



ELIZABETH MASCIA CHILD CARE CENTER

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017



Volunteer Day

Our fall volunteer day was a rousing success.

Beautification of our much-loved antique building needs plenty of TLC.

Our parents, staff and board delivered to this end and then some. We cannot thank you enough for your labor and for spending a Saturday with us.

We dusted, painted, de-cluttered, vacuumed, scrubbed, raked, planted and decorated the hallway. We filled dozens of garbage bags and made countless treks outside to our garbage pails.

Thank you to: Ybi Acosta, Heather Logan, Amanda Duggan, Emma Pisapia, Elissa Piacquadio, Michelle Kemp, Sue and Don Kendrick, Dan Huyssen, Kristina and Ed O’Gorman, Maggie Mascia, Jody Toth, Tish Diggie, Maylien Herm, Eric Borcharding, Julie Kelly and Sharon Jimenez

An especially hearty thank you goes to Alison Madrigal, our Volunteer Day coordinator.

No worries – if you could not join us for our fall Volunteer Day, we will schedule a spring clean-up day in April or May (details to follow).

Here Comes Winter

Living in the northeast has so many advantages. One of the favorites is the proximity to New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and every place in between. With that wealth of culture, access to beaches and mountains and myriad food choices, who would want to live any place else?

Yet, with the allure of the cities and countryside of the northeast, comes the disenchantment of potentially severe weather. From hurricanes to tornados to nor’easters to heat waves to blizzards and ice storms and snow squalls – you name it – we have it all.

Thus, another winter descends upon us, maybe it will be mild, perhaps it will be overwhelming? What do the pundits and forecasters really know? How accurate will the Farmer’s Almanac be? For now, we prepare by having our salt and shovels ready, having the plough guy’s number on speed dial, and, most importantly, communicating with families and staff as to what our snow day procedures are.

Below see our procedures for snow days, early dismissals and delayed openings.



ELIZABETH MASCIA CHILD CARE CENTER

2017 Schedule of EMCCC Closing Dates

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday, January 2 | New Year's Day Observed |
| Monday, January 16 | Martin Luther King's Birthday |
| Monday, February 20 | President's Day |
| Friday, April 14 | Spring Holiday |
| Monday, May 29 | Memorial Day |
| Monday, July 3 | Summer Holiday |
| Tuesday, July 4 | Independence Day |
| Friday, September 1 | End of Summer Holiday |
| Monday, September 4 | Labor Day |
| Thursday, November 23 | Thanksgiving |
| Friday, November 24 | Thanksgiving |
| Monday, December 25 | Winter Holiday |
| Tuesday, December 26 | Winter Holiday |

Toys for Kids: A Guide to Buying Age-Appropriate Toys by Ishi Bansal

Kids learn in different ways during different times of their development. What was exciting and interesting to a child at age two may become boring when they turn four. Trying to find play items that intrigue and stimulate a child can be difficult. There are thousands of choices on the toy aisles, each one claiming to be the best.

In addition, parents aren't the only ones making the decisions. As kids age, they want a part in the selection process. TV advertisements and peer pressure push children into demanding "must-have" toys, even if they are not age appropriate. Moreover, as most parents quickly discern, the most popular toys are usually the most expensive and the hardest to find.

Most toys come with an age recommendation. This recommendation is based on a number of factors, including the age of the child, the expected motor skills, and the level of maturity. However, age labeling should be taken with a grain of salt. Kids mature at different rates, so it is important to think about your child's capabilities when selecting a toy.

Here are some guidelines and suggestions for choosing age-appropriate toys:

- **BiAges 3 - 5:** It is time to hit the road, so a tricycle is a great gift for this age group. Motor skills continue to be on the upswing, so buy puzzles with large pieces, and introduce them to safety scissors and simple crafts. Little girls will like to dress up and have tea, while little boys will spend hours moving cars around a track. This is the age where fads take hold, so be prepared to start a collection of whatever is hot.
- **Age 5 - 9:** Peer pressure hits this age group with a force, and parents will find that only particular toys are acceptable. It is important to keep them learning, so make certain they have computer games and sports equipment. Crafts that are more complicated can be introduced, and that full-fledged bicycle will require a sturdy helmet. There are age-appropriate science kits available, and kids will love to strap on outdoor gear and go exploring.

No matter the age, remember that safety is the key. Is the child mature enough to handle and understand the toy? While a child may want what is pitched in the latest TV ad campaign, buying age-appropriate toys is the best way to insure that your child will have a fun, interesting, and safe childhood.



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