



Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center

NJ's first nationally accredited early childhood program September 12, 2013

Staff News

Have you met **Patrick Kelly**, our new Assistant Teacher/Floater? He brings experience working with adults and children with special needs. We are delighted he is part of the R-LDCC team; please join us in making him feel welcome.



We'll be saying good-bye to one old friend and hello to a new teacher in the Duckling room next week. **Cindy Rolzhausen** has decided to leave Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center to accept a position in another early childhood program that will allow her to spend more time with her family. We will miss her very much and thank her for her exceptional service to R-LDCC.

Andrea Kent has been hired as the Duckling Teacher and will join us on Monday, September 16th. After earning her undergraduate degree in psychology, Andrea recently completed a master's of education at Rutgers University. She is eligible for New Jersey Preschool—Third Grade and Kindergarten—Fifth grade certification. Last year, Andrea worked with our Sunbeams as a teaching intern. She is very excited to join our staff and begin her career teaching and caring for our Ducklings.

There is another change coming soon: **Maggie Keogh** will be moving to the Honeybee room as soon as **Michael Chen** becomes accustomed to his new assignment as a Duckling Assistant Teacher. Michael already knows many of the children from their Honeybee days and is delighted to be "moving up" with his friends!

Please join us in wishing Cindy the best of luck in her new school, and in welcoming Andrea to R-LDCC, Michael to the Duckling room and Maggie to the Honeybees!!

Sue Lincoln, Assistant Director, completed the New Jersey Directors' Academy last month! She attended classes on Fridays for 10 weeks and has already transferred some of her coursework toward improving operations in our office! Congratulations, Sue!

Cindy and Cheryl Devine, Director, hosted a 2-day Monarch Teacher Network workshop. Twenty-nine local teachers [preschool through high school] learned how to raise Monarchs and create valuable learning experiences for their students. Cindy demonstrated her growing knowledge of Monarchs when called upon to lead small group activities and model hand feeding the butterflies.



Leanne Adase, Sunbeam Teacher, earned six credits from Rutgers Graduate School of Education over the summer!

Marie Kocsis, Duckling Assistant Teacher, has reached another employment milestone—36 years of service to R-LDCC. The two year olds in her first class are now 38 years old!

Laurie Gruber, Honeybee Teacher, **Shanna Sladowsky**, Sunbeam Assistant Teacher, **Maria Fernandez**, Honeybee Assistant Teacher, **Marie, Sue** and **Cheryl** renewed their Infant/Child CPR certification. **Alice Kim**, Teaching Intern, and **Patrick** both acquired CPR and First Aid certification last Saturday. CPR and Pediatric First Aid are required for all R-LDCC staff members.



By now, we hope you've had a chance to view our "new and improved" website. Visit us at www.rldcc.org and let us know what you think

Remember to save Big G "BoxTops for Education" for us! They come on a variety of products your family probably uses every day! Put your donations in the box on top of the family mailboxes. We just mailed in 960 Boxtops and are expecting a check for \$96.00!



If you or your children would like a coupon (or two) for a free Kids' Meal at Rainforest Café, just ask in the office!



If you're a Facebook user, be sure to "like" the page for Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center—then you'll be sure to receive all the breaking news!

facebook



We're anxiously looking forward to our 200th "like"!!

Ms. Abby!

The teachers plan music and movement activities for the children in each classroom every day. Fridays are special, though, because that's when our music teacher, Ms. Abby, comes with her bag of tricks—singing, dancing, playing musical games, using rhythm instruments, telling stories and interacting with her puppet "friend"! She works with each class while the teachers have their planning meetings, and the children look forward to her visits! We're expecting Ms. Abby back on September 20.

If you're having trouble remembering to label **everything** your child brings or wears to the Center, try going to www.stuckonyou.biz/usa for a selection of labels for clothing, shoes, nap sheets and more!



GoodSearch and GoodShop

What if R-LDCC earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support the Center? Well, it can!

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half of its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall which donates a percentage of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, ToysRUs and iTunes have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting R-LDCC!

