



Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center

NJ's first nationally accredited early childhood program

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March 5, 2013

Staff News

Lindsay David joined the Sunbeam team as an assistant teacher in late February and has been busy getting to know the children and their families. Lindsay is a graduate of Rutgers University where she earned a BA in Psychology. She brings experience working with adults with developmental disabilities. If you haven't met her yet, please introduce yourself and make her feel welcome.

At our February Professional Development Day, the entire staff had the opportunity to become familiar with NJ's Birth-Three Early Learning Standards. This newly created document provides a common framework for understanding and communicating developmentally appropriate expectations for infants and toddlers. Based on research about how infants and toddlers learn and develop, the standards give parents, teachers and policymakers valuable information and insight. It was reassuring to find out that the expectations and suggested ways of supporting optimal learning and development closely match R-LDCC's philosophy and practices in our Honeybee room.

The day also included a presentation from each of the eleven staff members who attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children's conference in the fall. A wealth of information was shared with the intent of getting the most out of our conference experiences.

Dear Families of R-LDCC,

I would like to thank all of you for your best wishes on my retirement. Most of all I would like to thank you for sharing your children with me. I have really learned a lot from spending my years at R-LDCC and I credit all of you for sharing precious moments with me.

Best wishes and much love to all of you.

Marie



Remember that all new enrollment contracts are due on or before: Monday, March 31!

If:

Your child will attend R-LDCC on June 1 and through the next school year.

Your child will attend for the summer only, and will not be enrolled at R-LDCC in September.

Your child will attend for only part of the summer.

Your child's last day at R-LDCC will be May 31, 2014.

Then:

Fill out the dates to read June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015. Return your signed contract **with a check for \$800**. The \$800 deposit will apply to September 2014 tuition and is non-refundable.

Fill out the dates to read June 1, 2014 through August 27, 2014. No deposit is necessary. The last day for children not enrolled for September is Wednesday, August 27.

Fill out the dates to read June 1, 2014 through whatever date you choose to terminate his enrollment, such as June 30, July 18, August 8, etc. Tuition can be pro-rated for partial month enrollment when the Center is given at least 4 weeks' notice.

You do not need to complete a new Tuition Payment Agreement. Families of currently enrolled children have a contract through May 31. Please let us know, so Sue won't have to "harass" you!

Currently-enrolled families DO NOT pay the \$50 registration fee again, unless the child is withdrawn and then re-enrolled.

Question of the Month: “If I sign a new contract for June 1, does that mean my child will move to the new classroom on June 1?”

Answer: The Tuition Payment Agreement between your family and R-LDCC is for specific dates, not for a specific classroom. You agree to pay Rutgers-affiliated Honeybee tuition while your child is enrolled in the Honeybee room and at least one parent has a current Rutgers connection (student/staff/faculty). When s/he moves to the Duckling room, you will then pay the (lower) Duckling rate. If you no longer work at or attend Rutgers, you will pay the (higher) community rate.

Children are moved from Honeybees to Ducklings or from Ducklings to Sunbeams as space allows. The child’s development, relationships, size and language abilities are all considered, along with chronological age, when determining the timing for the transition. Families are consulted to assure that the

timing is not counterproductive. Events outside the Center, such as a family move, vacations, visiting relatives or birth of a sibling are considered when constructing the transition plan.

The Center usually moves children to their new group during the summer months, or in September as spaces become available. Andrea or Laurie will discuss your child’s transition plan with you when the time approaches. Children generally begin by making brief visits to the new room in small groups. As time for the actual move gets closer, visits are longer and at different times of the day (circle or activity time, lunch, snack, free play). Please keep us informed of family events, such as vacations, that may impact the transition and should be considered when preparing the transition plan.



CURRICULUM FOCUS: LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Research and experience tell us that children’s language development is the foundation for future learning success. Children who are very fluent in oral language tend to have the easiest time learning to read and strong verbal skills will prove valuable in all areas of study in the future!



At R-LDCC, we encourage children to use language—a lot! They talk to each other when they play in small groups, share experiences with the whole group, have casual conversations with teachers, sing, chant, and recite nursery rhymes, poems & fingerplays all through the day! We read aloud to them many times each day—fairy tales, picture books, and nonfiction—continually exposing them to new words. Our classrooms are alive with language!

Families can support language development by talking with their children in the course of everyday activities such as cooking, bathing, shopping and doing chores. Ask questions, share your ideas and observations, and be a good listener. Really listen to your child and you’ll learn so much about him while his vocabulary and expressive language is enhanced. When we say ask questions, we don’t mean quiz your child with questions that have just one correct answer, such as “What color is this?” or “What shape is that?” Children know when they’re being quizzed and often stop talking! You’re more likely to provoke deeper thinking and more expansive language with open ended questions such as, “What does that color make you think of?” and “Why do you think fish live in water?” that are related to a book you are sharing or a conversation you’re having. A good way to know if it is truly an open ended question is that it’s likely you don’t already know the answer!

