



## Extended Child Care Family Newsletter October 2007



### Parent Advisory Committees

This fall we will have a Parent Advisory Committee meeting in each district during October and November. The purpose of this meeting is to familiarize parents with how Extended Child Care operates and ways that parents can be involved. Refreshments will be served at these meetings and they will be held at the ECC classrooms at the school listed. Come meet ECC Board members and administrative staff! All parents are welcome to attend!

Wright School District – **JX Wilson site: Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30-6:30**

Windsor District – **Mattie site: Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:30**

Mark West District – **Riebli site: Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:30**

### **Beginning of the School Year**

We hope the beginning of the school year has gone smoothly for you and your child! Please don't hesitate to ask the center staff if you have a question. Our office is open 8 – 5, Monday through Friday. We also have voice mail in the evenings in the office and you will get a return call the next day. Here are a few reminders:

- Remember all ECC centers close promptly at 6 PM. There is a \$5.00 late fee for the first 1 to 5 minutes and a \$1.00 a minute charge for each additional minute after. This fee will appear on your next month's bill.
- If you have been with us for awhile, please ask to review your emergency card in the center to be sure all phone numbers and pick up people are active and up to date. A couple of minutes spent when there is not an emergency can save lots of time and trouble if there is an emergency.
- Please drive slowly and carefully in your schools' parking lot. Also keep your child close when walking to your car. School parking lots are busy places.
- Your family ID# is on your monthly statement. By placing this number on your check it helps us to process your payment quickly and accurately.
- Your center **CANNOT** accept payments, fill out childcare reimbursement forms, process vacation credit requests, accept legal paperwork or any other business related issues regarding your account. Please call our business office with these requests.

Check out the ECC web site at [extcc.org](http://extcc.org)! This site has information about the agency and each center. The site also provides email to the office!

## Call in all absences

If your child will be absent from childcare for any reason on a day they are scheduled to attend, you must call your center to let the staff know your child will not be attending. This is an important safety consideration. When your child does not arrive at their center on a scheduled day, center staff searches for them until they are located. As you know our staff are very busy and it is important for them to be with the children who are attending the program, rather than looking for a child that was not really lost.

**Remember:** Calling the school office is not the same as calling the childcare center and vice versa. It is a two-phone call process when your child will be absent from both school and childcare. Thanks for your help!

## Need Help Paying for Child Care?

Extended Child Care participates in the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL). CEL is a list of all the families in Sonoma County who would like to receive subsidized child care. Families must be eligible for subsidized child care to get on the list. **Being on this list does not guarantee that you will receive subsidized child care.** Subsidized child care is a program run by the State or Federal Government that pays for all or part of child care for low income families. Families who receive this assistance must meet certain conditions set by CDE. You can request a CEL application from our office or contact CEL directly at [sonoma-cel.org](http://sonoma-cel.org) or 544-3077.

## THANK YOU!

A special thank you to CCUL Wine Country Chapter ( Sonoma County credit unions) for their donation of school supplies to ECC families. These supplies will be well used as the school semester starts and children return to their studies and homework program.



## Homework Tips

- **Let your child know that you believe homework is important.**
- **Schedule a daily homework time.** This step eliminates arguments about when work is done.
- **Set up a quiet homework area and eliminate distractions.**
- **Teach your child to be organized.** Keep an assignment book or folder in which to return completed work and/or notes to school.
- **Check to make certain that your child is actually doing the homework, and doing it to the best of his/her ability.**
- **Praise your child for good homework effort.** Be specific. For example, “ I like the way you remembered to use capitals and periods in all your sentences.”
- **Don’t do for the child what he can do for himself.** The work is given to see what your child knows, not what you know!**Work with the teacher(s).** Parents and teachers are partners in helping the child succeed.