



**Montgomery
Child Care
Bel Pre**

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Bel Pre Post

June 2010

Calendar of Upcoming Dates and Events

Dates

June 2 - Froggies Field Trip

June 11 - Sunshine Field Trip

June 18 - Center closed; Training & Clean-up

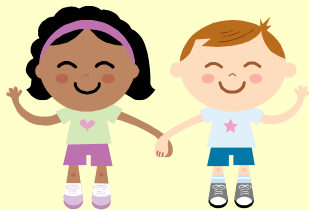
June 21 - Summer Adventures

Mission Statement

Montgomery Child Care Association strives to provide the highest quality child care and play-based education for children in Montgomery County, Maryland; professional training for child care providers; and advocacy for affordable, quality child care for families of all income levels, and for better training, pay and benefits for child care professionals.

Think Summer Adventures!!

Sign up early and reserve the weeks your child prefers. From June 21st to August 20th with 10 exciting Theme Weeks, field trip adventures, swimming and sports, and exhilarating activities.



News from the Director

It is hard to believe that summer is just around the corner! As the children shed their coats, the staff and Center are adding new layers of improvements to continue to grow and maintain MSDE standards as well as provide the highest level of quality education for your children. Our appraisal teams have completed their Center evaluations and we have met to discuss changes that need to be made to further improve our program. The next step in the process is to implement improvements and once that is done we will schedule a mock visit with MSDE; that should be sometime late summer.

As our center moves through so many changes, I did want to share with all of you some general information regarding MCCA policies and procedures when it comes to the hiring employees. All prospective employees are properly oriented to our center policies. Orientation is extensive and includes the following; leave procedures, including sick leave policies and classroom coverage policies in the event of illness, classroom and center maintenance, creative curriculum implementation, professional training requirements, staff evaluation procedures, as well as emergency crisis and safety procedures. All of this information is available to all of our families; if you would like to review our Staff Handbook or our Personnel Practices, please stop by the office and I will provide you with a copy.

I find it so hard to believe so many of the children will be transitioning from our program to Kindergarten. In only a short time I have gotten to know all of your families, and I feel a special bond with all of you, especially the children. I have learned a great deal from your children and their willingness to share a piece of themselves with me has been amazing. I will miss my Kindergartners! "Congratulations! Today is your Day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"



Froggy's

The Froggies have covered a great deal these past few months; our themes of exploration and discovery have included transportation, bugs, insects, feelings and senses. We have added a wonderful new word wall and we continue to add new words to our vocabulary each week. We are not only expanding our vocabulary, we are also practicing our penmanship and learning how to write the new words we are learning. The Froggies have been charting their progress throughout the classroom with lots of new documentation boards tracking all our learning.

Our Froggies have also had some very fun filled field trips; we visited and played at MLK Park as well as picked strawberries at Butler's Orchard. With summer approaching, we are once again planning for water play here at the Center. We will share a schedule with all of you soon and ask that you please send in a bathing suit, beach towel, change of clothes and water shoes, and as always please make sure all items are labeled with your child's name.

As we welcome in the month of June, we are getting ready to say good bye to our Froggie friends going on to Kindergarten—we will miss all of you—Sophia, Rylie, Hayden, Haytham, Nicole, Alexis, Nicholas and Asa!

Congratulations to Ms. Kathia for earning her CDA (Child Development Associate)!!



Sunshines

The Sunshines have been showing off their creativity in the month of May. We had a talent show and put on a theatrical production of the "Three Little Pigs". We showcased our performance to a live audience; the Froggies attended an afternoon showing of our production. The Sunshine room is not only blessed with performers, but the class is full of dance performers as well.

Our Sunshines have been expressing themselves through various mediums creating many pieces of beautiful artwork. The children explored and discovered that they could create with more than paint and paintbrushes; the Sunshines used nature as an art tool making collages with bark, leaves and twigs. While their artistic creativity was brewing, we also challenged our Sunshines to examine their own social/emotional development. Through group activities we focused on sharing and caring. We talked about appropriate responses when friends won't share or when friends use mean words. We have grown a great deal; empathy, forgiveness and caring prevail in our Sunshine classroom.

With each passing day, the Sunshines learn more and more sign language; the children are now able to sign simple sentences. We look forward to learning more. Looking ahead, we will be focusing on healthy eating and taking care of our bodies and as always, we are looking forward to FUN, FUN, FUN!



Georgian Forest

It has been a spring fling blast since our last encounter! We have been a busy with the weather changes and the school year winding down to its finale. Everyone has been eager to make summer plans and getting excited over what the summer season will bring. Over the past month we have had a chance to brainstorm new ideas with insects and outdoor exploration. I have come to learn your children love caterpillars and have extremely interesting ideas on what their home life should be. The children truly want their transition for becoming butterflies to be smooth. The children are also extremely big on outdoor play and have awesome ideas on ways to enhance their time. They want tents, music, toys and much more to see what they can create while outside. Well, as summer approaches, I can't wait to see what ideas blossom from your children. Until then... and remember, we will be here all summer having great fun, new encounters during Summer Adventures—please register if you haven't already done so.

*I will respect my toys at all times, And always be kind to others. If I break the rules or do not follow,
You'll tell my father and mother. We love to play and explore new things alone
and sometimes together. So let's do the right thing and make good choices
We are Grizzlies forever!*

- Amber

Creative Curriculum

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

Starting kindergarten is a big but exciting transition in a child's life. It can be scary and stressful for both you and your child, especially if this is your child's first experience in school. However, if you take some steps to prepare yourself and your child for this new experience, you can ease some of the anxiety and get your child's schooling off to a great start!

