

Child Care Chatter

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March 2018

Dear Friends and Families,

Considering the recent events in schools and the training that the staff received on President's Day, we are continuing to look at how to better secure the facility. There are a few things I would like to share with you, so we can improve the security of our program.

1. Please do not let other people into the facility that do not have a key card. If someone is following you into the building that does not have key card access, ask them to wait outside and you will get a staff member to help them. I know that this sometimes is uncomfortable to do. However, I also believe that anyone who has children will understand and willingly comply.
2. Please check to ensure the door is shut securely behind you. With changes in humidity levels, sometimes the doors are not shutting securely.

Additionally, because of this training, we will also begin practicing in shelter drills. Although the new recommendation is to create as much distance between yourself and the children from the intruder, it is difficult to do with young children. We don't want to frighten the children, so we will begin by playing "Hide and Seek" from Miss Suzan. Staff will practice with the children how to be still, quiet and hide. Although this subject is serious for us as grown-ups, for our youngest children, we will try to make this experience as non-threatening as possible.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- ☺ Thursday, March 2, 2018 - Read Across America. Special Guest Readers will be coming to Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten.
- ☺ Sunday, March 11, 2018 - SPRING FORWARD. When we spring forward, we update the required DPW forms: Emergency Contact/Parental Consent and the Child Care Adult Food Program enrollment and application. Let's BEAT the clock and return the completed forms to your child's teachers by Friday, March 10th!
- ☺ Attention Parents of the Class of 2031! Children who are at least 5 years of age on or before September 1st, 2018. Kindergarten Registration is on the way! Some flyers were distributed in Pre-K. Please see your local school district's website for specific information regarding your child's registration process. *Things you need to bring with you: **birth certificate or baptism certificate, record of immunizations, proof of residence and parent photo ID.** Forms that need to be completed for registration may be picked up at any of the elementary school offices or they may be downloaded from the news section of the district web page.*
- ☺ Friday, March 30, 2018 - Center Closed for Good Friday. Have a wonderful Easter!
- ☺ Summer Schedule Changes - any summer schedule changes are due in my office by Monday, April 16th, 2018. I have already begun working on summer enrollment and schedules. The sooner requests reach my office; the easier it will be to make accommodations for change. **A reminder- if you withdraw your children for the summer, they will go onto a waiting list for the fall with a completed application (available on line or outside of the office). Our waiting list for each classroom is extensive and approximately 6 - 9 months wait minimum.**
- ☺ April 16th - 20th, 2018 - Week of the Young Child Celebrating Young Children and Families! This year's PA One Book is *My Cousin Momo* written by Zachariah O'Hora. Our celebration will embrace the theme of accepting everyone and celebrating differences.