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and www.goodshop.com and be sure to enter Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center (Piscataway, NJ) as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word! Since its inception, the use of GoodSearch has earned us **\$556.84!**

August Professional Development Days

The days we were closed were busy and productive, as always! The carpets were professionally cleaned and the teachers worked hard to organize the classrooms and prepare for the new school year. Team meetings and a full staff meeting were also accomplished.

One full morning was devoted to exploring **Grow NJ Kids**, the state's new quality rating and improvement system [QRIS]. R-LDCC was one of 54 early childhood programs selected to participate in the year long pilot. We will assess how our practices measure up to those identified by NJ's Department of Education as indicators of quality. Administrative and teaching practices will be studied and strengthened as indicated. We took a close look at four components of the QRIS to evaluate how we're doing. While nothing major was discovered, it is always valuable to revisit effective teaching techniques and ensure they are used fully. Being part of Grow NJ Kids is an excellent opportunity for Rutgers-Livingston to work toward providing even better care and education for children while helping the state fine tune its program assessment tools and expectations.

Borrow Libraries

The Center has several lending libraries for families and children! Every morning our borrow cart in the front hallway is available, loaded with children's books. Check for the "R-LDCC Borrow Book" label on the back. Each classroom has its own lending library. Check with your child's teachers for location and borrowing procedures.

A collection of resource books is available to parents/guardians as well. New or frequently borrowed books and magazines are displayed on the shelves near the office. Additional books on a variety of topics including child development, parenting, new baby, death and others can be borrowed anytime.

Kindly return all borrowed materials promptly and in good condition so others can enjoy them too. If materials are lost or damaged while in your care, please inform us so they can be ready for the next family.

The shelved children's books in the hallway are for use in the classrooms, and are not available for borrowing.

Family Etiquette

Family members are expected to supervise their children when they are at the Center. Please be sure your child remains with you and insist that the Center's rules are upheld. This means that children may not run through the building disturbing other classes, ignore classroom behavior expectations, or play in areas of the playground that are not "open," even when parents are present. When the children are playing outdoors, everything in the classroom is "closed".



We also ask that out of respect for our teachers and children, cell phones not be used in our building, or on the playground when children are outside. Your child deserves your full attention during these separation and reunion times. The teachers are reluctant to interrupt your personal conversations to share even the most important information about your child.

Because the children's concentration and focus are easily distracted, we ask that all adult conversations [beyond simple pleasantries, of course] take place outside of the classrooms; chat in the hallway or on the playground.

Stay and Play

All R-LDCC families are invited to come for ***Stay and Play***

When: Monday, September 16, 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Where: R-LDCC playground

Why: To give children a chance to play "just a little bit longer"

To give families a chance to meet their children's friends

To conduct elections for the 2013-2015 Board of Trustees and annual corporation meeting (all parents of enrolled children are members of Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center, Inc!)

What: Children will be supervised by their parents
Light refreshments (pizza and watermelon) will be provided

How: Sign up by Monday morning, 9/16 in your child's classroom (so we'll know how many pizzas to order!)

Health Reminders

- ☺ Licensing regulations require each enrolled child to have a Universal Child Health Record on file at the Center, dated within the last 12 months.
- ☺ Each child must also have an up-to-date immunization record on file.
- ☺ New Jersey requires children under age 5 in early education programs to be vaccinated for influenza and pneumonia. Be sure to bring us your child's "flu shot" documentation by Dec. 31!



September Activities

Welcome to the Sunbeam Room! We are all very excited to begin a new school year and can't wait to get to know you and your child! This month the Sunbeams will be working on learning the rules of the classroom and exploring the materials of our centers. Each day during small group time, they will play in a different center of the room as they get accustomed to our rules and get to know each other. We will also play many games which foster cooperation and teamwork.

This semester we will also be hosting a teaching intern from Rutgers for ten weeks. Please help us in welcoming Alice Kim to our classroom community and introduce yourself, if you haven't already done so!



Did You Know?

Your child should sign in every morning. The Sunbeam sign-in book is on top of the low cubbies. Name cards for children's reference and sharpened pencils are located in the basket. Family members should sign in as well—your clipboard is on top of the tall cubbies.

