



Circle Time

The mission of the Parent-Infant Center is to support parenting by enabling young children to grow and learn in a safe, stimulating, loving environment

Update on center expansion plans

What happened to Lynne's office?
When are the Starfish moving?

PIC's opening of the Sweet Building in April was just the first phase of expansion for the Center. Because of our accreditation visit this month from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), we will not be making any major moves in July.

Classrooms. After the NAEYC visit, we will relocate the Starfish and Leapfrog classrooms to the third floor of the Sweet Building. In August, the Roadrunners will also move to the Sweet Building and we will open the Grasshoppers, a new pre-k classroom for ages 4-5.

Back in the Spruce Building, we will transform the Roadrunner classroom into a teacher resource room

for staff to do planning, meet with colleagues and work on professional development.

The former teacher resource room (next to the Firefly classroom) will be developed into a children's library for use by all of PIC's early learning classrooms.

Administrators. Some administrators have already moved, others will be moving this month. On the Garden Level of the Sweet Building you will find Executive Director Cindy Roberts, Accounts Manager Safia Abdullah, and Family Life Coordinator Lynne Piersol. On the Ground Level of the Spruce Building, Operations Manager Alison Williams will be in the office that Safia has vacated. Director of Early Learning Programs Cherie Crosby will relocate

into Cindy's office; Cherie's assistant, Sarah Connor, will be in Cherie's office. Director of Development/Communications Rachel Crosot can be found in Lynne's former office. The office for School Age Programs will remain in its current location on the top floor of the Spruce Building.

Future plans. After classrooms are settled in, there's more to do! We have plans to upgrade bathrooms for toddlers and preschoolers in the Spruce Building and make improvements in infant classrooms. As noted in last month's *Circle Time*, we also are working on playground renovations for all ages. Want to get involved? Contact Cindy about PIC's Buildings and Grounds committee [croberts@parentinfantcenter.org]

Independence Day Parade

Friday, July 2, 10:30am

Be sure to dress in red, white & blue as we parade up to the big red sculpture on Locust Walk. If it rains, we will parade in the big gym.

Leaving plans?

Reminder: If your family is leaving the center, **we must have 60 days' notice if you are leaving in July, August or September.** Contact Family Life Coordinator Lynne Piersol about your leave dates
[lpiersol@parentinfantcenter.org]

Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, July 21

5-6pm

Stop by for a "spoil-your-supper" ice cream social in the courtyard!



Wild Things

This month has been one of many hellos and goodbyes in the Wild Things room. It has also been a month of new growth and development.

At the beginning of June, we said hello to our new friends Alice and Maliyah, then goodbye to our friend Addy, as she takes the summer off. She will return at the end of August as a Rainbow. Alex will transition to the Sunshine room in July and Nate is moving and leaving PIC on July 23. We will miss all of our Wild Things, and are excited to get to know new friends!

Some of our non-mobile infants are beginning to become more mobile! Our friend Marietta has learned how to scoot on her bottom and she can crawl backwards. Soon



she will get the forward motion down, and then, watch out! It is exciting for us to watch her try to figure out how to crawl. Max is beginning to take a few steps. He stands up and gets so excited, as we get excited with and for him. Yea, Max!

Twins Maui and Sam, who turned 1 in May, are beginning to say some words. We're delighted to

hear Maui say "Night, night" when we take her to the nap room or to hear Sam say "Baba" as we make a bottle.

Just as our infants are experiencing new growth and development, so are our young toddlers. Zohar, Gabriel, Alex, Theo and Dylan are becoming pros at feeding themselves with a spoon, with very little mess. They are also starting to drink water and milk from a small paper cup, with very few spills.

Theo is our latest walker and he is doing well holding a teacher's hand. It is exciting to us to see the changes in the toddlers as well as the infants, especially since we've had some of the toddlers since they were infants!

— Kristy Carter

Sunshines

The Sunshines' emotional, language and social skills are steadily developing. The teachers are always looking for fun and exciting activities to do with the Sunshines to help enhance our monthly theme and to encourage growth in all areas.

For example, our theme for June was Transportation. We went for a ride on the #34 trolley. It was a lot of fun! The Sunshines' eyes became really big as we entered the tunnel. They commented on how dark it was in the tunnel. They compared the tunnel to the tunnels in the books *Freight Train* and *Thomas the Tank Engine*.

Another fun activity during Transportation month was show 'n tell. The Sunshines brought their favorite



vehicles from home and shared them with the class. They used their increasing language skills to tell all about their vehicles. They showed their friends how their vehicles work and told them their color. I was really impressed with how well the Sunshines were willing to share their home toys.

On another day, we went for a

walk to the car wash on 42nd and Chestnut. We watched the cars get wet and soapy. We named the colors of the cars and we had fun pretending that certain cars belonged to the Sunshine room.

We also took a walk to the traffic bridge on Penn Campus. We watched as the vehicles rode underneath the bridge. We pointed to taxi cabs, Septa buses, big trucks etc. Another fun thing we did was ride on the elevator at Fresh Grocer, all the way to the 10th floor. We were able to see the Zoo balloon and the tops of other buildings. We had so much fun with this theme and we are looking forward to exciting activities for next month!

— Demita Hill

Peanuts

Conflicts in a preschool classroom are common. Letting children resolve things on their own is the best thing to do. Conflicts with preschoolers seem to almost always take place over possessions, but they also occur when children sit too close to one another or they are simply looking for attention from the adults. However when a dispute starts, it usually is minor and ends in just a few minutes when one gives up or gives in.

Three-year-olds are self-centered; they feel the world revolves around them. Everyone puts the blame on someone else. They are overprotective of their belongings and need to think possessions are safe if they are only in the preschooler's control. They need to be assured that when they do share their belongings, "stuff" will return to them safely.

