



The Children's Center Connection

November 2022



Family-Teacher Conferences

It's time for family-teacher conferences for the whole Center.

Earlier in the school year parents completed the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), a broad screening tool that covers several developmental domains. The teachers are assessing the children according to the Objectives for Development and Learning with Teaching Strategies GOLD. Teachers will share information gathered from both tools at the conference and also use the findings to plan and individualize activities. Together, teachers and families

will complete the written summary during the final portion of the conference. This includes updating goals for your child's development.

Conference dates will be staggered between the weeks of November 14th and December 5th. Conference sign ups will be through Google Docs. Teachers may offer conferences in-person, via Zoom or both. We are hoping for 100% participation. Strong communication and partnership is key to your child's success!

Important Dates To Remember

November 8



Election Day

**November 14-
Dec 9**

Parent Teacher
Conferences

November 24 & 25

Thanksgiving
Center Closed



Swap Out Your Child's Cubby Contents

The cooler fall weather is here. If you have not done so already, please make sure your child has an extra set of warmer clothes. We plan to go out in a variety of weather, so please bring labeled rain boots, hats, gloves, scarves and warm jackets. Hopefully, snow boots can wait until next month!



A Look Ahead to the Holidays

The holidays are just around the corner and it is a very busy time for everyone. Here is a reminder of dates the center is closed in December.

Wednesday, December 14	Holly Jolly Sing-A-Long (tentatively in-person)
Friday, December 23	Center Closed
Monday, December 26	Center Closed
Friday, December 30	Center Closed
Monday, January 2	Center Closed

Be on the lookout for information on our Christmas cookie dough sale.



Approaching the Holidays with an Anti-bias Lens

Let's Start with Thanksgiving

One of the steps in our anti-bias education (ABE) work is to develop a holiday policy. We are engaging the staff in initial meetings about shaping a new approach to holidays. We are committed to ensuring that holidays reflect all the children and families in our Center and embrace the four anti-bias education goals of identity, diversity, justice and activism. Our ABE steering committee is developing a list of holidays that are celebrated by the children and staff at the Center as well as holidays that are acknowledged in our larger community. These early meetings will help us develop an understanding of each other's perspectives and begin to build a shared vision for holiday practices will look like in the future.

We don't want to wait to begin to evolve in our practice. As we approach Thanksgiving, the ABE goal of justice addresses learning to identify and question misinformation and unfairness. Along with their positive messages, hurtful messages also exist in some national holidays. The traditional Thanksgiving story presents U.S. history from only one perspective. At the Center this year, our Thanksgiving focus will be on the blessings and gratitude of the season. Teachers will not be reading books about pilgrims and native Americans celebrating a friendly feast together. It's hard to adjust our thinking and perspectives since we've all been brought up with these stories. We can help children learn to recognize and reject unfair, hurtful images and messages while learning about accurate ones. For example, in November, you can engage children in comparing the differences between true images and ideas about American Indians with stereotypical ones. We must protect the positive identity of children threatened by these messages, while also helping all children gain accurate information about each other.

Our ultimate task is to create a holiday policy to guide our program's practices. This policy will include objectives for holiday activities, the process for deciding which holidays to include, guidelines for addressing the religious aspects of holidays, and meeting different family holiday requirements.

When we (Center staff and families) commit ourselves to respectful, thoughtful exchanges of ideas and work together to create a holiday program that is respectful of everyone, we will create something truly remarkable. It will take lots of conversations and practice listening to, learning from, and give-and-take negotiating between us. What better modeling can we offer our children?

Liberally adapted from by Julie Bisson and Louise Derman-Sparks

Community Resources

Each year we share local resources that may be helpful to families. Please let us know if there is an agency or organization that we should include in future updates.

Doctor's Offices

- Green Road Pediatrics 216-382-3800 greenroadpediatrics.net
- Senders Pediatrics 216-291-9210 senderspediatrics.com
- Suburban Pediatrics 216-991-4180 suburbanpeds.rainbowbabies.org
- Beachwood Family Health 216-839-3000 my.clevelandclinic.org/locations/beachwood-fhsc

Public School Districts

- Shaker Heights 216-295-1400 shaker.org
- Cleveland Heights-
University Heights 216-371-7171 chuh.org

Health Department

- Cuyahoga County Board of Health 216-201-2000 ccbh.net

Public Libraries

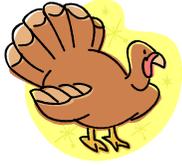
- Shaker Heights 216-991-2030 shakerlibrary.org
- Cleveland Heights-
University Heights 216-932-3600 heightslibrary.org

Social, Health, Housing, Government Resources

- United Way 2-1-1 Greater Cleveland 2-1-1
211oh.org (all services, basic needs, housing)
- Cuyahoga County Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program 216-957-9421
metrohealth.org/public-health-programs/ (nutrition)
- Child Care Assistance Program 216-416-4440 (child care subsidies)
cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/child-care-assistance-program.aspx
- Help Me Grow 216-698-7500 helpmegrow.org (screening, early intervention)

Other

- Family Connections of Northeast Ohio (includes parenting programs)
Shaker West Professional Building 216-321-0079 or 216-921-2023
familyconnections1.org
- Imagination Library (book gifting program) literacycooperative.org/imagination-library/



November Lunch Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 Hamburger rice soup, carrots and apples	2 Cheese ravioli w/Alfredo sauce, green beans and melon	3 VIP OLIVER Chicken, mac and cheese, cold carrots	4 Hot ham and cheese sandwich on wheat, bananas and cucumbers
7 Teriyaki chicken stir fry w/ rice, mixed veggies and oranges	8 Tomato soup, grilled cheddar cheese sticks on wheat and melon	9 Sloppy joe on a wheat bun, carrots and apples	10 VIP SHANE Beef stew w/potatoes, carrots and strawberries	11 Fish sandwich, on wheat bun, cucumbers and bananas
14 Turkey and noodles, green beans and honeydew	15 Chicken and dumpling soup, carrots and oranges	16 Macaroni and cheese, Brussels sprouts and apples	17 Build your own salad, cheese, chicken, melon and crackers	18 Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, yams, cranberry sauce
21 Meatball subs, green beans, and apples	22 Chicken fritters, wheat roll, broccoli and strawberries	23 Hot ham and cheese sandwich on wheat, carrots and oranges	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING CENTER CLOSED	25 CENTER CLOSED
28 Beef teriyaki w/rice, green beans and apples	29 Chicken noodle soup, carrots and oranges	30 Build your own salad w/ chicken, cheese, wheat roll and melon		

Organic skim milk is served with lunch for children 2 years and older.
Organic whole milk is served to children under 24 months of age.

