



CCC Newsletter

Volume No.19 Issue No. 4 | February 2024

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

Accreditation: Why and How

Since 1986, Concord Children's Center has been accredited by the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC) the nation's foremost accrediting body for organizations serving children ages 0-8.

From the NAEYC website: from guidelines for teacher preparation through safety standards, NAEYC Accreditation ensures that programs are safe, well prepared, and intentional about ensuring children's success. As a reputable indicator of quality, NAEYC Accreditation correlates with children's greater readiness and success in school and beyond; increased educational attainment rates; and overall healthier lifestyles.

NAEYC has several areas of focus in addition to accreditation, including:

- Code of Ethical Conduct
- Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators
- Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education
- Developmentally Appropriate Practice, and
- Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards.

Each of these areas deserves its own newsletter, and CCC uses these areas to inform our teacher orientation and professional development. However, for the next 18 months, CCC will be focused on the 10 Accreditation Standards as we move through the re-accreditation process for our West Concord location and seek a new accreditation for our facility at East Concord. I'd like our community to **know and understand what the standards are**, as well as **appreciate how CCC has been meeting these standards since 1986** and will **continue to do so into the future**.



"Going through the NAEYC accreditation process provides CCC teachers and administrators the opportunity to refresh and reaffirm best practices in early childhood education.

Through NAEYC's stellar standards, we strive to learn more and create an environment where our children, families, programs and community can grow even stronger!"

Erika Gutermuth, infant/toddler teacher

"I am constantly amazed by the innovative ways in which CCC not only meets but surpasses NAEYC standards. As parents, we witness NAEYC standards through storyboards detailing our children's learning journey and

newsletters keeping us abreast of current events. Of course, it is the joy our children experience at CCC that is the true testament to the excellence of its program."

Grace Giles, CCC Board member and parent



The 10 Accreditation Standards and Some Example Questions

1. **Relationships:** Do teachers respond with warmth and caring to children's communication? Do families and children feel welcome at the program? Do teachers encourage problem-solving by identifying feelings and talking through solutions?
2. **Curriculum:** Are children given opportunities to learn through exploration and play? Do the materials in the classroom spark children's interests?
3. **Teaching:** Do teachers consider each child's individual learning style, capacity, and interests, and use different teaching approaches? Are students offered time outside (weather permitting), and opportunities for individual and group play, each day?
4. **Assessment of Child Progress:** Do programs assess student learning in a variety of ways? Are families receiving information about their child's progress? If a need is identified, does the program support the family in accessing outside services?
5. **Health:** Are program staff trained in CPR and First Aid? Are there policies for handwashing, cleaning the facility, and serving healthy food?
6. **Staff Competencies, Preparation and Support:** Do teaching staff have educational qualifications in early childhood? Is there ongoing professional development offered?
7. **Families:** Are families welcome in the program at any time? Are there a variety of methods of communication with families?
8. **Community Relationships:** Does the program have a connection to the larger community around it?
9. **Physical Environment:** Is the facility organized and well-maintained? Is there safety equipment easily accessible? Are the furnishings and materials appropriate for the age and size of the children?
10. **Leadership and Management:** Is the program licensed by the state? Are policies and procedures clear and well-communicated? Does the leadership have the necessary educational qualifications?

Over the next several months, our teachers and administrative staff will be asking these questions of ourselves, and more. We'll be gathering data, examples of the answers to these questions, and creating portfolios which are representative of our programs, to submit to NAEYC for consideration. We are confident that what we do every day in our classrooms and our buildings meets these standards. Indeed, we believe we are an exemplar program in the NAEYC membership.

To help facilitate this accreditation process, we have designated a NAEYC Coordinator position. Heart Room teacher **Jordan Zirkel** will be our "NAEYC Guru" starting this spring. For the next few weeks, Jordan will begin with a small number of hours dedicated to the process, and by this coming fall will ramp up to spending 50% of her time on NAEYC accreditation. We are glad to have Jordan step up to this leadership role at CCC!

By this time next year, we will have submitted our portfolios and will be awaiting the Site Visit from NAEYC. I look forward to being able to announce our successful re-



Meet Jordan Zirkel, CCC's NAEYC Guru

We are pleased to announce Heart Room teacher **Jordan Zirkel** as our NAEYC Coordinator. Jordan joined CCC in 2017 and has taught at both our West Concord and Emerson locations. We feel that her "can do" attitude, proven organizational skills, familiarity with the NAEYC criteria, and knowledge of technology will be assets to the success of our accreditation process.

accreditation in the spring of 2025.

Learn more about NAEYC, its benefits, and its recently launched family membership at the [NAEYC website](#). If you have questions about the process we are going through, you can reach out to [me, Penni Hensley Wagner, Joanne Saideh](#), or your Program Director.