Families are encouraged to use their native language at home. Children who are fluent in their first language quickly learn to speak English at school so there is no need to practice English at home, too! We delight in parents reading aloud or singing to the children in their home languages. Won’t you consider sharing your language with us?

Extra Hands

R-LDCC is fortunate to often have additional people at the Center to support our work with the children. This semester, we have three Rutgers students employed as Teacher Aides through WorkStudy, two who are performing volunteer work for their own personal growth, ten who are completing fieldwork for a social work course, and one intern doing a Practicum in Youth Work. All supply character references and have a child abuse background check; the Teacher Aides are fingerprinted as well. The students' photos are posted in the front hallway each morning, so families can recognize who's who!.

Thanks a Lot!

Many thanks to all the families who continue to save Boxtops for us! We're waiting for our latest check for \$57.40 to arrive in the mail.



Thanks to Benny's dad, Alex, for tightening up the front entrance gate after the snowplows knocked it loose (again!)

This and That

Are you one of R-LDCC's 224 "friends" on Facebook? If not, "like" our page today, and get all our news updates.



Bring us your used ink cartridges; we receive a cash incentive for each one we recycle. There is a collection box next to the fish tank in Sue's office.

We'd like to remind friends and family members about using GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com when browsing or shopping online. Select Rutgers Livingston Day Care Center, Piscataway, NJ as your charity, and earn money for the Center!

Remember that R-LDCC is a "no-cell-phone" zone. Leave your phone in the car, and give your child the gift of your full attention when you reunite after a day apart!



Safety Reminders

Families are reminded that:

****ONLY** grown-ups are permitted to open the front gate. Please, please, please **DO NOT** lift your child up to open the gate – it is the only barrier between our playground and the busy street out front. Refrain from allowing older siblings to jump or climb to open it as well.

****strangers** should not be allowed into the building. Anyone with unlimited access has a key fob. If you let people in the front door, kindly escort them to the office, even if they have a small child with them, or "look like" they belong here. The one exception would be if it's one of our Rutgers students—you'll see their photos along the top of the family mailboxes.

****they** assume responsibility for their child when they arrive at the end of the day. Children are not permitted to wander about the building unescorted, leave the building, or return to the playground without an adult. Kindly take care of checking the cubby, visiting the water cooler, signing out, bathroom needs, questions for the teachers, etc. *before the Center closes at 5:30.* You show respect for the teachers and their children by departing promptly, allowing them to head home too.

Children's Health

"The obesity rate for U.S. children between the ages of 2 and 5 plunged 43 percent over the past decade," reports **Education Week**. Based on data from the Center for Disease Control's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the prevalence of obesity among children aged 2 to 5 years decreased from 14 percent in 2003-04 to just over 8 percent in 2011-12.

"The tide hasn't turned for all ages, however. The CDC found no significant decline in obesity rate for children between the ages of 2 and 19, or adults between 2003-04 and 2011-12.

"The findings regarding 2- to 5-year-olds should be considered particularly encouraging for two reasons. First, previous research has suggested that overweight and obese youths are far more likely to be overweight or obese as adults compared to normal-weight children. By nipping obesity in the bud at an early age, there's a greater likelihood that children will grow up to maintain a healthy weight throughout their lives.

"Additionally... parents are more likely to underestimate the weight of their obese children in that age range. According to one of the studies reviewed in that analysis, 'parents of young children believe their children will eventually grow out of the excess weight.'"

Honeybee News

Reading with Toddlers

The Honeybee teachers recognize that being read to regularly as a young child is the best way to acquire early literacy skills. This group of Honeybees loves to read and to be read to! They have multiple opportunities every day to listen to stories in a group, in small groups, and through one-on-one cozy lap time. Sometimes the children even "read" to each other! Each day, the Honeybees are encouraged to read books on their own after snack, before transition-

ing to the next activity. This unhurried time in the book area helps to emphasize that reading is a pleasant, enjoyable activity. A new Rutgers fieldwork, WorkStudy or volunteer student quickly realizes that a big part of her/his job is to be available when one of the Honeybees plops down on her lap: "Read it! Read it again!" We're glad that Genevieve, Naya, Ian, Jessica and Michelle are here to help our Honeybees develop a love of reading!



Keeping in touch

If you need to talk to Laurie, and you don't get to see her in the morning, you can email her at laurie@rldcc.org or call between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm while the Honeybees are napping!

A sign up sheet for Spring Teacher/Family Conferences will be posted on the attendance sheet in a couple of days. This time will be dedicated for a one-on-one discussion about your child.

Thank You Very Much!

-To Quinn and his family for the generous donation toward the purchase of a new iPod device for our littlest music lovers!

-To Grant's daddy, Brian, for purchasing ghost shrimp and tank accessories to liven up our fish tank! Both the parents and the children appreciate the activity they see in the tank.

