



# Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center

NJ's First Nationally Accredited Early Childhood Program

May 2, 2014

## Staff News

**Maggie Keogh**, Honeybee Assistant Teacher, renewed her Infant/Child CPR certificate. Current CPR and Pediatric First Aid certification are both requirements for employment at R-LDCC.

Congrats, Patrick! **Patrick Kelly**, Assistant Teacher/Floater, submitted a successful mini-grant proposal on behalf of R-LDCC for funding for our Building Memories events!

**Cheryl Devine**, Director, completed professional development in using the ITERS and ECERS, classroom observation tools designed to measure program quality. Even though we scored very high on these scales, Cheryl and the teachers have been referencing these instruments since September working to strengthen specific aspects of our classrooms.

## Building Memories

Sunbeam & Duckling families were invited to join one another on April 28 and 29 from 5:30-6:30 to enjoy building activities together. R-LDCC sponsored this event, with support from Kenyon AEYC, for the Month of the Young Child. A good time was had by all!



## Pickup Time

Families are reminded that they assume responsibility for their child when they arrive at the end of the day. Children are not permitted to play in the classrooms when the teachers are outside, 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.

Sometimes, parents agree to let their children stay and play a little longer...that's great, but we do ask that these rules are followed:

- ♦ Children are only allowed to play in the "open" areas, even when a parent is present. At 5:15, the sand area, bikes and swings are closed until the teachers have gone inside.
- ♦ Parents are expected to closely supervise their children and to adhere to our safety standards, at all times.

- ♦ Our playground equipment is safety approved for ages 2 and up. Younger siblings should not play on the swings or climber.
- ♦ No toys, including balls, may be brought into the climber or swing areas.
- ♦ Bikes and cars may not be removed from the sheds once the teachers have put them away.
- ♦ Sand and sand toys stay in the sand area.
- ♦ If your child plays with the hula hoops, make sure to hang them on the fence before you leave.
- ♦ All litter is to be deposited in the trashcans.
- ♦ The flowers, plants and flowerbeds are to be treated with respect, both inside and outside the gate.

This may all sound like common sense to you...but believe it or not, we have seen children blatantly ignoring rules that they have followed all day, while their parents looked on or chatted with each other. R-LDCC's playground rules don't change when parents arrive; each family's cooperation is necessary and expected. Thanks for working with us to keep all the children safe.



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## Oh, Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun, Please Shine Down on Me!

As nicer weather returns, the children will be spending more time outside in the sunshine. Families are reminded to:

Apply sunscreen to your child's exposed skin each morning at home. We will re-apply after naptime if we're going outside when the UV index is 5 or 6.

Bring your child to R-LDCC wearing SNEAKERS or other non-skid, closed-toe shoes. For safety reasons, children with uncovered toes will not be allowed to play on the swings, bikes, bars or climber. Please do not have your child wear sandals or flip-flops to daycare. *Crocs* or *ballet flats* (without a strap) are not a good choice for running, climbing and bike riding, either.

Check the cubby and restock with weather-appropriate clothing, if necessary.

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### Active Play

Watching what children and families chose to play at the building nights, we were reminded that sometimes more simple toys and playthings are the best! The empty cardboard boxes [free!] and the paper cups [\$2] provided the same fun and learning experiences as the other building toys!

Here are a few more activities you can do with your child at home for little or no cost:

- Create an obstacle course inside or outside that encourages climbing over and under furniture.
- Make follow the leader a workout by doing energetic movements like jumping, stomping and squatting.
- Put on some music and dance!
- Jump on bubble wrap until it is all popped!

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### Teaching Your Child to Care for Others

R-LDCC is sponsoring a clothing drive to support the Rescue Mission of Trenton, an agency that provides a safe, clean, warm refuge for the homeless and the hungry. Information about their mission is available at [rmtrenton.org](http://rmtrenton.org).

A collection box will be available at R-LDCC for two weeks, beginning May 6, for your donations of clean used clothing. If you choose to support this community service activity, you can involve your child by explaining that you are giving items your family no longer needs to help people less fortunate. The donations will be sold at the Mission's thrift store to help fund their outreach. A statement of donation will be available to those who participate for tax purposes.

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### Reminder

R-LDCC will be **closed** to children and families (and teachers!) on Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day.



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## Sunbeam Graduation and Spring Celebration May 29

Pick up your Sunbeam no later  
than  
**4:30** on  
Thursday, May 29— return by  
**6:00** for the children's  
presentation and party!

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**Families with a 2013-2014  
tuition payment agreement  
are reminded that the 2014-  
2015 tuition rates go into  
effect on June 1.**

**If you have your child's  
tuition payment sent  
automatically, remember to  
adjust it accordingly.**



# SUNBEAM NEWS



April was an exciting month for the Sunbeams! We held our Recyclemania Art Show at the Livingston Student Center. The art show was a huge success! We were visited by our families, the Ducklings and Honeybees, Rutgers faculty and staff members, Rutgers students, and even the Dean of Students! The Sunbeams were true professional artists as they stood by their work and answered any questions the visitors had about their recycled art projects.

The rest of April was spent observing and learning about spring. We talked about the changes spring brings to nature, observed trees and flowers blooming, examined different types of seeds, and even planted our own flowers. We will be keeping track of our flowers' growth throughout the month of May.

During May, we will be working on a very interesting project. The project is titled, *Voices...From the Land*, and incorporates natural art, poetry, and drama to create a unique experience. The children will start by taking a nature walk and matching colors in nature with paint color cards from the hardware store. We will then take the children back into nature to create works of art using natural materials. The children will talk about their art with each other and learn about the ephemeral (temporary) property of making art with nature. Back in the classroom, the children will write (with the help of the teachers) a poem about their work of art and will then perform the poem for the class.



