

# 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*

## January/February, 2017



### Calendar

January 20	February Optional Days Request Due
January 27	2017-18 Applications Due
January 29	Mice on Ice Skating Party
February 4	Babies and Books at CCC
February 8	Board Meeting
February 20	CCC Closed
February 21-24	February Optional Days
February 28	Acceptances Mailed

### February Optional Days

If you are planning to send your child to CCC during our February Optional week (2/21-24), please remember your child must be on the "list"! If you are not sure if

you signed up, please check with Penni, Anne, or Jennine.





Grab your skates and join ...

## MICE ON ICE!

Hosted by Concord Children's Center

Sunday, January 29, 3-5 p.m.  
Nashoba Valley Olympia  
34 Massachusetts Avenue (Route 111)  
Boxborough

- ♥ Meet your favorite mice characters!
- ♥ Fun children's activities
- ♥ Skate rentals available

Tickets \$10/person, \$35/family. Available in advance at [www.concordchildrenscenter.org](http://www.concordchildrenscenter.org) and at the door.

### Cold Weather Wear

Outside play happens year round at CCC. Please remember to dress your children for the cold, wet, muddy and snowy, weather.

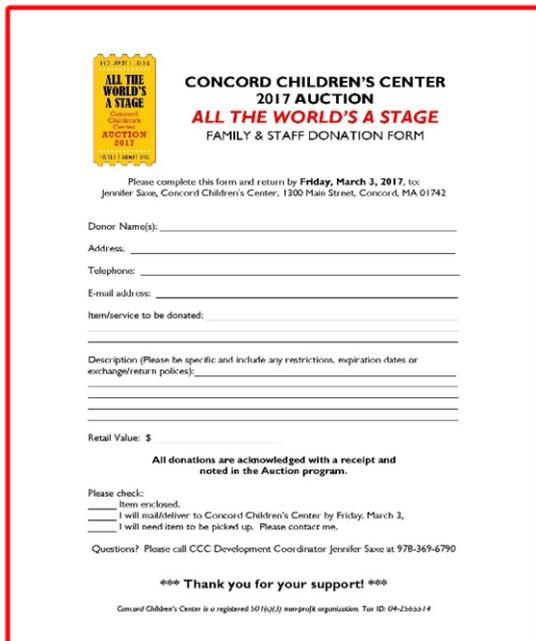


**[Mice on Ice Tickets: http://concordchildrenscenter.org/january-31-family-ice-skating-party/](http://concordchildrenscenter.org/january-31-family-ice-skating-party/)**

## CCC Auction Save the Date, Find a Sitter!

Our annual auction, the biggest fundraising event of the year for CCC, is coming up on **March 25!** This year's event will be held at 51 Walden, with the very appropriate theme of "*All the World's a Stage.*"

We are getting in great merchant donations for the auction, but donations from CCC families are always the most popular items and contribute to the event's huge success. We hope that you will consider joining us this year in donating to a great cause! Popular family donations from past years have included: a great cause! Popular family donations from past years have included



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**ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE**  
CONCORD CHILDREN'S CENTER  
AUCTION  
2017  
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**CONCORD CHILDREN'S CENTER  
2017 AUCTION  
ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE  
FAMILY & STAFF DONATION FORM**

Please complete this form and return by **Friday, March 3, 2017**, to:  
Jennifer Savo, Concord Children's Center, 1300 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742

Donor Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Item/service to be donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Description (Please be specific and include any restrictions, expiration dates or exchange/return policies):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Retail Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All donations are acknowledged with a receipt and noted in the Auction program.

Please check:  
 Item enclosed.  
 I will mail/deliver to Concord Children's Center by Friday, March 3,  
 I will need item to be picked up. Please contact me.

