers" will appear on the turkeys roosting in the halls of all three schools. Annual Appeal dollars support professional development for your teachers, technology upgrades to enhance documentation and communication with parents, and outdoor playground improvements.
<http://concordchildrenscenter.org/support-ccc/annual-appeal/make-a-donation/>

December Optional Days November 15 Deadline

Families planning to bring their children to school between December 26-29 will need to let us know by November 15. Please remember Optional Weeks are billed separately.





Celebrating Holidays at CCC

Holiday celebrations can be wonderful opportunities for children to learn about the traditions and values that are significant parts of people's lives. At Concord Children's Center it is important our curriculum reflect and respect the cultures represented by all of our families. Holidays are one way for our community to work together to create developmentally and culturally appropriate learning experiences.

Following the lead of our children and their families, CCC includes a variety of holidays in the curriculum and invites families to share special traditions. Our CCC community of families celebrates over two dozen different holidays throughout the year. We focus on the secular aspects of holidays, often celebrating commonalities of the various traditions.

In November we will have a Friendship Feast at West Concord and Ripley. Children look forward to these events, participate in preparing the food and are very excited to be sharing a meal with their whole school!

We recognize, regardless of which holidays are celebrated, they often come with an abundance of anticipation and excitement. We are all affected, no matter what our traditions may be. At the Children's Center, we remain committed to providing developmentally appropriate experiences, and paying careful attention to children's emotional and physical wellbeing. We provide a calm and predictable place for children, and guide conversations toward opportunities of giving vs. getting.



The *Astra Foundation* is pleased to offer the workshop, Floortime™ for Parents co-sponsored by *Concord Children's Center*

When: Six Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Jan 11th, 18th, 25th, Feb 1st, 8th, 15th, 2018 (snow date Mar 1st) with two individualized mentoring sessions on Jan 21st, and Feb 4th (family times to be selected).

Where: Concord Children's Center, 1300 Main Street, Concord MA

Tuition: \$120 for one person, \$160 for a family including caregivers

In this Floortime workshop, you will learn techniques developed by Stanley Greenspan, MD and Serena Wieder, PhD. You will learn how to expand your use of the power of play to support your child's development and emotional growth. The individualized family mentoring sessions tightly couple theory and practice to help you master specific skills to help your child. We will discuss child development and watch videotapes of child play to understand how Floortime may help your child:

- Improve attention.
- Engage with you more strongly.
- Be more calm and cooperative.
- Communicate more effectively.
- Play with more complexity.
- Better understand themselves and others.

This class is suitable for parents of infants or children between 2 and 10 years with or without issues of behavior, regulation, autism, communication or developmental delays.

Registration:

<http://astrafoundation.wixsite.com/website/parent-classes>

For questions about registration: Pam@astrafoundation.org 978 266-3700

For more information contact the instructor,

Sarah Measures: sarahmeasures@yahoo.com 617-413-1355

Cold Weather Wear



Outside play happens year round at CCC. Please remember to dress your children for the weather.



What does it look like? Standards 1-3

This year we will continue sharing documentation examples of the NAEYC Standards. There are ten NAEYC Early Learning Standards. As an NAEYC accredited program these 10 Standards and over 400 criteria guide our practice at Concord Children's Center. I have included below a few examples of the first three standards, from the 2017 NAEYC Portfolios. Teachers and administration use the Portfolio to illustrate how we embody each criteria in our classrooms.

The first standard in the NAEYC Accreditation Classroom Portfolio is **“Relationships”**. More than any other criteria, relationships are at the heart of everything we do at CCC. The NAEYC Relationships standard states: *The program promotes positive relationships among all children and adults. It encourages each child's sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community and fosters each child's ability to contribute as a responsible community member.*



Having infants and toddlers together allows for children at different developmental stages to explore and enhance relationships with children at all ages and stages. We build on child's experiences and add items such as dress ups, books, or tunnels to further enhance play and sustain play that a child/ group of children has entered into. In this picture, the teacher is helping another child join the group of children who are playing in the boxes by reading a book. With teacher help, this child is able to be a part of the game without being inside the boxes too.



Part of our curriculum is called "Book of the Week," where each child gets to bring in a book from home, and activities are inspired from the story. Children often give input to what ideas they have for their book as activities. For a child's Book Of The Week, the teacher provided the children with materials to help make soup. The children got a chance to help wash the vegetables for the preparation of the soup and took turns stirring the pot. This builds community by working together, and children learn about waiting for their turn to stir the soup and wash the vegetables.



The Relationship Standard places an emphasis on family relationships.

Teachers share information with families about classroom rules, expectations, and routines not only at enrollment but also as needed throughout the year. Classrooms set up times to talk with families or provide letters to families to welcome children into the classroom and explain the classroom routines and expectations. We provide an Open House in August for the families to come see the rooms before the start of the school year. Parent nights are another opportunity for teachers and families to meet and talk about the classroom goals. Throughout the year we provide newsletters, daily notes, and conferences to communicate with families. Parents are also given a copy of the daily schedule so that they have an idea of what the daily routine is.

The **Teaching and Curriculum** Standards contain 19 criteria with multiple sub-sections. As one would expect they compose the largest section of the portfolio.

Standard 2 Curriculum: Essential Characteristics

The curriculum guides the development of a daily schedule that is predictable yet flexible and responsive to the individual needs of children. The curriculum guides teachers to incorporate content concepts and activities that foster; social, emotional, physical, language, cognitive development, and integrate key areas of content including literacy, mathematics, science, technology, creative expression, the arts, health, safety, and social studies.



