

July 2008



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH SYSTEM

3rd. Quarter Family Newsletter

2008-2009 Tuition Rates Released

All families who are continuing enrollment with us in Fall 2008 should receive a mailing in the next week. This mailing includes:

1. New tuition rates that begin September 1
2. A new emergency card—Each child needs their emergency card updated annually, according to child care center licensing rules and regulations.
3. A new meal election form—for the first time in many years,
4. A payroll deduction form—

Please note that all of these items are to be returned to the front desk at the Center by Friday, July 18.

CHILD CARE/CAMPS CLOSED FRIDAY, JULY 4th.

Center-wide Transition

This year, our annual transition will happen on Wednesday, September 3. On this day, your child will move to the next oldest age group with most, if not all, of the children in their classroom. Classroom assignments and teacher assignments will be released later in July. Each placement is considered very carefully,

and everyone's best interest—teachers, children, and the center as a whole—are taken into consideration. Thank you for your patience while the transition placements are configured!

**please see page three for more information*

Upcoming Events:

Ice Cream Social—all are invited! 4:30-6:00 p.m. Parent volunteers needed	July 24
Labor Day—CENTER CLOSED	September 1
Staff training day—CENTER CLOSED to children	September 2
Center-wide transition	September 3
Harvest Festival—all are invited!	September 11

In this issue:

- *Special notes from the Parent Advisory Board on page two. Look for more notes in future newsletters!*
- *Transition information on pages one and three.*

Notes from your Parent Advisory Board

Did you know that...

- UMHSCCC is not technically owned by the University, but rather is its own non-profit organization with the mission to serve UMHS families?
- Our teachers are not University employees, and therefore don't get University benefits?

These are a couple of little facts that I learned when I joined the UMHSCCC Parent Advisory Board two years ago. At first I didn't think much of these organizational details. What did this have to do with the things that were important to me as a parent – quality teachers, hours of operation, cost of daycare, etc? But during my time on the Board, I've learned that there are some important implications of these little facts on the Child Care Center's mission, operational priorities, teacher recruitment and retention, and tuition.

The parents who sit on the Parent Advisory Board are launching a new effort to help inform other parents about the issues that come up at our meetings. With an ever-tightening economic situation in Michigan, the Center is considering alternatives for how to increase revenue and/or potentially change operations to cut expenses. Our goal is to raise awareness of issues facing the Center and generate discussion amongst parents about our priorities for the future.

While we discuss all sorts of topics at our meetings, ranging from enrollment numbers and finances, to teacher appreciation and the school lunch program, our plan is to highlight the “bigger picture” items in a monthly newsletter column. Some of the topics we hope to cover over the next few months include:

- What are the big issues facing UMHSCCC right now?
- What is driving the cost of daycare so high?
- What are the new licensing and accreditation requirements for daycares and how will that affect our classrooms, teachers, and our center?
- What organizational and financial support does the Child Care Center receive from UMHS? Can we get more?
- How is tuition at UMHSCCC set? What are the implications of alternative fee structures?
- What do parents value most about our Center?

We look forward to bringing you some of the information about your Center and how it is run. The Parent Board members want to encourage everyone to get engaged in the discussion about what is important to us and how to balance priorities and finances. Please feel free to find any one of the Parent Board members to share your thoughts. Also, keep your eyes open for a parent survey and a “community forum” meeting that we are planning for the fall semester.

Your Classroom's Parent Board Member Is . . .

Currently, the Rainbow Tots and Llamas in Pajamas are in need of a representative on the parent advisory board! The board meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Please see or email Sue if you are interested in volunteering!

Bunnies – Fernando Caetano/
Katie Peterson

Chicks— Emily Preston-Rahim

Monkeys— Katie Peterson

Bears— Tahnee Prokopow,
Devon Kinney

Geckos— Toby Lewis, Pat Gibson,
Fernando Caetano

Frogs— Greg Banks



TRANSITIONS ARE CERTAINLY ALL ABOUT CHANGE

Parents:

Over the next six weeks as your child becomes adjusted to a new physical environment and new staff faces, you may see some behavior changes that you've not experienced before.

Children may...

- become clingy or more clingy
- experience a disruption in sleeping patterns
- experience a disruption in eating patterns
- resist coming to school
- may tell you they don't like school
- be very anxious to leave at the end of the day
- not separate from you easily

Teachers will be working hard to ease your child's "stress" by learning to meet their needs and build their trust.

As parents, you may also experience many emotional changes. You may feel:

- a great sense of loss as you say good-bye to teachers you have trusted and loved
- uneasy or anxious as you say good-bye to your child in their new room
- that staff are not as friendly or open as your previous room's teachers
- resistant to your new room's protocols or procedures
- that your child is not as "safe" as they had been in the previous space

All of these feelings will begin to change as teachers get to know you and earn your trust. It may take six or seven weeks for everything to feel right. New teachers may never take the place of a special teacher you have had in your last room, but with each new teacher we hope to continue to build on supporting, guiding and loving your child as they continue to grow here.



UMHSCCC Parents are the best!!! We enjoyed our special lunches during the month of June and appreciated your generosity. Olive Garden, Miss Saigon, Qdoba's and Zoup were *all* yummy!

Reminders ...

- With the summer here, please make certain that your child has extra clothes!
- Please, Please, Please be sure to label EVERYTHING that comes from home with your child's name. It will really help us keep track of things if we know who they belong to!
- Bring in a swimming suit for you child to wear while enjoying water activities. Swim diapers are perfect for the little ones.
- Since the children are spending more time outside, enjoying the beautiful weather it's good to be aware of what the CCC sunscreen policy is.

The CCC policy is that all children must wear sunscreen when going outside unless specified by a parent.



As you know the center employs a full time Social Worker, Cathy Gorga. You may have noticed that she has not been as visible as usual the last few weeks due to her involvement in our Summer camp program, where she is a camp group leader. Cathy is physically in the building in the morning and again in the afternoon. If you wish to get in touch with her you can leave a message in her in box in the back office, or email her @ gorgac@umich.edu