Start talking early. Start talking about kindergarten a few weeks before school starts. Tell your child all of the positive and exciting things about kindergarten, but also listen to him and answer his questions. Be sure to listen for emotions such as excitement, fear, anxiety, and confusion. Provide not just answers to his questions but also comfort and reassurance to help him feel more confident about going to kindergarten.

Go for a visit. Find out if your child's kindergarten class has an orientation or a visiting day. You and your child can meet the teacher(s) and other children who will be in the class as well as other parents, and you can find out what his daily schedule will be like. If not, take your child to the school, walk around the grounds together, and play on the playground.

Get to know other kindergarteners. If possible, organize a play date or two with children who will be in your child's class. You may already know families with children the same age as yours, or you might meet some when you visit the school. You can also ask the teacher(s) if there are any families close by to you or new to the school, as well. This way, not every face in the classroom will be unfamiliar when your child goes to school the first day, and you can find other parents to share experiences with.

Get into a routine. In the weeks before your child starts kindergarten, establish a school day routine. Put your child to bed as if it were a school night and have her wake up in the morning and get ready (get dressed, have breakfast, wash up) as if it were a school morning. If this is your child's first experience in a school setting, create a schedule during the day similar to that which she will experience in preschool to get her used to the structure. If your child will be taking lunch or snack, make sure that any containers and packages are user-friendly. If your child takes a backpack to school, make sure it is a good fit and easy for her to get on and off.

Practice everyday activities. If your child has never been to school before, there may be a few things you want to practice with your child in the weeks leading up to kindergarten. If you are not sure your child can do things like use the bathroom on his own, take off and put on his shoes, or put his jacket on, you may want to work on these things with him. Ask the classroom teacher(s) what your child will be expected to know how to do, and let them know if there is anything he struggles with.

Give it time. Leave plenty of time on the first day to arrive at school, especially if this is your child's first school experience. When it is time for you to leave, make a point of saying goodbye. Sneaking out of the classroom when your child is not looking will make the transition far more difficult for him and may even scare him when he realizes that you are gone. It takes some children longer than others to adjust and become comfortable with the new school routine. Anticipate some ups and downs during the first few weeks. If you are struggling or have concerns about how the transition is going, ask your child's teacher(s) for some ideas

Source - <http://www.onetoughjob.org/tips/preschoolers/preparing-your-child-for-kindergarten>

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

by Peggy Gisler, Ed.S. and Marge Eberts, Ed.S.

While there's no perfect formula that determines when children are truly ready for kindergarten, you can use this checklist to see how well your child is doing in acquiring the skills found on most kindergarten checklists. Young children change so fast -- if they can't do something this week, they may be able to do it a few weeks later.

- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Recognize rhyming sounds
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks

- Understand actions have both causes and effects
- Show understanding of general times of day
- Cut with scissors
- Trace basic shapes
- Begin to share with others
- Start to follow rules
- Be able to recognize authority
- Manage bathroom needs
- Button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers
- Begin to control oneself
- Separate from parents without being upset
- Speak understandably
- Talk in complete sentences of five to six words
- Look at pictures and then tell stories
- Identify rhyming words
- Identify the beginning sound of some words
- Identify some alphabet letters
- Recognize some common sight words like "stop"
- Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape
- Recognize groups of one, two, three, four, and five objects
- Count to ten
- Bounce a ball

If your child has acquired most of the skills on this checklist, he or she is probably ready for kindergarten. What teachers want to see on the first day of school are children who are healthy, mature, capable, and eager to learn.

<http://school.familyeducation.com/kindergarten/school-readiness/38491.html?detoured>

A Good Read

Reading to children is their first step to the discovery of language, which then translates to the written word. The following are some titles your children might enjoy, and all the books can be found at the local library.

“The Wheels on the School Bus,” by Mary-Alice Moore

A favorite song is tweaked to introduce the many people who make up the daily life of a school as they all travel on the school bus

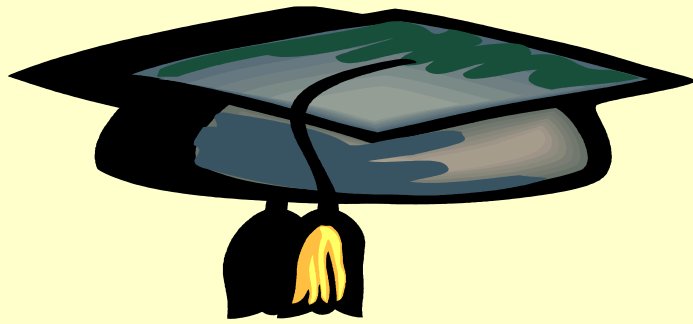
“The Kissing Hand,” by Audrey Penn Terre Haute

A raccoon is reluctant to head off to kindergarten but his mother devises a secret way he will be reminded of her love throughout the day.

“Kindergarten Countdown,” by Anna Jane Hays

Rhyming text is perfect for preschoolers and the enthusiasm of the text will rub off on even the most skeptical of would be kindergarteners.





Congratulations to all our Kindergartners!

Haytham Abdullahi
Vivian Dang
Parket Eller
Isabelle Flores
Sydney Ford
Sophia Gupman
Alexis Hawkes
Hayden Hill
Rylie Hill
Brian L Laguri
Mercedes Milan
Nicholas Neely
Nicole O'Donnell
Damali Ondiek
Evan Pak
Jenay Rhodes
Reena Smith
Asa Virga