These girls were experimenting with colored water and droppers and taking turns mixing the colors.



Child exploring magnetic letters during the Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Curriculum unit



These children are splashing in the water and observing what happens to the floating blocks when they move their hands in the water.

A variety of materials are placed out on the tables and area rugs for children to engage with. Teachers make sure to cross multiple developmental domains when choosing materials that are both age appropriate and related to the current curriculum. We provide books and signs in various languages to reflect the child's home language or expose children to various languages.

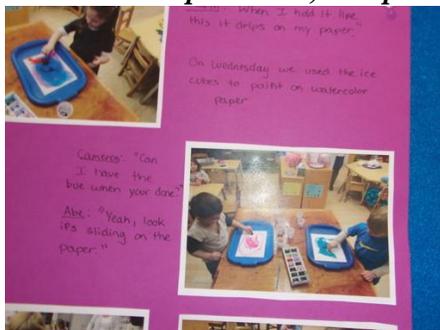


Standard 3: Teaching states, *the program uses developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child's learning and development in the context of the curriculum goals. Children have different learning styles, needs, capacities, interests, and backgrounds. By recognizing these differences and using instructional approaches that are appropriate for each child, teachers and staff help all children learn.*

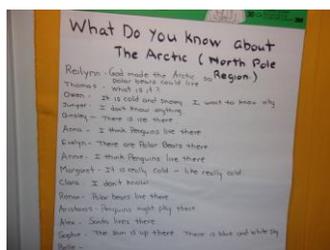
Below is a sampling of the criteria and documentation.

Teaching staff create and maintain a setting in which children of differing abilities can progress, with guidance, toward increasing levels of autonomy, responsibility, and empathy.

Teaching staff create a climate of mutual respect for children by being interested in their ideas, experiences, and products.



This bulletin board displays painting made from an ice experiment. The teacher took pictures during the process and posted anecdotal notes next to the paintings to help children reflect on their work. Example of the anecdotal notes from the ice painting picture.



Here the teacher has displayed the children's answer to a question asked at circle time. The children's answers are a reflection of their understanding of the current curriculum

Teachers plan for children to revisit experiences and materials over periods of days, weeks, and months.



These photos show a continuation of the life cycle of the pumpkin. Finally, the pumpkin deteriorated back into the soil. And beautifully produced a new sprout. In the Spring, we will plant it in our garden.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

CURRICULUM AREA	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
DAILY PROJECT	Decorative Alphabet	Letter color matching games	Letter color matching games	Decorative large letters for display	Decorative letter matching and puzzles
MEETING	Read Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Letter color matching with letter puzzles	Read Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Read Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Read Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
BOOKS	See through alphabet & books	Letter coloring & cutting cards	Letter coloring & cutting cards	Letter coloring & cutting cards	Letter coloring & cutting cards
DRAMATIC PLAY	Use letters in dramatic play with letter puppets	Use letters in dramatic play	Use letters in dramatic play	Use letters in dramatic play	Use letters in dramatic play
ART	Decorative letters on paper	Letter color matching	Letter color matching	Letter color matching	Letter color matching
MANIPULATIVES	Letter color matching	Letter color matching	Letter color matching	Letter color matching	Letter color matching
MUSIC	Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
SENSORY	Letter color matching	Letter color matching	Letter color matching	Letter color matching	Letter color matching

Play is planned for each day. There is time for free play in every classroom's schedule. There are both teacher directed projects and open ended materials available each day for the children to create and engage in their own games and ideas.

This is an example of a classroom's planning chart that ensures that all developmental domains are covered each day. The teachers set up the classroom with these ideas and the children play with the materials freely.

If you would like to see your Classroom Portfolio please contact your Program Director.

CCC Board Meetings are open to all families. Please feel free to stop by and listen as we discuss the work of the Center.

Meeting Locations, Topics and Special Events All meetings begin at 7:15 pm unless otherwise noted

- November 8 *Ripley*
Executive Director Yearly Goals
Admin update: Health Insurance, Other Insurance
Event: Information Open House 11/4, Bookshop Fundraiser 11/18
- December 6 *Emerson*
Development and Events Update and Discussion
Fifth Annual: Holiday Sweater Contest!
- January 10 *West Concord*
Annual Audit Results *leonard, mulherin & greene, pc*
2nd Quarter financials and projection
Admin Update: Ethical Code of Conduct
- February 7 *West Concord*
Benefits and Salary Review – Philosophy and Comparison
Admin Update: Professional Development Report, Staff Survey
- March 7 *West Concord*
Tuition Analysis, Tuition and Salary Increase Discussion
Draft Budget
- April 11 *Ripley*
Budget Proposal vote
3rd Quarter financials and projection
Admin Update: Facilities
Events: Annual Auction April 7
- May 9 *West Concord*
PHONATHON/Board Dinner
Event: Special Friends Day 5/4, End of the year picnics 5/11,18,23,
- June 13 *West Concord*
7:00 pm: Annual Corporation Meeting: Board slate, annual reports, recognition of significant volunteers, scholarship recipient
7:30 PM: June Board meeting: Slate of Officers, welcome new members
Event: Staff Appreciation Dinner,

2017-2018 Board Members

West Concord: Betsy Keller, -Chair Campbell Rowe, Co-Chair Jay Abelowitz, Secretary Eric Boisvert Kate Connolly Susan Hegarty Becky McCullough Kathy Manero Tara Martin Matt Frizzell

Emerson

Lindsay Torgersen Jonathan Rankin

Ripley

Nate Kemp Kerry Norton Jeanne Triant

Alumni

Stephan Bader, Treasurer