



CCC Newsletter

Volume No.18 Issue No. 2 | October 2022

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

News & Updates from CCC

The Importance of Play for Young Children

"It's great that the kids play so much at CCC, but when do they **learn?**"

This is a question we receive from time to time at CCC from parents and caregivers. The answer we give them?

For children, play **is** the best type of learning.

At CCC, we believe that the best preparation for a child's development and future learning is open-ended, child-initiated play. Throughout the day our teachers guide children through creating new learning experiences through their play, building the foundations for children's confidence in themselves, the development of meaningful relationships, and a curiosity about learning.

And play is serious business when it comes to young children's learning and development. According to the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, "play is not frivolous: it enhances brain structure and function and promotes executive function (the process of learning, rather than the content), which allow us to pursue goals and ignore distractions."

Play is key to building strong brains, bodies, and social bonds. It improves children's abilities to plan, organize, get along with others, and regulate emotions. It helps with language, math, social skills, and even stress management. Giving children plenty of opportunities to play is one of the best ways to help them grow into curious, creative, healthy and happy adults equipped with the skills they need to be lifelong learners. Play taps into the natural ways we learn, to nurture capable, confident children who become adults ready to take on the world.

The **Harvard Graduate School of Education** identifies three indicators of children engaging in playful learning (do any of them remind you of a CCC classroom?):

1. Choice: children setting goals, developing and sharing



- ideas, making rules, negotiating challenges, and choosing how long to play.
2. Wonder: children exploring, creating, pretending, imagining, and learning from trial and error.
 3. Delight: happiness! Children smiling, laughing, being silly, or generally feeling cozy and at ease.

There are many resources addressing the importance of play for children -- a **representative collection** is provided on the CCC website. Parents who would like more information on this topic or who have questions are encouraged to speak with your program director.



Discovering Fall at CCC

Fall offers lots of opportunities for discovery with its bright leaves, textured gourds, and apples which are good for both eating and artwork!



An Exciting Step Forward for CCC Reimagined

Last week, CCC took an exciting step forward in our strategic project, **CCC Reimagined**, with the official photo documentation of the groundbreaking on our new site at 250 Old Bedford Road. CCC Executive Director **Pat Nelson**, CCC Board Chair **Thomas Doherty**, Concord Town Planner **Elizabeth Hughes**, **Chris Keeley** from **Bowdoin Construction**, **Jeffrey Glashow** from **Middlesex Savings**, **Adam Collier** from **D.W. Arthur Associates Architecture**, and **John Amaral** from **Omni Properties** all gathered at 250 Old Bedford Road on Tuesday, October 4, for the official groundbreaking photo shoot. They were joined for some of the shoot by children from one of our Ripley preschool classrooms.



Advancement Updates

Upcoming Events



Community Celebration of 250 Old Bedford Road Groundbreaking

All CCC families and staff are invited to celebrate the groundbreaking of our new site at 250 Old Bedford Road with a community celebration at the Playscape at Ripley on the morning of **Sunday, October 16**. Start gathering on the Playscape at 10:30 a.m., and at 11:00, children's musical group **Rockabye Beats** will perform their fun mixture of singing, dancing, instrument jams, a little bit of Spanish, and a lot of silliness! We'll have construction hats for everyone ... bring your diggers, shovels, and other groundbreaking supplies! Families are welcome to bring a picnic and stay for lunch after the concert.

Concord Bookshop Fundraiser

This annual community favorite is back! On **Saturday, November 5**, local merchant **The Concord Bookshop** will allocate a percentage of the day's sales to CCC. Our teachers and staff encourage our families to come in and shop by reading books to children in the Children's Corner while parent volunteers help shoppers select books (and if you're a teacher who'd like to read in the Children's Corner or a parent who'd like to volunteer during the event, please contact CCC Development Coordinator **Jennifer Saxe**). It's a great chance to get a head start on your holiday shopping while supporting CCC.