Duckling News



The Ducklings were "mixing it up" with colors throughout the month of February; check ducklings.phanfare.com for a photo record of our discoveries!

We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 3, and will be spending some time focusing on the works of "one of the most beloved children's authors of all time."



Welcome, Baby!

Congratulations to Brian and his family on the arrival of a new little brother, Eric!

Welcome, Teacher!

We're so happy to welcome **Shanna** as an Assistant Teacher in our room since Marie's retirement in February. She brings 13 years of experience at R-LDCC!



Sunbeam News



Throughout the month of February, the Sunbeams explored the topic of winter. The weather was definitely cooperative this year in making this study topic meaningful to the children. We made snowmen, went sledding, and painted the snow outside. Inside, we explored ice, read stories about winter, and painted with watercolor ice cubes!

As we move into March we will begin our new study topic on Recycling. *RecycleMania*, a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities, is under way on the Rutgers campus and in the Sunbeam classroom! The Sunbeams will begin by participating in ac-

tivities that emphasize the three R's of recycling: reduce, reuse, and recycle. The topic will end with the Sunbeams exploring materials brought in from home and making recycled art! We are in need of "junk drawer" and recyclable items from our families. A note will be sent via email with a list of suggested materials. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Classroom Reminders

* All lesson plans are posted on the front wall near the door and are emailed to families. They are changed every week so be sure to check back often to stay up to date on our classroom activities.

* If you have an extra moment at drop-off or pick-up, feel free to browse the room with your child to look at and talk about posted displays and artwork. This is a

great way to engage your child in a meaningful discussion! Also, we have a bin in the room filled with "memory books" from the school year. The Sunbeams love looking back on some of the fun activities they have done this year!

*Please check your email daily for updates and a brief outline of your child's day from Leanne.

**Sign up in our room
to meet with
Leanne for a
conference!**

Good-bye and Hello!

In February we said hello to Elaina and her family. Elaina joined us from the Duckling room, and we're enjoying getting to know her better!

We said good-bye to our friend Morgan and his family; good luck in your new home and new school.

We also said hello to our new assistant teacher, Lindsay. Welcome to the Sunbeam Room and the R-LDCC family!



Thank You!

Thank you to Benjamin's dad, Alex and Daria's (and Lila's!) dad, Bruce for assisting with our computer troubles! Our computer is up and running!

Thank you to Sarah's family for their donation of a digital camera for the children and for our colorful new pencils!

Thank you to Kathy's husband, George, for getting us the heart-shaped wood pieces for our Valentine craft!

TUITION PAYMENT AGREEMENT

This AGREEMENT is made and entered into between the Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center, Inc., hereinafter known as the CENTER, and _____, hereinafter known as THE FAMILY.

The CENTER hereby accepts _____ for enrollment in the CENTER'S childcare program for the period from _____ through _____.

THE FAMILY agrees to pay tuition as follows, due on the first school day of each month:

Community Honeybees	\$1,259.00 per month
Community Ducklings	\$1,099.00 per month
Community Sunbeams	\$1,048.00 per month
Rutgers-affiliated* Honeybees	\$1,129.00 per month
Rutgers-affiliated* Ducklings	\$979.00 per month
Rutgers-affiliated* Sunbeams	\$935.00 per month

*current Rutgers affiliation required: University telephone extension _____ - _____
or Student ID# _____
or University email _____

THE FAMILY agrees to inform THE CENTER within 10 days if they are no longer Rutgers affiliated, and agrees to pay the community rate thereafter.

Other (i.e. sibling discount) to be completed
by the Director or Assistant _____ \$ _____ per month _____

Registration fee is \$50.00 per child, payable when a child is first enrolled or withdrawn and re-enrolled. A FAMILY who withdraws a child for whatever reason, for whatever period of time must pay the registration fee again if the child is re-enrolled.

The CENTER can not give refunds or charge less than the contracted amount for times the child is ill or absent.

The CENTER reserves the right to terminate a child's enrollment when it deems it necessary for the welfare of the child or the needs of the CENTER.

THE FAMILY agrees to give the CENTER four (4) weeks' written advance notice should they wish to terminate their child's enrollment. Should THE FAMILY fail to give such notice, they agree to pay four (4) full weeks' tuition in lieu of notice.

(Signature)

(Date)

(Director's signature)

(Date)

(Signature)

(Date)





Scheduled Center Closings 2014-2015

July 4, 2014	Friday	Independence Day
August 28, 2014 August 29, 2014	Thursday Friday	Professional Development
September 1, 2014	Monday	Labor Day
November 6, 2014 November 7, 2014	Thursday Friday	Professional Development
November 27, 2014 November 28, 2014	Thursday Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24, 2014 through and including January 2, 2015	Wednesday - Friday	Winter Break
January 19, 2015	Monday	Dr. King's Birthday
February 18, 2015	Monday	Professional Development
May 25, 2015	Monday	Memorial Day