

April  
2009



Each April the center joins other Michigan centers to celebrate The Month of the Young Child. This is the month that centers and staff recognize needs and rights of families of young children. From 1971-1985, a week in April has been nationally celebrated, but in 1985 Michigan began devoting the entire month of April to The Month of the Young Child celebration.

This year's theme is "Early Years Are Learning Years-Make Them Count." The focus this year is on children's development.

- Week #1-Physical Development
- Week #2-Social-Emotional Development
- Week #3-Cognitive Development
- Week #4-Language Development

One way everyone can help us celebrate is by joining our Purple Ribbon campaign to show that you care about the needs of young children. You can do this by displaying a purple ribbon on:

- your lapel/clothing
- your vehicle
- your desk
- your bag
- on your child, etc.

\*\*\*This month, we have been enjoying fun things planned by our special Month of the Young Child committee. I have also attached 101 Ways to celebrate the Month of the Young Child.

NEW!!! Please check out our Parent Advisory Board bulletin board to see what is going on and which parents are involved.

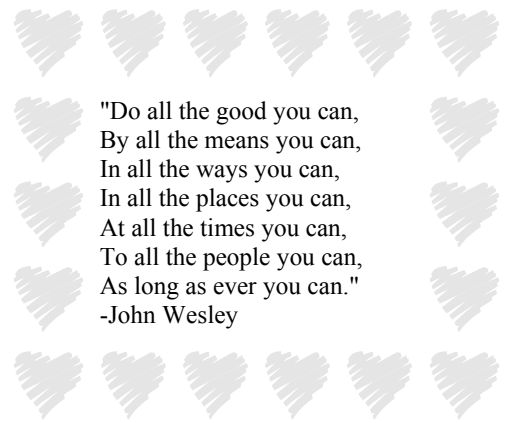
Reminders:

- I will be on vacation April 15-27. If you need to correspond with me during my absence you can email me @ smgall@umich.edu. I will check my email every few days. I will be calling the center daily and the office staff can reach me by phone if there is an emergency.
- The Scholastic Book Fair will end on Friday, April 17th. Thanks to all of you we are doing very well, in fact, we have already surpassed our goal of \$500 in book profit (free books for the center.)
- May is Teacher Appreciation Month.

~Sue

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"Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."  
-John Wesley

## Staff Professional Development Updates

On **January 2**, the center was closed for an all-day training session on our new NAEYC accreditation process. The staff spent the morning learning the new steps for the process, and everyone split into their task committees for the afternoon. This launched our year-long re-accreditation process (you can read more about this on below.)

Our annual collaborative training with the other U of M child care programs was held on **February 27** at the Palmer Commons on campus. Staff chose three of six available trainings throughout the day, which included Outdoor Curriculum, Diversity: What's In a Name? (presented by former UMHS CCC teacher Kadesha Simpson), the Classroom Environment as the Third Teacher, Supporting English Language Learners, Stress and Burnout, and Financial Survival. Each session was relevant to us as early childhood professionals, and it was beneficial, as always, to connect with teachers from the other U of M programs.

Seven of our teachers attended the Jackson Area Early Childhood Conference on **March 14**. Joy Gonyo (Support Staff), Sarah Barry and LeeAnna Scott (Chicks), Michelle Smith and Nancy Thorp (Monkeys), and Jyothi Varma and Leah Davis (Llamas) attended workshops on various topics, including Routines & Rituals, Small Groups, Grief & Loss, Sign Language, and the keynote presentation "Power Struggles & Young Children" with Dan Hodgins.

We're very excited to announce that two of our teachers, Lynn Holland (Lemurs) and Michelle Smith (Monkeys), were presenters at this year's MiAEYC Early Childhood Conference in Grand Rapids (**March 26-28**)! During our **March 9** staff meeting, Lynn, along with Jennifer Westwalewicz (a former teacher here), practiced their "Just Picture It: Photography in the Classroom and How to Use It" presentation, which they also brought to the MiAEYC conference. Michelle presented in Grand Rapids on Music, Movement, Language, and Literacy. Congratulations to both!

Finally, we held a training during our **April 13** staff meeting on Assessment and Inclusion at UMHS CCC, presented by Loisann Arnold from Champions for Children and our social worker, Cathy Gorga. We learned how the Center assesses children throughout their time here, what to do if a teacher or family suspects a developmental delay, and strategies for supporting inclusion.