Questions? Please call CCC Development Coordinator Jennifer Savo at 978-369-6790

\*\*\* Thank you for your support! \*\*\*

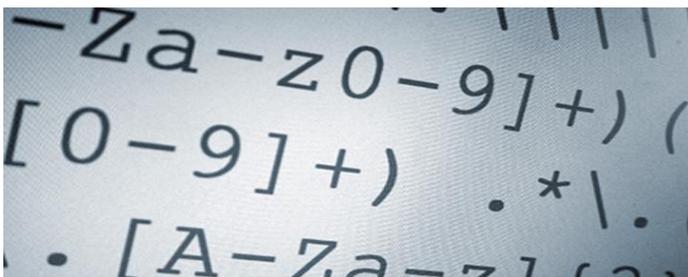
Concord Children's Center is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID: 04-265314

- A homemade gourmet meal representing the cuisine of your favorite country;
- A box of arts and crafts supplies for little artists, including paints, markers, crayon, smocks, paper, and other supplies;
- A bag of children's books for budding readers;
- A family activity basket, such as a movie night or game night basket.
- A vacation home anywhere for a long weekend or week;
- A day pass to the Heritage or Thoreau Club;
- Tickets to a major or minor league sporting event;
- A free week at any of the area summer camps;
- A round of golf at a local or destination country club;
- Passes for any type of family activity, such as a whale watch or a local museum;
- Ski/snowboard lift tickets or lessons at an area ski resort;
- A basket of your favorite wine, together with wine glasses and munchies;

When thinking about your donation, please keep in mind that cash donations are always welcome as well, as this helps to offset the costs of the auction.

The auction helps CCC continue to be the incredible place that it is to support and nurture our children, and all donations are appreciated and important. To donate, please complete the form on the back and return it to your CCC site by **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

*Tara Martin & Katherine Newton*  
CCC 2017 Auction Co-Chairs



**Changing the Codes!** On February 1<sup>st</sup> we will be changing the codes at all three sites. Families will receive the new code in their "Parent Pockets" the last week in January



CCC recognizes that those who work with young children face many daily decisions that have moral and ethical implications. The *NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct* offers guidelines for responsible behavior and sets forth a common basis for resolving the principal ethical dilemmas encountered in early childhood care and education.

In January CCC teachers reviewed the Code of Ethics in their monthly staff meeting. The entire Code may be found on the NAEYC Website.

<https://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/Ethics%20Position%20Statement2011.pdf>

Below are the core values providing the foundation for the Code:

*Standards of ethical behavior in early childhood care and education are based on commitment to the following core values that are deeply rooted in the history of the field of early childhood care and education. We have made a commitment to:*

- *Appreciate childhood as a unique and valuable stage of the human life cycle*
- *Base our work on knowledge of how children develop and learn*
- *Appreciate and support the bond between the child and family*
- *Recognize that children are best understood and supported in the context of family, culture, community, and society*
- *Respect the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of each individual (child, family member, and colleague)*
- *Respect diversity in children, families, and colleagues*
- *Recognize that children and adults achieve their full potential in the context of relationships that are based on trust and respect*



### **Babies and Books**

Come join CFN and CCC for a public book group for babies ages 0-24 months on the first Saturdays of February, March and April. This book group is for babies and their parents or caregivers, and will feature a special guest each month providing tips on fostering a life-long love of reading. Free play begins at 10am with story time following at 10:30am.

- February 4th: Special Guest from First Connections
- March 4th: Special Guest from the smARTroom in Maynard
- April 1st: Special Guest from First Connections

All dates will be hosted at the Concord Children's Center, 1300 Main Street, Concord, Ma 01742

Please RSVP to Cecilia Carr at [ceccarr07@gmail.com](mailto:ceccarr07@gmail.com) or via Big Tent. In the event of severe inclement weather, we will post updates on our website and Facebook account and notify RSVPs via email.



