



November 4, 2013

# Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center

New Jersey's First Nationally Accredited Early Childhood Program

## Staff News

Andrea Kent, Duckling Teacher, completed Infant/Child CPR and Pediatric First Aid training last month. Both are required for all R-LDCC staff members.

Leanne Adase, Sunbeam Teacher, and Cheryl Devine, Director, volunteered at the New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children [NJAEYC] conference on Saturday, 10/19.

Last Saturday, Cheryl attended a roundtable discussion organized by New Jersey Educators Exploring the Practices of Reggio Emilia [NJEEPRES].

## Flu Shots

All enrolled children 59 months and younger (as of the end of December) must present documentation that they have received the *seasonal* flu vaccine before 12/31/13. Children without the seasonal flu vaccine may not attend R-LDCC (or any New Jersey early childhood program) in January, February or March 2014.

## Food Drive

Annually, the Center sponsors a collection to support a local food bank. Many parents have told us they appreciate this opportunity to help their children become aware of and develop concern for those less fortunate.

If you choose to participate, let your child take an active part in deciding what to contribute. Please be sure all items are non-perishable and non-breakable, such as peanut butter, tuna, canned soup, canned pasta, etc. The collection boxes will be available in each classroom beginning today, through November 26.



## Inspection Report

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, an inspector from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing made an unannounced inspection. After spending the morning observing in each classroom and on the playground, R-LDCC was commended for meeting the state's licensing requirements!

R-LDCC will be CLOSED to children and families:

- Thursday and Friday, November 21 & 22, for the NAEYC annual conference
  - Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29 for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 24 through and including Wednesday, January 1, 2014, for Winter Break

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## Board News

The 2013-2014 R-LDCC Board of Trustees met for the first time in October. Committees were formed, and these officers were elected:

President - **Amanda Colon**  
Vice President - **Neda Gharani**  
Treasurer - **Toni Rogat**



Perhaps you felt you couldn't make the two-year commitment to serve on our Board. You can still be involved in maintaining our commitment to quality, by serving on a committee. Committees meet only as needed and for a specific purpose. For example, the Health and Safety Committee will meet soon to do the annual inspection walk-through and make recommendations for improvements to the rest of the Board. That's it! Maybe you'd be more interested in working with the Teacher Appreciation or Budget and Finance Committees. Think about it and let Cheryl know of your interest; the committee chair will contact you promptly.

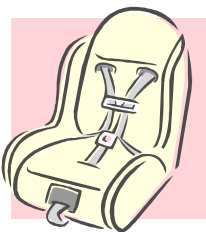
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## Safety First!

The safety and security of the children is the responsibility of each and every adult coming to the Center. Each family's full cooperation with these safety practices is expected and appreciated:

**Latch the front gate every time you enter or leave the playground.** While it may seem somewhat rude at first, we ask that you do not leave the gate open for another adult, even if s/he is following closely behind you. We can't take any chance that a child may run out of the playground and into traffic.

**Safeguard the front door.** This is the only barrier keeping strangers out of our building. Only parents/guardians of enrolled children have access to an entry keyfob; it may not be shared with babysitters, friends or other family members. Likewise, do not allow people unknown to you into the Center, even if they look like parents! If they belong here, they'll have a key!



**Hold your child's hand tightly when leaving the playground and securely buckle him/her in the car seat, every day.**

## Facebook Friends

If you're a Facebook user, "like" the page for Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center.



Regularly, we post our "breaking news" on this page.

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## Boxtops for Education

One way you can help contribute to R-LDCC is by saving the Boxtops for Education that come on the packaging of items that you purchase, anyway. Just put them in the collection box on top of the green mailboxes in the front hallway. We have a check in the mail for \$96.50 from our previous efforts!



the difference  
I can make.

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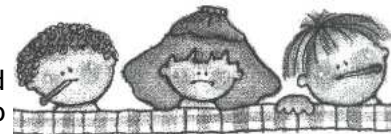
# Did you??

Did you change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you changed your clocks back to standard time?



## A Healthy Environment

All of R-LDCCs health and safety policies are based on currently recognized best practices as detailed in Caring for Our Children, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. If you'd like to read the standards for yourself, go to <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/index.cfm>.



In order to provide an environment that supports good health, the Center recognizes the importance of hand-washing. The children and all adults working in the Center follow established guidelines for when and how to wash their hands. Children have daily opportunities to play outdoors in the fresh air, throughout the seasons. The teachers balance active play periods with time to rest and reflect. The building is cleaned each evening and sanitary procedures are followed throughout the day. Immunization records are updated on a routine basis and daily health checks are done to insure that children in attendance are up to the task of participating in group care.

For each enrolled child, the Center is required by the Office of Licensing to maintain on file a Universal Child Health Record, updated annually, along with an immunization record and a special care plan (if applicable).

The Center is committed to providing care and education for every child, including those with special needs. Further, the Center will assist families in finding an alternate program if it is deemed that the child's needs would be better met elsewhere.