## NAEYC Accreditation Update

UMHS CCC has begun the process of re-accrediting our program. Although we've been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) since we opened in 1991, they recently revamped and expanded the entire process. Every staff member is assigned to one of our nine accreditation committees, and we'll be working over the next year to provide documentation and evidence of all our policies and practices – a huge task, to be sure! The committees have met numerous times since our initial training on January 2, and we plan to take the next steps – applying for Candidacy and scheduling site visits from a NAEYC assessor – in the late summer. Thanks to everyone who completed Family Surveys in February; the feedback we received through the surveys is an integral part of continuous program improvement. Look for a summary of the family survey results during the first week of May. We've also had a number of parents volunteer to help us tackle portions of the re-accreditation process, which we greatly appreciate. Once the committees have completed their work in mid-June, we hope to have parent volunteers look through our Classroom Portfolios (one for each room!) and double-check to make sure all necessary items are included and organized properly. We'll announce additional parent volunteer tasks in the future. Our site visits, which determine our accreditation status, will happen sometime next winter. Thanks again for your support!

## UMHS CCC's First Annual Bike Day Fundraiser



UMHS Child Care operates as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, and the revenues in our budget are purely tuition based, with all income covering salaries and expenses for our building. In past years, we have funded professional development, continuing education, and community-building special events through numerous small fundraisers throughout each year. These small fundraisers have brought in lower dollar amounts in recent years, so we are changing our fundraising format this year. This year will be our first, hopefully annual, Bike Day Fundraiser for our past and current families.

We are planning a morning full of activities, games, and bike riding with friends for all of our families. Children will register in order to participate, and registration will include a t-shirt and admission to the event, including all activities that are arranged. The fundraising portion of the event will come from registration fees, raffle prizes, and open donations on the actual bike day.

Bike Day will happen on Saturday, June 6, 2009. It will last ALL morning, so families are welcome to come and go as their schedules permit on that day. Mark your calendars and plan to come for a fun and active time!

### 2009 CENTER CLOSING DATES

The Center has reviewed the 2009 calendar, and the Parent Advisory Board has approved the following days for the Center to close in 2009:

- Monday, May 25-Memorial Day
  - Friday, July 3—Independence Day
  - Friday, September 4-Staff training day
  - Monday, September 7 -Labor Day
  - Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27—Thanksgiving holiday
  - Thursday, December 24 through Friday, January 1-Winter holidays
- \* The Center will re-open on Monday, January 4, 2010**

## Upcoming Center Events:

April—all month long!	Month of the Young Child
April 6-10	Storybook week
April 6—17	Book Fair sales in front lobby
Wednesday, April 15	Pippin Puppet show
Wed, April 22	Earth Day celebration
May	Teacher Appreciation month
Tuesday, May 5	Cinco de Mayo celebration
Saturday, June 6	1st Annual Bike Day fundraiser

### “Kid Quotes”

**Mom:** “The doctor said I need five hugs and kisses a day.”

**Patrick:** “Which doctor? Doctor Seuss?!”

## Staff Anniversaries

- We are celebrating the anniversary dates of the following employees:
- April
- Shawn Behnke (Tots)...1 year!
  - Christie Carpentier (Frogs) . . . 1 year full time!
  - Namita Ray (Bunnies) . . . 3 years!
  - Ed Yuill (Support Staff) . . . 2 years!
- May
- Cathy Gorga . . . 3 years as our Social Worker!
  - Scott Krull...3 years!
- June
- Courtney Boik (Lemurs) . . . 1 year!
  - Brent Eagleberger . . . 10 years!
  - Laura Whitford (Admin) . . . 10 years!
- Thanks to each of them for their loyalty to the Center and for helping make this a wonderful place to bring children!

### Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22nd.

We will be doing some fun activities to celebrate at UMHS Child Care, but we need your help! We are asking for donations of:

- empty toilet paper rolls,
- cotton balls, and
- bags of birdseed that **DO NOT CONTAIN NUTS**

These will be used for projects. We are also going to start heading up to the garden and are in search of some kid-friendly gardening tools. Anything you could help out with is greatly appreciated. Please bring items to the front desk by Tuesday, April 21st.

Thank you!  
Child Care Center Earth Day committee



- Please sign in and out every day.
- Please check with your child’s teachers to find out if you need to bring in a bottle of sunscreen or if they are using a “community” bottle.
- Now is a good time to send in rain boots, lighter jackets and plenty of extra clothing and socks for your child as they may be playing in mud puddles very soon!

Thank you!