## Standard 4: Assessment of Child Progress states :

*The program is informed by ongoing systematic, formal, and informal assessment approaches to provide information on children’s learning and development. These assessments occur within the context of reciprocal communications with families and with sensitivity to the cultural contexts in which children develop. Assessment results benefit children by informing sound decisions, teaching, and program improvement.*

*Assessments help teachers plan appropriately challenging curriculum and tailor instruction that responds to each child’s strengths and needs. Assessments can also help teachers identify children with disabilities and ensuring that they receive needed services.*

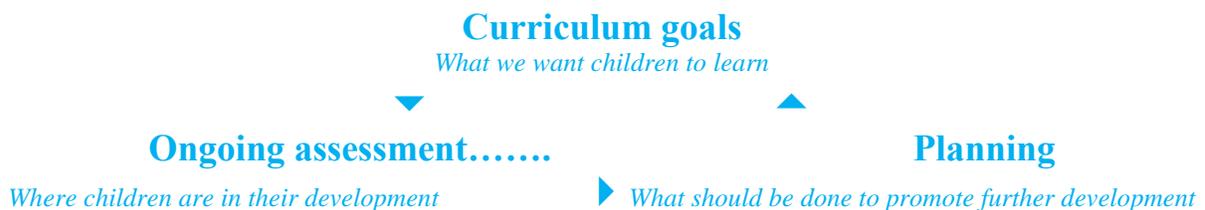
*What to look for in a program:*

- *The program supports children’s learning using a variety of assessment methods, such as observations, checklists, and rating scales.*
- *Assessment methods are appropriate for each child’s age and level of development and encompass all areas of development, including math, science, and other cognitive skills; language; social-emotional; and physical.*
- *Teachers use assessment methods and information to design goals for individual children and monitor their progress, as well as to improve the program and its teaching strategies.*
- *Families receive information about their child’s development and learning on a regular basis, including through meetings or conferences.*

The Concord Children’s Center assessment process description can be found in the Parent Handbook. The assessment process is a team approach that is rooted in the teacher’s power of observation. Methods used to evaluate a child’s abilities, interests and progress may include anecdotal notes, samples of drawings, artwork or constructions, records of conversations, talking with a child to learn more about their thinking, and developmental checklists.

Parents play an important role in the assessment process and have frequent opportunities to participate. Understanding and appreciating the child’s developmental progress with in the context of his/ her family values and cultural background is crucial to meeting the needs of each child. Parents are asked to identify goals for their child on the Family and Child Information Sheet distributed in the beginning of each school year, or when a child enters the program. Intake meetings are scheduled with parents of infants and toddlers and with any other parent who requests one, prior to enrollment. Information gathered from parents is used as a resource for teachers when assessing a child’s strengths and needs as well as for setting individual goals within the classroom.

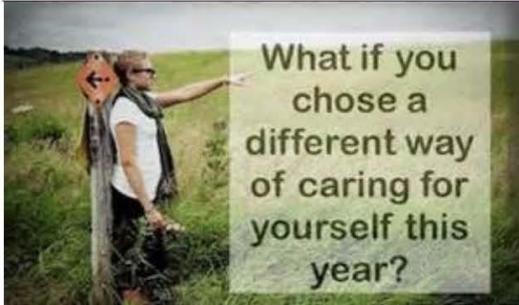
The cyclical process of assessment and curriculum implementation is outlined below:





# RE-DEFINING SELF-CARE FOR PARENTS

PRESENTED BY HEATHER O'BRIEN, LICSW



**THIS WORKSHOP WILL  
EXAMINE HOW THE  
DEFINITION OF SELF-  
CARE CHANGES ONCE  
YOU BECOME A PARENT!**

The time and energy we have for ourselves and others changes dramatically after we welcome a child. However, the importance of caring for ourselves becomes even more important because it enhances our ability to care for our children, partners, other family members, etc. Participants will have the opportunity to define self-care for themselves and make a plan for how to incorporate self-care into their daily lives. This workshop is ideal for couples. However, the information will be shared in a way that can easily be communicated to spouses or partners if only one is able to attend.