Our good-bye window is located next to the Duckling door. To protect little fingers, children are not permitted to open or close the window. Ask a teacher for assistance. Breakfast is served at 8:30 am. Children arriving after 8:30 should have eaten breakfast at home.

Nap sheets and blankets are sent home on Fridays, to be laundered and returned on Monday. If you forget, we will give your child a borrow sheet and blanket to use for the week, and charge you \$2.00.

The Sunbeam borrow library is open for business! Our borrow books, located in the basket on top of the cubbies, can be borrowed any morning. Borrow books are identified by the smiley-face stickers on the back of the book. Just sign your child's name and story title in the notebook and take it home (or place it in her cubby until pick-up time.)

We have a lot of toys in the Sunbeam room. Please keep all of your child's toys and books at home (or in the car). One small (fits in the cubby) stuffed animal or doll for naptime is OK.

Email Leanne (leanne@rldcc.org) if we don't already have your email, to avoid possible transcription errors. We do try and email a daily report of the Sunbeams' activities.

This month we said hello to some new friends from the Duckling room. Welcome to Adrian, Hannah, Daria, Nitai, Aitan and their families!

We are also welcoming back Crystal, who had the summer off, and three families new to R-LDCC! Welcome to Nicholas, Diana, Jiwoo and their families, too!

Thank You So Much . . .

... to all of our departing families for their generous gifts, cards, luncheons, and for our new rainbow carpet and class camera! All were very much appreciated by Leanne, Shanna and Kathy!



Welcome, Friends!

The teachers are excited that a new school year is upon us! We are looking forward to spending our days caring for and guiding your children. We hope all our Honeybees and their families are ready for this new school year too!



Michael has moved on to join the Duckling teaching team, and we are so happy that Maggie will soon be a Honeybee again!

This month we welcome Gaia and Elliot and their families! These two families are already familiar with us since each has an older sibling (Oz and Mason respectively) who is a graduate of R-LDCC, and Gaia's brother, Aitan, is a Sunbeam! We have been getting to know our new friends.

We will spend the first few weeks getting to know one another, learning routines and exploring all the wonderful activities the Honeybee room has to offer. We will be spending time outside every day, so make sure your child has a light jacket on his coathook or in his cubby. To keep you informed, we have a message board next to our door. You will find a handwritten note of highlights from the day's activities as well as a lunch chart. Next to our sign-in/sign-out sheet is our nap chart in the shape of a beehive. The Honeybees have our own toddler friendly lending library located by our sign-in/sign-out sheet. Sign out the item you wish to take home in the notebook provided and then cross off your entry when you return it.

Thanks So Much!

We would like to thank the following:

- ◆ Meredith and her family for the spare clothes she donated.
- ◆ Aleeza and her family for our new fish friends.
- ◆ Gaia and her family for the stuffed animals she donated.
- ◆ Our Duckling friends, Brian, for the new spare underwear and Okech, for the extra scrap paper.
- ◆ The Martin family for the generous monetary donation and the fire truck pop-up tent.

Thank you all so much for thinking of the Honeybee class!

Laurie is at the Center from 9:30am-5:30pm every day. If you have a question in the afternoon and she's busy with a child or another parent you can always get in touch with her via email at laurie@rldcc.org.

Saying Good-Bye

Some children (and parents!) feel anxious about saying goodbye when separating in the morning. Here are a few tips to help the departure:

- ◆ Develop a routine. A routine helps reassure a child who may be feeling stressed. Involve your child in creating a routine that might include a song or a special hug.
- ◆ Handle things like signing in and stocking the cubby before you say good-bye to your child.
- ◆ Tell your child in advance of your departure. "When we are all done _____, I will go to work. The teachers will take care of you and I will come back for you later."
- ◆ Always say goodbye and let your child see you leave. It may seem easier to slip away while the child is distracted, but it can be even more stressful and confusing to the child to discover later that you've gone.
- ◆ When you're ready to leave, say good-bye and go. If your child has trouble separating, please feel comfortable asking us to assist you when you are ready to leave.

