Dear Families,

The University of Michigan Towsley Children's House curriculum uses STEM and the Project Approach to foster children's inquiry and engage in deep, hands on investigations. Children are encouraged to connect with nature and develop relationships through play. **Please join us for Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 24th from 6:00-7:00 pm** to find out more about how learning takes place in your child's classroom following our core values.

UM Towsley Children’s House Core Values

**Community**

We foster relationships between children, adults, and families to create an inclusive environment where individuality and differences are embraced.

**Play**

We believe play is essential to children’s growth, development, and understanding of the world around them.

**Nature**

We provide children with connections to nature to experience all of Earth’s wonders.

**Inquiry**

We create an environment where children are encouraged to ask questions, investigate, collect information and represent their understanding.

Sincerely,

Beth Ann

UM Towsley Children's House Center Director
734-763-3400
bablanch@umich.edu
Community

We foster relationships between children, adults, and families to create an inclusive environment where individuality and differences are embraced.

Some ways we foster community:

♦ Coming together in shared spaces
♦ Sharing Project Work with families and each other
♦ Classroom Family Events
♦ Special Days (Pajama, Mud Day, Bubble Day, etc.) where classrooms plan activities to do together
♦ Field Trips
♦ Center Family Events
  • Picnics
♦ Staff Professional Development Days

Sassafras Family Event

Oak and Evergreen Paint the Rock

Beth Ann, Center Director, joining children outdoors making snow people

Willow watching UM Marching Band with Families

Center-wide Picnic at Burns Park
Building Community through Project Work

Birch children sharing their knowledge about bugs with Magnolia children

Sycamore had a parent expert come in to share about how he works from home during their Office Project

Ann Arbor Police visit Sassafras children as they gathered information during their Transportation Project
Play
We believe play is essential to children’s growth, development, and understanding of the world around them.
Play is the highest form of research

Albert Einstein
Nature
We provide children with connections to nature to experience all of Earth’s wonders.
Exploring Nature in our Community

Nichols Arboretum

East Quad Garden

Diag
Creating Natural Play Spaces

An on-going project at Towsley Children’s House is to transform the outdoor classroom into a more natural space. We want to provide children with a space where they have contact with plants, animals, water, sand, dirt, air and natural loose parts.
Natural Loose Parts Wish List

We could use your help gathering natural items for “Loose Part” play. If you come across these items while cleaning please donate them to Towsley.

- Rocks (various sizes)
- Boulders
- Tree Cookies (see above picture – sliced branches/stumps)
- Tree stumps
- Pine cones
- Sea shells
- Pine needles
- Sticks/twigs
- Bamboo
- Seed Pods
- Glass gems
Inquiry

We create an environment where children are encouraged to ask questions, investigate, collect information and represent their understanding.
inquiry

“We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself.”
~Lloyd Alexander
Sunsreen Application

It is the family’s responsibility to apply sunscreen to their child before s/he comes to school and provide permission for program staff to reapply sunscreen or sun block with UVB and UVA protection of SPF 15 or higher to exposed skin in the afternoon.

Minimize Exposure

Suggestions for the minimizing of exposure to the sun include wearing hats, visors, shirts with sleeves, and long shorts or pants.
2019-2020 Calendar

CLOSED – Labor Day Holiday .................................................. Monday, September 2
First Official Day of School .................................................. Tuesday, September 3
Center wide Fall Picnic ......................................................... Wednesday, October 2
October ................................................................. Parent Teacher Conferences throughout month
CLOSED UM Fall Break - Center Planning ......................... Mon. & Tues. October 14-15
CLOSED - Thanksgiving Holiday ........................................... Thursday & Friday, Nov. 28-29
Last Day for Children (before Winter break) ....................... Friday, December 20
CLOSED Staff Professional Development ............................... Thursday & Friday, January 2-3

Children Return from Winter break ...................................... Monday, January 6
CLOSED - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Professional Development) ...... Monday, January 20
CLOSED TO CHILDREN (Professional Development) ............... Monday, March 2
March ................................................................. Parent Teacher Conferences throughout month
CLOSED TO CHILDREN (Professional Development) ............... Monday, May 4

CLOSED - Memorial Day Holiday .......................................... Monday, May 25
Center wide Spring picnic .................................................. Tuesday, June 2
CLOSED - Independence Day Holiday .................................... Friday, July 3
Last day of 2019-2020 school year ....................................... Friday, August 21
CENTER CLOSED ........................................................... August 24-28

First day of 2020-2021 School year ...................................... Monday, August 31st
CLOSED - Labor Day Holiday ................................................ Monday, September 7