Even with all we do to promote good health, children are still going to become ill. To protect the other children and the staff and in keeping with the requirements set by the Office of Licensing, your child may not come to the Center if he has:

*severe pain or discomfort  
acute diarrhea  
yellow eyes or jaundiced skin  
red eyes with discharge*

*vomiting  
severe coughing  
difficulty breathing  
stiff neck*

*fever over 101.5°F with behavior changes  
infected, untreated skin patches  
weeping or bleeding skin lesions  
mouth sores with drooling*

or shows any other signs of illness or communicable disease.

Temporary exclusion from group care is required when a child's illness prevents him/her from participating comfortably in regular Center activities OR when the child's illness results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising their ability to care for the other children. A child or staff member with the following excludable communicable diseases is not permitted to be admitted to or to remain at the Center until he presents a note from a health care provider that he has been diagnosed and presents no risk to himself or others OR the state or local health department pediatric health consultant advises the Center that the individual poses no health risk to others:

Respiratory Illnesses: Chicken Pox, German Measles, Hemophilus Influenzae, Measles, Meningococcus, Mumps, Strep Throat, Tuberculosis, Whooping Cough

Gastro-Intestinal Illnesses: Campylobacter, Escherichia coli, Giardia Lamblia, Hepatitis A, Salmonella, Shigella

Contact Illnesses: Impetigo, Lice, Scabies, Shingles

If your child appears to be ill while at the Center, we will call you to pick him up. We'll expect you to come as soon as possible and certainly within the hour; sick children require and deserve more attention than we can provide here. After an hour of attempting to reach parents or waiting for their arrival, fees for individual childcare will be charged, at the rate of \$25 for any part of an hour. As these emergencies can arise at any time, we ask that you notify us whenever you cannot be reached at your regular phone number. Please confirm with the individuals you list as your emergency contacts that they are both willing and able to accept responsibility for your child if we must call them.

On the occasion your child is sent home sick from the Center, we will prepare a written summary of the symptoms s/he is presenting and the actions we have taken (you may want this information for the doctor). This will note when your child may return to the Center and if a doctor's note will be required for readmission, as well.

We will put a notice in your mailbox and/or send an email to inform you whenever we become aware of any diagnosed communicable diseases your child may have been exposed to at the Center.

A registered nurse is assigned to the Center via the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission from September through June to assist the Center with recordkeeping and establishing health policies and guidelines. She is also available to answer your questions regarding your child's health or immunizations.

It takes the commitment of all the Center's adults—families, staff and the nurse—working together to provide a healthy environment.

# Honeybee News



With the arrival of colder weather, we have switched to our winter schedule of taking the children outside later in the morning when the temperatures are warmer. Soon, we will come inside earlier in the afternoon before it gets dark outside. Remember, the children play outside every day, even in the winter and even when snow is on the ground. National Health and Safety Performance Standards (Caring for Our Chil-

dren, Standard 3.1.3.2: Playing Outdoors) assure us it is in the children's best interest to go outside every day, even in the colder months.

Please bring outerwear appropriate for the weather, including, when necessary, a coat, hat and mittens. This may be a good time to think about buying snow pants and snow boots, before all the stores are sold out!

## Holiday Update

The traditional American holiday of Thanksgiving is approaching! The Center usually celebrates with a "feast" at lunchtime the day before the holiday. Kindly note, R-LDCC will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday AND the previous Thursday and Friday, November 21 and 22, for the teachers to attend NAEYC's annual conference in Washington, DC.

If you would like to come in and do a holiday craft or share a special tradition, please speak to Laurie about arranging a time. This goes for all holidays and celebrations you and your family hold dear. We would love to have you!



## Autumn Ideas

Honeybees notice and delight in the changes that autumn in New Jersey brings about in our environment. With all the beautiful leaves on the ground who wouldn't be delighted? We have been going on many walks around campus. The children admire the leaves on the ground, listen to sounds of birds and airplanes in the sky and notice teachers and students around campus. What a great way to expose the Honeybees to nature and the community! This time of year is a perfect opportunity for a family trip to the pumpkin patch or apple orchard. If you can't get to these places, try this at home. Ask your child to imagine that he is an autumn leaf hanging on a tree, and that you are the wind. Pretend to blow the leaf off of the tree. Encourage your child to twirl and swirl as s/he slowly falls to the ground. Now pretend you are a leaf!

## We'd like to thank:

Sue's mom, *Oma*, for knitting the Honeybees cozy mittens to keep their little finger warm. We suggest saving your Honeybee's pair in the cubby as extras.

Firefighter Eddie and his friend from the East Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department for sharing their expertise with us!

Everyone who was able to join us for Curriculum Night! We hope you learned something and had a pleasant evening!