Heather O'Brien is a Licensed Independent Social Worker with a Post-Graduate Certificate in Infant Parent Mental Health. Her background includes working with adoptive and birth parents during the adoption process, providing cognitive-behavioral therapy through the Moving Beyond Depression home visiting program, providing counseling to families experiencing domestic violence, depression, anxiety, homelessness, and coping with the demands of a high-need infant or child. She is the current facilitator of First Connections' Emotional Wellbeing After Baby Weekly Support Group and the Monthly New Dads Group.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
6:30–8:00 P.M.  
THE TAYLOR SCHOOL, BOXBOROUGH**

RSVP required: [imatthews@jri.org](mailto:imatthews@jri.org) or 978-429-8284. No fee.

First Connections is a Mass. Dept. of Early Education & Care Coordinated Family & Community Engagement grant program serving all families in eleven towns with a child under age nine.



Art.  
Nature.  
Montessori.  
Learning for a lifetime.



## Winter 2017 Upcoming Program Information

**Registration required for all programs:**  
**lmatthews@jri.org or 978-429-8284**

**Wednesday  
February 8  
6:30-8:00  
The Taylor** **Re-defining Self-Care for Parents, presented by Heather O'Brien, LICSW**  
This workshop will examine how the definition of self-care changes once you become a parent. The time and energy we have for ourselves and others changes dramatically after we welcome a child. However, the importance of caring for ourselves becomes even more important because it **School**, enhances our ability to care for our children, partners, other family members, etc. Participants **Boxborough** will have the opportunity to define self-care for themselves and make a plan for how to incorporate self-care into their daily lives. Ideal for couples, but information will be shared in a way that can be easily communicated to spouses or partners if only one can attend.

**Tuesday  
March 14  
7:00-8:30  
Congregation  
Beth Elohim  
Early  
Learning  
Center  
Acton** **"Threenagers", presented by Elinor Springer, M.Ed. Early Childhood**  
Often, around age 1 ½ to 3, children's behavior becomes newly challenging and parents may wonder, "Who is this child?" Three year olds, and those approaching three, begin to fiercely assert their independence, while at other times they cling to adults and want help with tasks they have been able to do on their own for months. They can have BIG emotions that will frequently change, shifting from gleeful to devastated to furious within minutes. These characteristics make them like teenagers: hence the term "threenagers." If your child is in this age range or you are anticipating its onset, join us to learn about this stage of development and what is going on with your child, as well as some ways to manage his or her behavior.

**Thursday,  
April 13  
6:30-8:30  
Drumlin  
Farm,  
Lincoln** **Strategies to Help Parents Teach Social-Emotional Skills to Children Age 2-6 presented by Maura Letourneau of the Early Childhood Training and Consultation Team at J.R.I.**  
At the top of most teachers' kindergarten readiness skills list will be the ability for your child to identify how he is feeling and to use appropriate behaviors to express these feelings. Our presentation will include how parents can identify teachable moments with their children and why this is important. The social and emotional teaching areas explored will include:

### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL



Friendship Skills      Emotional Literacy  
Emotional Regulation      Controlling Anger and Impulses  
Problem-Solving Skills

*This training was funded through a grant by CHNA 15 and was made possible by Determination of Need funds received from Lahey Hospital & Medical Center and Winchester Hospital.*

## Winter Multilingual Playgroup for Ages 1 ½-5

First Connections' multilingual playgroup is for children who speak a language other than English at home or are bilingual. In addition to circle time led by an early childhood educator, free play, and snack time, each family will bring home a different bag of books to read each week. We encourage families to share customs and stories from their home countries during this group if they desire. Meets at First Connections on Great Road in Acton, which is on the Acton public transportation route. To participate in the program parents or caregivers should contact [lmatthews@jri.org](mailto:lmatthews@jri.org) with the parent and child's name, child's age, languages spoken in the home, and postal mailing address.

