

Family Newsletter

January 2010



There is no better time than the New Year to take a moment to reflect, appreciate and enjoy the intangible gifts we receive from our clients - valued relationships, continued support and loyalty. We look forward to 2010 with anticipation and send you our heartfelt wishes for Hope, Joy and Prosperity during 2010!

Bill Pay

One of the most convenient ways to pay your bill is through Bill Pay. This is a service that your bank offers. This service allows you to pay your bill each month and a check is mailed to us. Compared to credit card payments, it saves our program time and money. Bill Pay also allows you to set up an automatic payment each month. If you have questions about Bill Pay, contact your bank. We appreciate your willingness to help keep our costs down.

Full Day Sign Ups

Thanks to all the parents who signed up on the Full Day Sign Up sheets! This really helps us to estimate numbers for the full days and allows us to adjust for staffing and meals accordingly. If you do not sign up by the deadline, we might be considered "full" and not have a space available for your child(ren). Please watch for signs at your center for the next full day sign ups and get signed up early.

The next full days are: Monday, January 18th - All Districts
 Monday February 8th – Mark West and Wright Districts
 Friday February 12th – Windsor District

Note: We are closed Monday, February 15th.

A Few Reminders

- Your winter break charges will appear on your February statement.
- Thank you for notifying the childcare center whenever your child will be absent. This ensures your child's safety. Gracias para notificar la guardería cuando su niño/a estará ausente del cuidado. Esto ayuda a asegurar su seguridad de niño.

When Dropping Off or Picking Up Your Child

It is important that you come into the center unless you have made other arrangements for your child for the following reasons:

- State regulations require that your child be signed in and out by the adult who drops off or picks up.
- The staff needs to have regular contact with parents to maintain good communication.
- There are often other activities taking place at the school, which makes us feel it is unsafe to have a child(ren) going to or from the parking lot unsupervised. We appreciate your help with this.

Cell Phone Policy

All of our centers follow the school's policy regarding cell phones. Children are not to use cell phones during our program. Cell phones are to be kept in backpacks and turned off.

It is best that they are left at home, unless a child needs to have it for after care emergencies. Parents are welcome to call their children at the center and we allow children to use the phone at the center to call parents when needed.

Facts About WIC

What is WIC?

WIC is the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program, which serves low income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women and children under age five who have a nutritional need. WIC is a federally funded program and is administered by the California Department of Health Services.

The goals of the WIC Program are to decrease the complication of pregnancy, to prevent low birth weight babies, to decrease iron deficiency anemia, to promote optimum growth and development of infants and young children.

WIC provides special checks for nutritious foods such as milk, cheese, eggs, juice, cereal, dried beans and peas, peanut butter, infant formula with iron, tuna and carrots for breastfeeding participants.

The amount of food provided by WIC is designed to meet the participant's enhanced dietary needs for specific nutrients during short but critical times of growth and development.

For more information, call WIC at: 1-888-WIC-WORKS (1-888-942-9675)

www.wicworks.ca.gov

How Can Parents Help?

Many parents who work full time and are very busy ask how they can be involved in our program. The children always enjoy presentations from parents about their jobs, hobby or culture. Another way to participate besides helping out at the center is by donating needed items. Listed below are items we can always use at our centers:

Working computers	Paper, paint, markers
Used clothing	Sewing supplies (material, thread, yarn, etc)
Puzzles with all pieces	Games with all pieces
Corks	Super tokens your child no longer wants/needs
Paper towels	Kleenex
Playground balls	Books in good condition
Sticker's	Tissue paper
File folders	Plates, cups, forks, knives
Stomp rockets	Paper towel & toilet paper tubes
Toys in good condition	Gift certificates for book or toy store

You can bring these items to your child's center. You can also check with your Center Director on specific needs at the center. Thanks for helping us out!

Parenting Workshops

Extended Child Care will reimburse your workshop fees if you wish to attend one of the many parenting workshops offered by California Parenting Institute. Once you have registered and attended the workshop, turn your receipt into the main office for reimbursement. Workshop topics include parenting the school age child, positive parenting and assets & resources for challenging times. See fliers at the center or go to www.calparents.org

Next ECC Board Meeting will be held on January 25, 2010 at 6:45 pm. Location: 1745 Copperhill Pkwy, Suite #5, Santa Rosa. Parents are always welcome.