*Sign up in our room to meet with Laurie for our Teacher/Family conference.*

*Conferences will be scheduled in the morning on November 14 & 15*

## Duckling News



The Ducklings have been very busy this month! We have explored three different study topics, including families, fire safety and fall. During the week we talked about families, we had many opportunities to discuss our own families, and learn about how they are different from and similar to our friends' families. We also got the chance to role play being different members of our families. Fire Safety Week revolved around ways to keep ourselves safe if we are ever in a fire, and we also had the opportunity to spend some time with a real firefighter. He tried on all of his gear for us, and while it was fun to touch and look at, we learned that firefighters may look a little bit intimidating, or even scary in uniform, but they are here to help us. Lastly, we

have spent a lot of time talking about fall, and the changes that occur during this beautiful season. We have been having lots of fun, and learning a lot along the way!

Our next study topic is going to be friendship. We will explore the different ways we can be good friends to each other, and the types of things that are appropriate and inappropriate to do and say. We have a lot of team building games planned in the weeks ahead, and we will practice working together. We will also have the chance to get to know one of our classmates that we don't typically spend time with.

### Daily Helpers

We will soon be adding a new aspect to our daily routine; we are going to have a classroom helper each day. Both circle and square groups will have their own helper, and the jobs involved will be line leader, ringing the bell for clean-up time, and starting a discussion about the weather during circle time each day. The child chose will be rotated alphabetically; each of the nine children in the group will have a turn every ninth day. We are confident that the Ducklings will be very excited about this job, and will soon come to understand that although they cannot be the classroom helper every day, their turn will come very soon. Our classroom helper charts will be located where we have group time: square group by the rainbow carpet and circle group by the smaller carpet at the front of the room.

### Thank You Very Much

We celebrated a few special birthdays in October. Thank you to:

- ☺ Morgan's family for the colored pencils for our budding artists' use!
- ☺ Emily's family AND Elaina's family for the stickers, Play-Doh and sidewalk chalk—these are Duckling favorites!
- ☺ Pragyan's family for the fingerpaint and cool new pipe builders!

We have been having lots of fun playing with our new toys!

*Teacher/Family conferences will be held November 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in the early mornings.*

*A sign-up sheet will go up within the next two weeks; times and days are first come first serve.*



### Goodbye and Hello

Roxie and her family are moving away, so she will no longer be attending R-LDCC. We are all very excited to get to know our new friend, Ian, and his family. We're looking forward to adding one more to our duck pond!

### Dressing for the Weather

It is that time of year where the temperature drops and we start to layer up. Please check your Duckling's cubby and make sure that he/she has at least one complete change of weather appropriate clothes (including underwear)! In addition, we are trying to teach our Ducklings to be as self-sufficient as possible when it comes to dressing themselves. Please be sure that the clothes you are sending your children to school in are easy for them to put on themselves. It is best that sneakers or boots are Velcro or slip-on, that pants are easy for them to take on and off, and that layers are easily removable. We are happy to help with buttons and zippers, but the Ducklings are growing up fast, and they like to help themselves!



# Sunbeam News



We have been busy, busy, busy in the Sunbeam Room! We completed our study topic on Safe and Healthy Bodies in October. The Sunbeams enjoyed all of our planned activities such as playing Simon Says, making x-ray prints, guiding each other through a maze blindfolded, tasting apples and exercising! A highlight of this topic was our trip to RWJ hospital on October 16.



We have now moved into our study topic about Autumn Leaves. The Sunbeams are learning about changes that occur during the fall, exploring leaves and learning about why leaves change color. We will continue this topic for as long as the Sunbeams are interested!



## Thank You

To all of the families who attended our Curriculum Night in October, you made the night a success!

To Jahnavi and her family for their donation of art trays in honor of her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday!

To Yerin and her family for their donation of tabletop blocks in honor of her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday!

To Hugh and his family for their donation of sports supplies in honor of his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday!

To Diana and her family, for their donation of a washable (☺) watercolor set, in honor of her 4th birthday!

## Hellos and Goodbyes

We are saying good-bye to Alice, our student teaching intern on November 8<sup>th</sup>; next she will complete her internship semester in a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom! We enjoyed having her with us and will miss her greatly!

We said good-bye to our dear friend Yerin last month. Have fun visiting your family!

We said hello to two new friends in October. Welcome to Matvey and his family and welcome back to Zack and his family!

We will also welcome a new friend, Benjamin, to our classroom in November! Welcome to him and his family!

## Volunteers

The Sunbeams would love to have more parents, older siblings, and other family members come spend time in our classroom. Feel free to bring a book to read, do a special project with the children, or just come and play for a while!

## Reminders

\*Please do your best to arrive BEFORE 8:25 am if your child will be eating breakfast. This makes life easier for your child, you, the other children and the Sunbeam teachers. Arriving during the transition-to-breakfast time can be stressful as good-byes may be rushed, and a teacher may not be available to help the transition. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter!

\*Please make sure that your child's cubby is stocked with plenty of weather-appropriate clothing!

\*Each child should only have ONE SMALL SOFT TOY to have in his/her cubby. Additional toys and hard/large toys do not fit nicely into cubbies!