## Welcome, Friend!

The Sunbeams welcomed a new friend last month! Welcome to Nikola and his family who are new to our center! The Sunbeams are very excited to have a new friend.

## Thank You!

To Conrad and his family for their donation of sensory noodles and beads in honor of his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

To Daria and her family for their donation of stickers and beads in honor of her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

To all of our R-LDCC families who made our Recyclemania Art Show a huge success!

*Families and friends are invited to our annual Sunbeam Graduation and Spring Celebration on Thursday, May 29. All Sunbeams are encouraged to participate.*

*Please pick up your child by **4:30** on the day of graduation to allow the teachers time to prepare for the festivities. Return with your entire family by **6:00** to watch the children's program and share a light supper with us. Be on the look-out for a sign-up sheet, so we'll know how many to expect.*

*We hope that everyone will join us, but if you know your child will be unable to participate, please let Leanne know as soon as possible.*

## Reminders

- \* As the weather gets warmer, please remember to apply sunscreen to your Sunbeam each morning!
- \* Hats are recommended to shield your child's face and eyes from the sun! Please label your Sunbeam's hat with his/her name.
- \* Each Sunbeam is allowed **ONE** small soft toy for nap. This soft toy must fit easily in the cubby without being stuffed in. Large or multiple soft toys cause competition among the children, as well as hinder access to other children's cubbies.





# HONEYBEE NEWS



Thank you for bringing in a sunhat for your child's cubby! A hat helps protect your child's eyes and face from the ultraviolet (UV) rays. You may have noticed that we switched our morning schedule around so that we are playing outdoors earlier in the morning to reduce our exposure to higher levels of UV rays and/or higher temperatures. According to Center policy, the children will remain indoors whenever the UV index is 7 or above and/or if the heat index is at or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. We'll be applying sunscreen to your child for outdoor play in the afternoon when the UV measures 5 or 6. Parents are reminded that they are responsible for applying sunscreen at home in the morning before coming to the Center. Your cooperation helps to ensure the safety of your child's delicate skin.

## What do the best dressed Honeybees wear to R-LDCC?

Shoes that allow them to run and play. Sneakers are the preferred footwear at R-LDCC. They protect the toes and keep out (most of) the sand.

Clothing that allows them to practice their developing independence:

- ♦ Elastic waist pants, and
  - ♦ Comfortably fitting underwear,
- and clothing that allows them to play and explore without restriction:
- ♦ Play clothes that can be worn while painting, digging in the mud and eating spaghetti
  - ♦ Clothes that protect them when outdoors, such as a sunhat with a brim, to protect delicate faces.

Please avoid dressing your child in confining, tight clothing, as these would be a source of frustration for both toddler and teacher!

## Fun in the Sun

Now that "spring has sprung" it is the perfect opportunity to get your toddler outdoors! In the warmer months the Honeybees frequently take walks around campus. To practice for these outings, you might want to try walking hand in hand with your Honeybee in a park or games of following directions like Simon Says. I think we've all had enough of winter and have happily welcomed spring!



## Thanks a bunch!

The Honeybees would like to thank:

- Ava for the purchase of the Lakeshore Giant Sand and Water Wheel in honor of her 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday! We will be sure to use it during outside play!
- Michael for the hardcover toddler-friendly books to add to our library in honor of his 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday! We love to read!
- Gaia's mommy, Ravit, and her older brother, Oz (an R-LDCC graduate!) for reading us a story and singing a traditional song for Passover! Gaia and Aitan, a Sunbeam, joined in the singing!
- Viraaj, a Duckling, for donating some gently used toys he outgrew for our enjoyment!
- Elliot's mommy, Kristen for the lovely flowers for our classroom!
- The Sunbeams for inviting us to their Recyclemania Art Show at the Student Center!



## Springtime

Throughout the month of April the Ducklings have been talking a lot about spring! We have been doing various activities involving flowers, clouds, rain and mud. We have also started taking note of one particular tree on the playground; we are going to watch the tree grow, and track its progress, as spring turns to summer. The Ducklings will be able to see the beautiful process of spring right before their eyes!

## Dramatic Play

We are still looking to diversify our dramatic play center. Currently, we have many toys and clothes that promote all different scenarios for the Ducklings to act out, but we are always looking to improve. If you have any traditional cultural clothing or accessories you would like to donate to our center, we would be thrilled to have them! In addition, if you have any dress-up clothing that would be traditionally considered for boys, such as older children's sized suit jackets or dress shoes, or clip-on ties, we are always looking to have more.

## Thanks!

We celebrated one special birthday in April. We would like to thank Averie for the new, "Feed the Bunny" fine motor game.

We would also like to thank Viraa's mom, Mansha, for the exciting new additions to our dramatic play center!

## Self Help

The Ducklings have been working very hard these past few weeks, learning some new self-help skills. They have recently taken on bigger responsibility during mealtimes, and are very excited about it! The children have begun passing finger foods (crackers, bread, sliced fruit), "taking one or two" for themselves, and then passing the bowl, basket or plate along to their friends. They have also had some practice with pouring their own milk.

It would be helpful to your Duckling, as well as encouraging more consistency between home and school, if you give the same types of responsibilities at home. Examples might include offering one or two crackers right from the box, offering four or five goldfish right from the bag, or pouring milk or water (with supervision!) The more practice they get, the better they'll be at it!