Extra, Extra

Sometimes we all forget a sheet, blanket or extra clothes. The Honeybees have a supply of extra clothes [labeled "HB"] in case your child needs it. Please launder and return all borrowed clothes as soon as possible so we'll have them to lend again. If you forget your child's sheet or blanket on the first day of a week, we'll lend a borrow one for the entire week and charge you \$1 for laundering.





Welcome, Andrea!

Duckling families were informed by letter that **Andrea Kent** has been hired as our new Duckling Teacher. Andrea graduated from Rutgers University with a master's degree in education. She completed her student teaching experience in our Sunbeam room last fall, and is remembered fondly by many of last year's Sunbeams. Andrea has met the children, and met with Cindy to become familiar with the Duckling curriculum and routine. She is very excited to begin teaching, caring for and loving the Ducklings with **Marie** and **Michael**! You can email Andrea at andrea@rldc.org to introduce yourself (and to share your email with less chance of a transcription error!)



Farewell to Cindy

Cindy Rolzhausen started at R-LDCC 16 years ago, as a young, newly-certified teacher. She's been with us as both the Duckling and Sunbeam Teacher, through her marriage and two maternity leaves (both of her school-aged children are graduates of our program!) and now has decided to move on. Please join us in thanking Cindy for sixteen years of devoted service to R-LDCC and in wishing her all the best!

Welcome Michael!

Former Honeybee Assistant Teacher, **Michael Chen**, has now been assigned to the Duckling room. Michael is a 2012 graduate of Rutgers University and worked part time at R-LDCC throughout his undergraduate years. All of our former Honeybee families already know (and love!) Michael; we feel confident that our newer Duckling families will soon feel the same, as well!

See You in the Bathroom!

Maggie Keogh will work with the Ducklings to help smooth the transition for our new teacher, Andrea. She will then be assigned to the Honeybee room, a position she held previously.



Back to School

Welcome, Duckling families, to a brand new school year! The Ducklings will be spending the next few weeks getting to know our new teachers and new friends, learning our classroom rules, learning how to work in each of our learning centers, and settling into our classroom routine.

Throughout the rest of this month the children will be learning about themselves during a study called All About Me. The Ducklings will discover that each child is different and unique, and this makes them special individuals. We will be discussing ways we may be the same and different, measuring our heights and weights, creating face puzzles, and practicing recognizing our names. You can read more about these activities on our lesson plans located on the wall next to our door.

Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing in his cubby. The following is a general list for this month's warm and cool days:

- 2 pairs of shorts
- 1 pair of long pants
- 1 light jacket or sweatshirt
- 2 pairs of socks
- 2 short-sleeved shirts
- 1 long-sleeved shirt

If you know your child goes through clothes quickly, then provide us with some extras and remember to re-stock frequently. Your child may bring one small stuffed animal or "lovey" for nap-time.

Small group time is an important part of your Duckling's day. We know that young children learn best in smaller groups. They have

more opportunities to voice their opinions, have more turns during a game, form stronger social bonds with other children, and get more individualized attention from the teacher. The Ducklings work in their small groups twice a day. We sing songs, recite nursery rhymes, read stories, and work on learning activities. Our small group lesson plans are also posted on the wall next to the door.

We need your family photo to display in our classroom! You can bring in a photo or email one to andrea@rldcc.org.

Family members are always welcome in the Duckling room. Let us know if you'd like to read a story, play a game or share a holiday tradition with the children.

Borough of Union Beach

Telephone (732) 264-2277



Fax# (732) 264-1267

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 650 POOLE AVE.
UNION BEACH, N. J. 07735

Hi,

Well, it's almost a year since Superstorm Sandy.

We are still going strong helping the residents of Union Beach and are now trying to help our neighboring towns.

We never forget how grateful we all were for your donation and are finally getting around to thanking you personally. It's people like you that help make our mission a success.

Thanks again ♥

Volunteers, administrators, Police and most of all "Union Beach Residents."

R-LDCC was pleased to support the residents of Union Beach with the Cozy Kids Pajama Project Michael organized last winter. Families and staff contributed 33 pairs of pajamas!