On the other hand, 4-year-olds are

far more experienced socially. They are more advanced in language development and more likely to offer ways to play cooperatively and take turns when using another child's things.

These issues all influence the way young children handle conflicts. Young children are likely to use physical force, name calling, or even threats ("If I can't play with your toy, you can't come to my party!") to intimidate the child who will not submit. The child may then feel powerless, scared or overwhelmed and may go to the teachers for help. This action may be seen as tattling and will lead to more conflict.

We encourage children to resolve conflicts positively. Once the 3-year-olds understand the concept of give and take, then they can better solve their conflicts. The 4-year-olds have



a better understanding of bargaining and talking their way through a situation.

As teachers, we observe situations closely and intervene when necessary. Unless someone is getting hurt, it is best practice to let children work out their conflicts to help them gain confidence in problem solving. Helping young children verbalize will also help with socialization and interaction with their peers. We want children to know that sharing possessions or space and taking turns can be lots of fun.

— *Kharma Hicks*

Starfish

We took advantage of our beautiful springtime weather by doing some gardening inside and outside the Starfish classroom. The Starfish sprung into spring when Gavriela's mom Jennifer volunteered to plant different kinds of seeds with the children.

First we had to search for rocks on the playground to put inside the pots so the soil wouldn't seep out. Jennifer explained how to plant seeds and then we planted squash, carrots, peas and lima beans! During this theme, the class examined different types of seeds, we learned to identify the different parts of a plant, and how to care for plants. The children not only learned how to plant, but also surprised their mothers with a Mother's Day plant as a gift.



During our Think Spring! theme the children visited the PIC butterfly garden and used their thinking and observation skills to draw what they saw in the butterfly garden. One Starfish even drew PIC's building to identify with his creation.

During this spring theme the children were very busy creating artwork with various materials to construct their masterpieces (roses, tulips, sun-

flowers). We encouraged them to also add their signatures to their artwork, just like a real artist would do. We do have some great artists in the Starfish room!!!

Throughout the spring the class enjoyed many theme-related books. Some favorites were *Flower Garden* and *Planting A Rainbow*. To wrap up the spring season, the children took a trip to historic Bartram's Garden. The best part of the trip was the sampling berries and vegetables — yum yum! The children really enjoyed rolling up their sleeves and digging into some fun spring planting.

— *Johnetta Hurley*

Summer fun for families in Clark Park

Join us on Thursday evenings in July as PIC continues "Story Time in Clark Park" at 7pm by the Turtle in North Park. We always have an extra blanket to sit upon while we enjoy read-aloud stories for children under age 7. And nobody leaves without trying the hokey-pokey!

Many thanks to our volunteer readers in June: Rainbow teacher Kali Strand, PIC mom and playgroup leader Clara Flores, and Caterpillar teacher Kara Rutledge.

Coming up: **July 1** Dylan Landis and Hien Lu (parents of Sylvia in Rainbows); **July 8** Firefly teacher Brooks Wilson and his amazing banjo;



July 15 Michael Clapper (dad of Kara in Starfish); **July 22** PIC "grad" and Wesleyan student Davy Knittle; **July 29** Dan Aharon (dad of Ursula and Alexander in Moonbeams).

Shakespeare in the park

Shakespeare in Clark Park offers Shakespeare for Kids! This is a great way to introduce your children to a theater experience and prepare for the free production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Clark Park July 28-August 1 at 7pm.

Workshops are Saturday, July 31. A family workshop from 10:30-11:30 is for children ages 6-9 and their par-

ents/caregivers. Using music, movement and simple text, families will develop a better appreciation for performance energy and theatricality. Cost is \$20 per child; one parent or guardian per student may attend for free.

From noon to 2pm is "Will's Words" for ages 10-13. Students will engage in a series of fast-paced and exciting exercises exploring techniques in storytelling. Emphasis will be placed on understanding Shakespeare's language: what it means, how it relates to our lives today, and how to make the language come to life onstage. The cost is \$20 per child.

Classes are at the University City Arts League, 4226 Spruce St.

For information and registration, visit shakespeareinclairkpark.org/education.html

Consent to share information

Please check your PIC mailbox for your annual contract, sign and return to us as soon as possible. As a child care program licensed by the state Department of Public Welfare, we are required to have annual contracts signed with families for each child enrolled.

This year we have a second form that requires a signature called "Consent to Share Information."

Your child's files are confidential and you may request access to them at any time. They are kept by Family Life Coordinator Lynne Piersol.

Our participation in programs of the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), PA Child Care Works (CCIS), the Child and

Adult Food Program, and DPW may at times require us to share information.

We have developed the "Consent to Share Information" form so that families are aware that information may sometimes be shared with regulating agencies. If you would like to know more about this process, please contact Lynne or Cindy Roberts, PIC Executive Director.

Welcome new staff!

Anjali Gallup-Diaz will be joining PIC this month as the new Director of School Age Programs, succeeding Bonnie Hart, who retired in December. Anjali will work closely this summer with Marie Gravely, who has been guiding our program as Interim Director. Anjali was managing direc-

tor of the Chester Children's Chorus, a community program in the city of Chester that is sponsored through Swarthmore College. Anjali has a BA in music and English from Oberlin College and a MA in English from New York University.

Rachel Crossot has just completed her first month as PIC's Director of Development/Communications. Rachel was communications manager at United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia & Vicinity. She holds a BA in political science from Rutgers and has design training from the University of the Arts.

Rachel has recently updated our staff bulletin board in the Spruce Building ground floor. Come take a look to see our great staff!