



EXTENDED CHILD CARE FAMILY NEWSLETTER May 2009

HERE COMES SUMMER.....

Our enrollment for summer is complete. If your summer child care needs change, please notify the office as soon as possible. This really helps us to plan staffing for summer. We appreciate your help!

During the summer some of our centers close due to lower enrollment. This summer the following centers will be open – **Windsor Creek, Mattie Washburn, Mark West, San Miguel, JX Wilson and RL Stevens**. If the center your child is attending is closed, the Center Director will notify you of which center your child will attend for the summer. **Families must have a zero balance on their childcare bill to use summer care.** Families enrolled for summer will need to give a **four (4) week** drop notice to discontinue care. This becomes effective on **May 18, 2009**. They may return in the fall but may not return in summer.

Summer programming highlights!

Summer is a time when children can relax, have fun, develop friendships, and practice the many skills they are learning as they grow. We are planning many activities that will interest the children and inspire them to participate. This year we are once again contracting with University of Sports to provide programming at all of our centers. We are planning on hiring Rachel Blum, a USTA coach to organize a tennis program, and Chess for Kids to provide instruction for children who are interested. Zumba for kids, African dance, and drumming will get kids moving to the beat. Storytelling, basket weaving, and Junior Achievement are other favorite activities that are planned. There will be lots of water play. Each center will be doing service learning projects where the children are involved in providing a service to the community through projects they are doing at the center. We are encouraging parents share any talents they have with the children. Watch for a calendar from your center to stay informed of the schedule of great activities. We're looking forward to a fun filled summer at ECC.

No Parent Fee Increase for Fall!

The Extended Child Care Board of Directors and staff are working diligently to balance our budget with declining enrollments due to the economy. At this time, the Board is not planning to increase parent fees for Fall 2009. The Board will re-evaluate in the fall and decide if a fee increase is necessary for January 1, 2010. Parents will be notified as soon as a decision to raise fees is made.

Staff Appreciation

As the school year ends, please make sure to let our staff know what you have appreciated this school year. They work hard to provide quality before and after school programs. Let them know that you appreciate their hard work. Thanks!

Feel like you are too busy to be involved?

Many parents feel they do not have time to be involved in our program by helping out in the classroom or doing presentations for the children. One suggestion that we have is for parents to take some time when they come to pick up their child. Many times children are not ready to go when parents arrive so we want to encourage parents to spend that time watching their child play. Parents are free to sit down and talk with your child and their friends about what they are doing. This gives parents an opportunity to learn more about

how their child does in our program as well as providing time for parents to learn more about our program. Please feel free to do this when you have a minute!

Another suggestion we have is to plan a time with the Center Director to share a hobby or your profession with the children. This is such a wonderful opportunity for your own child but also for all the other children to learn about something new.

Our centers always have items they are hoping will get donated. Check with your Center Director to see what is on their "Wish List" and consider making a donation.

Finally we are looking for parents to serve on our Board of Directors. Our Board meets once a month, August – November and January – May. If you are interested, contact Missy Danneberg at 545-2402 or missy@extcc.org.

Next ECC Board Meeting – June 1st 6:45 pm at 1745 Copperhill Pkwy # 5, Santa Rosa. Enter through the back door of the building. Parents are always welcome

Reminder: Please be aware that our program closes promptly at 6:00 pm and our staff is planning to be off at that time. We do charge parents a late fee if they arrive after this time but it also causes an inconvenience for our staff. We appreciate your help!

Signing your child in & out

We require that a parent or guardian sign each child in when brought into the center and sign out when the child leaves the center at the end of the day. *This needs to be the adult's full signature.* This is for the protection of your child and is a requirement of Community Care Licensing, Title 22. The center staff appreciates your help by remembering this when you sign your child in or out.

USED COMPUTERS WANTED!

We are looking for donations of old computers in working condition. We are finding that the games and programs the children use do not work on the VISTA software on a new computer. Please call Cherelle at the office 545-2402, if you have a used computer you want to get rid of. Thanks!

Tips for Parents

Hara Estroff Marano offers these suggestions to parents for preparing children for a challenging world:

- Let children play
- Eat dinner together with nothing going on but conversation
- Teach your child how to tolerate discomfort
- Praise your child's process and effort, not talent and product
- Encourage your child to problem solve
- Give children increasing responsibilities

Don't forget that your comments and suggestions are always welcome through our website at extcc.org!

