



Extended Child Care Family Newsletter December 2009

Wishing your family a very happy holiday season from all of us at ECC!!

Vacation Credit for Winter Break

If you are planning on using your vacation credit during the winter break this year, please call the main office at 545-2402, **prior to winter break**. Winter Break in each district is as follows:

Mark West District is 12/21/09-1/04/10

Windsor District is 12/18/09 - 1/04/10

Wright District is 12/21/09 - 1/04/10

If you plan on having your child attend during the winter break, please be sure to sign up at your center by **December 9th**. After that date you will need to call the office to see if there are openings. **Please note that there is a separate sign up sheet for EACH DAY of winter break.** Your winter break “full day” or “part day” fees will appear on your February statement. If you have any questions regarding winter break, please call the main office. The full day fee is \$26.75 and the fee for part day care is \$15.00 for 0-5 hours of consecutive care.

Reminder: Center Closed Days

All Extended Child Care centers will be closed the following dates:

December 24th & 25th, 2009

January 1, 2010

February 15, 2010

May 31, 2010

You are not charged for any days that Extended Child Care is closed.

Please make sure to pick your child up by 6 pm! We do charge “late pick-up” fees in order to compensate our staff for having to work late. Thanks for your help!

Toy Safety

Here are some criteria to use when considering a toy for purchase...

- Can the toy be used with minimal adult supervision? Toys should not use adult rules, need constant attention to solve conflicts, or need close adult supervision to prevent misuse or breakage.
- Does the toy strengthen the child's respect for others? Does it expose children to diversity in non-stereotypical ways?

- Is the toy durable? Will it withstand constant, active use by children; will it last over time; if designed for the outside, will it last outside; can it be easily repaired?
- Is the toy versatile? Can it be used in many ways; can a child impose his meaning on it?
- Is the toy adaptable and progressive? Can it be used by children in a variety of different developmental levels; can one child use it in progressively more complex ways?

Here are two resources focusing on toy safety:

- The American Academy of Pediatrics offers several Toy Safety guidelines at www.aap.org/new/toyrecall.htm.
- For a complete list of toys that have been recalled go to the Consumer Product Safety Commission web site at www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prereel/category/toy.html

20 Ways You can Help Your Children Succeed in School

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When parents and families get involved in their child's schools, the children do better and enjoy school more! Parent involvement in school is more important to your child's success than other factors such as your own level of income or family income. Here are some ways you can support your child's education:

1. Get to know your child's teacher early in the school year
2. Get to know the school staff
3. Attend parent-teacher conferences
4. Find out how your child is doing compared to other students
5. Ask for special services if you think your child may need them
6. Have a regular time and special place for doing homework; make sure your child completes it
7. Get help for your child with homework; contact the school for resources
8. Help your child prepare for tests by getting enough sleep and eating well
9. Learn about other activities (music, sports, etc) offered by the school
10. Volunteer at the school or join the school's parent group
11. Ask questions of the teachers and other school staff
12. Know your rights regarding special services
13. Voice your concerns
14. Show your child you value education and use it in your daily life
15. Monitor and limit your child's TV, video game and internet use
16. Encourage your child to read – it is the single most important way to help them succeed
17. Talk to your child and listen to what they have to say
18. Encourage your child to use the library
19. Teach your child to be responsible and work independently
20. Encourage active listening – asking & answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests

Next ECC Board Meeting - Monday, January 25, 2010 at 6:45 p.m., at 1745 Copperhill Pkwy Suite #5. This meeting is open to everyone.