**The Concord
Bookshop**
est. 1940

CCC and *CCC Reimagined* will also be featured in the Bookshop window the week starting Monday, October 31 — always a chance for our children to display their artistic talents!

2022-2023 Fund for CCC Update

The **2022-2023 Fund for CCC** mailing will be going out soon to current families, teachers and staff, and the mailing to alumni families will go out later this fall. We hope that all our community members will consider supporting CCC at this exciting time as we launch *CCC Reimagined*, our strategic project to restructure CCC into a two-site model.



For current families and teachers, the **Giving Challenge** is back! The classroom at each site with the highest rate of participation in the Fund for CCC from its families and teachers through Giving Tuesday, November 29, will enjoy a special activity after the holidays. Participation in the Giving Challenge will be tracked via Giving Turkeys outside each classroom ... for each classroom donation, the turkey gets another tail feather! Look for your classroom's turkey on November 1!

Use the materials you receive in the mail to make your donation or [donate on-line](#). Information on the Fund for CCC is available on the [CCC website](#).

CCC is on Instagram!



CCC is now on Instagram! [Follow us](#) and stay up to date!



Support CCC by Shopping at AmazonSmile!

When you shop at AmazonSmile and designate CCC as your preferred charity, 0.5% of your purchase is donated back to CCC! AmazonSmile offers the same items, prices and benefits as Amazon.com and also gives back to customers' favorite nonprofits. Just shop at AmazonSmile and designate CCC as your preferred charity. [Start shopping - and supporting CCC - now!](#)



Upcoming Events

Important Upcoming Dates

October 16: Community Celebration of 250 Old Bedford Road groundbreaking

October 20, 7-8:30 p.m.: Ripley Back to School Night

Saturday, November 5, 9:30-5:30 p.m.: Concord Bookshop Fundraiser

Friday, November 11: Professional development day, CCC closed

Subscribe to the CCC Calendar

Stay current on events at CCC by subscribing to the [on-line calendar](#). Select which events you want to be kept informed about and stay up to date!

CCC Board Updates

As a non-profit, CCC is governed by a board of directors that is primarily responsible for the Center's financial and organizational oversight. Board meetings are held every other month and are open to all families. Please contact **CCC Executive Director Pat Nelson** for the link to any meeting. Please also contact Pat if you are interested in getting involved with the work of the Board or its committees (Advancement, Finance, Long-Range Planning, Nominating, and Personnel).

2022-23 Board Members

Tom Doherty, Chair (Ripley)
Shannon Sweeney, Vice-Chair (West Concord)
Stephan Bader, Treasurer (Alumni)
Jay Abelowitz (West Concord)
Christina Anderson (West Concord)
Meg Ansara (Alumni)
Phil Barr (West Concord)
Eric Boisvert (Emerson)
Katie Carr (Ripley)
JC Conti (CCC staff rep, West Concord)
Jackie Fishbein (West Concord)
Katherine Manning (Ripley)
Yumi Suarez (Alumni)
Hayden Tilley (Emerson)
Jordan Zirkel (CCC staff rep, West Concord)

Community News

CFN Halloween Party

Fowler Library Family Programs



Join other area young families at the [Concord Family Network](#) Halloween party! The party will take place on Saturday, October 22, from 10 am-12 pm under the tents at Verrill Farm. The party is open to the public, free to CFN members, and \$10 per family for non-members.

The Fowler Library is offering two preschool programs this fall:

- **Preschool Play** from 4:15-5 pm on Mondays;
- **Fairy Tales at Fowler**, 4:30-5:15 pm on Thursdays.

A complete listing of all events is available on the [library website](#). View a list of fall children's programs [here](#).

Updated Babysitting List

We've updated our [list of CCHS students available for babysitting](#). This list is provided to just CCC families and should not be used for purposes other than finding a babysitter.

Concord Children's Center | concordchildrenscenter.org