Suzie Kornblum
Executive Director

"I am excited to be a part of ensuring that all aspects of our program continue to be enriched through following and implementing the NAEYC standards," says Jordan. "I am also looking forward to working with and learning from my colleagues during this process."

Winter is "Snow" Much Fun!



Advancement & Community Updates



Save the evening of **Saturday, April 6**, for the CCC gala, **Celebrate Concord Children's Center!** This fun adults-only community evening includes socializing, our classroom creations, a live auction, and more! This year's event will take place at the Sureau Family Discovery Barn at [Nashoba Brooks School](#). For the most current information about the evening, please visit the [Celebrate Concord Children's Center webpage](#).

What Will This Year's Event Include?

- **Live Auction:** the highlight of the evening! We already have some great live auction items (with more to be added), including:
 - an **overnight for two** at the [Groton Inn](#), including a bottle of wine and a \$100 gift certificate for dinner at [Forge & Vine](#);
 - **two tickets to the last home Celtics game** of the season on Sunday, April 14;
 - a **wine dinner for four couples**, featuring a private chef and wines from the personal cellar of CCC parents Kara and Phil Barr;
 - a **day of beauty**, including a [Nordstrom](#) gift certificate, a [Rebel & Rose Beauty House](#) gift card, a massage, and more!
 - a **pajama party at CCC West Concord for a group of children** ages 2-7 from up to four families with staff members JC Conti, Anne Doherty, Jen Turini and Jordan Zirkel.
 - A **B&B weekend getaway for a family of four** to the [Lake Morey Resort](#).
- **Classroom Creations:** the very special items created by our children.
- **Wine Raffle:** New this year! Buy your raffle tickets and allocate as you wish among [three very special bottles of wine](#).
- **Gift Card Grab Bag:** Reach into the grab bag and see what you get! Each envelope contains a gift card worth at least the price of the ticket, some much more!

How Can I Contribute to the Evening?

We are currently soliciting sponsorships for the event as well as accepting donations of gift cards and certificates for the grab bag. We are also seeking special items and experiences for our live auction!!

To sponsor the evening, please complete a [sponsorship form](#) and to donate, please complete a [donation form](#). Both forms should please be returned to CCC Development Coordinator [Jennifer Saxe](#). And if you would like to donate a unique item or experience to our live auction, please [email Jennifer](#) as well.

**** Thank you to our first two event sponsors, [Middlesex Savings Bank](#) and [Thoughtforms!](#) ****

How Can I Buy Tickets?

Invitations for the event will be mailed at the end of February. Tickets will be available online for \$65 if purchased before March 22 and \$75 after March 22 and at the door (if available).

How Can I Help?

We have very specific volunteer needs, including picking up donations, helping to set up the venue the afternoon of the event, and helping with clean up after the event. If you'd like to help, please contact [CCC Development Coordinator Jennifer Saxe](#). Thank you!



Fund for CCC

To date the **2023-2024 Fund for CCC** has received **over \$90,000** in commitments from current and past families, staff, and friends. Fund for CCC donations are immediately disbursed back into the operating budget to benefit our students, our teachers and our school.

Use the materials you received in the mail at the end of last year to make your donation or [donate](#)

[on-line](#). **The amount of your donation is not important ... what matters is that you donate!** Information on the Fund for CCC is available on the [CCC website](#).

Fund for CCC

Parent Team

Grace Giles
(Chair)

Meryl Ayres

Carly Heller

Susan & Shawn

Kelly

Julie McClure

For Your Calendar

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, February 7: 24-25 admissions notifications mailed
Monday, February 19: Presidents' Day, CCC closed
Tuesday, February 20-Friday, February 23: Optional days
Wednesday, March 6: 24-25 enrollment agreements due
Thursday and Friday, March 14-15: professional development days, CCC closed
Saturday, April 6: *Celebrate Concord Children's Center*

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

Join the Board!

As a non-profit, CCC is governed by a volunteer 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.

We are always looking for Board and Board committee members. In particular, we are seeking community members with accounting or financial management skills to join the Board Finance Committee. Please contact [CCC Executive Director Suzie Kornblum](#) if you are interested in getting involved with the work of the Board or its committees (Advancement, Finance, Long-Range Planning, Nominating, and Personnel).

2023-24 Board Members

Shannon Sweeney, Chair (West Concord)
Hayden Tilley, Vice-Chair (East Concord)
Stephan Bader, Treasurer (Alumni)
Tom Doherty, Secretary (Alumni)
Elie Adam (West Concord)
Christina Anderson (West Concord)
Phil Barr (West Concord)
Amantha Butler (Alumni)
Katie Carr (East Concord)
JC Conti (CCC staff rep, West Concord)
Jackie Fishbein (West Concord)
Grace Giles (East Concord)
Katherine Manning (East Concord)
Jordan Zirkel (CCC staff rep, West Concord)