## **101 WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

1. Smile at a child
2. Volunteer for a children's agency
3. Start a Toy Lending Library
4. Take a child care teacher to lunch
5. Write a letter to a legislator about child care
6. Campaign for better schools
7. Run for public office on a child advocacy platform
8. Sign up for a parenting workshop
9. Be a chaperon for the kindergarten class
10. Adopt a child care center and make a donation
11. Urge a local business to start up child care services for employees
12. Write a letter to the President of the United States of America to express your views on a children's issue
13. Hug a child
14. Sign up for Big Brothers, Big Sisters, or a Scout group as a volunteer
15. Visit three or more playgrounds and give them a children's fun rating
16. Hold a fire drill in your home for parents and children
17. Donate some new clothing for children to the community clothes bank
18. Check your child's nutritional habits
19. Send an apple to the teacher to show your appreciation for his/her commitment to children
20. Run for the school board
21. Give a child care provider a raise
22. Vow to spend as much time choosing child care as buying a car
23. Visit the library
24. Contact a lawyer to make a will and arrange for guardianship of your children
25. Attend a workshop on storytelling and put what you've learned to use
26. Initiate talks with employers about childcare benefits for working parents
27. Write a letter to the editor expressing concern for an issue related to children
28. Sponsor an art show of children's works
29. Give a book to your local library in honor of your child or another in the community
30. Volunteer to teach a religious education class for kids
31. Attend a musical concert with your child
32. Send a thank-you note to your own parents
33. Read a book about child development so you'll know how your child is growing
34. Do not feed your child peanuts or peanut butter until kindergarten to help prevent the development of peanut allergies
35. Hold a shower for the neonatal nursery at the local hospital
36. Sign up for counseling if your child seems to need it
37. Review the purposes of Little Leagues before signing up your child for the team
38. Keep a log of how much time you spend with your child and the activities involved
39. Discuss allowances and other family financial matters
40. Develop flex time policies for your company
41. Sponsor a parents' group at the work place
42. Post your child's latest drawing in a prominent place in your office
43. Write a proclamation or resolution in honor of the Month of the Young Child
44. Visit a local agency that serves children and families
45. Consider becoming a Foster Parent/Grandparent
46. Take a bag of safe toys to the homeless shelter for the children that are there
47. Think twice about offering your child any sip of alcoholic beverage
48. Count to twenty before yelling at your child
49. Play games with your child
50. Join the PTA/PTO and support your school
51. Schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss concerns about your child
52. Send to your legislator a piece of children's artwork to remind him/her the importance of children
53. Spend a hour at the local toy store with your child
54. Make a dental appointment for your child
55. Watch cartoons with your child and really pay attention
56. Check the ingredients of your child's favorite breakfast cereal

57. Let your child choose the activities for an entire Saturday afternoon
58. If you suspect someone is abusing a child, make a report to the local Children's Protection Program
59. Visit your children's grandparents or another person who likes children
60. Share your favorite children's book with a young child
61. Give a special discount for children in your store or restaurant
62. Take some time to draw on the sidewalk with a child
63. Attend a luncheon or sponsor one that recognizes the child advocates in your community
64. Put up a picture of children and families in your office
65. Attend a children's services fair to learn more about the services in your community
66. Make a donation to the local child abuse prevention agency
67. Sign up as a volunteer court watcher for children's cases
68. Send flowers to your childcare provider
69. Share a special hobby with a childcare provider
70. Make a doctors appointment for yourself to assure your own well being and ability to be a healthy parent
71. Listen to a favorite story with your child, no matter how many times you've heard that tape before
72. Take your child to a children's play or movie
73. Cuddle on the couch with your child and the family pet
74. Remember to take the childcare credit on your income tax
75. Try "magic painting" with a paintbrush and plain water
76. Start a savings account for your child
77. Send a donation to a Head Start program or other early childhood program in your community
78. Make a corporate donation to a children's agency
79. Sign up for a respite childcare and parent support program if your family is feeling stress
80. Teach your child and yourself to say "thank you" in another language
81. Sign up for a class in First Aid and CPR
82. Do a safety check in your home to see if all dangerous materials are out of a child's reach
83. Talk to a child about personal safety
84. Show a child how to cross the street safely
85. Give working parents time off to attend a school play or other event their child is in ...during working hours
86. Sponsor a family play day for employees and their kids
87. Read one story each day to a child and yourself
88. Read a book about positive parenting
89. Hold a "kids at the office" day so children see where their parents work
90. Send a letter to a television station expressing your concern or appreciation for children's programming
91. Sponsor a children's team or event in honor of the Month of the Young Child
92. Donate baby food to the local Food Bank
93. Sponsor a special worship service honoring children during the Month of the Young Child
94. Buckle up your own seat belt after making sure your child's belt is fastened
95. Have your child's picture taken
96. Recycle to assure a better environment for your child and yourself
97. Urge a local service club to make children #1
98. Install and test smoke detectors in your home
99. Buy a bond in your child's name
100. Look in on your child while he/she is sleeping
101. Hold a child's hand in yours, just for fun

