



ELIZABETH MASCIA CHILD CARE CENTER

Newsletter Summer 2017

SUMMERTIME



Here we are again, beginning another summer at the Elizabeth Mascia Child Care Center.

We dream of balmy, breezy days with low humidity and not-too-hot temperatures. Let the rain come at nighttime, watering the fields and flowers, and allowing the children for much outdoor daytime play. Alas, Mother Nature's whims surely will win out, and we will work and play around her follies.

The 3's and 4's classrooms celebrated end-of-year festivities, culminating with Moving Up ceremonies. The children sang and performed for their families. Their teachers put together amazing slide-show retrospectives for all to enjoy.

With bittersweet emotions, we said good-bye to those moving on, and welcomed our moving up and over children to the 3's and 4's classes. Transitions can be difficult for parents, children and staff, but we have many years' experience in softening this sometimes-tough adjustment.

NEW ARRIVAL

The Center is excited to announce the arrival of a brand-new firetruck in the Toddler playground. With deepest thanks to Walter Ferguson's Burn Care...Everywhere Foundation, we received a generous grant to allow us to install this wonderful equipment. A dedication ceremony honoring Burn Care...Everywhere will take place in the fall.



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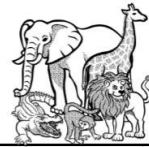
CAMP CALENDAR

Our summer camp program began on July 5. Below is our July calendar. The children, entering grades 1 through grade 6, have a combination of active and quiet times to ensure a stimulating and unique small-camp experience.

On any given week, we have between 20-25 campers eager to try out new skills – swimming, tennis, dance, arts and crafts, field sports and cooking. We will read with Ray and learn about animals, as Ybi has invoked the theme of “Animal Planet’ this summer.



July 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 CENTER CLOSED	4 CENTER CLOSED	5 CAMP BEGINS Welcome BBQ	6 Cooking Reading with Ray	7 Mariandale	8
9 “Magnificent Mammals”	10 Arts & Crafts Hip Hop	11 Tennis	12 SWIMMING @ YMCA	13 Cooking Reading with Ray	14 Oakland Beach	15
16 “Something Fishy”	17 Arts & Crafts Hip Hop	18 Tennis Nature of Things	19 SWIMMING @ YMCA	20 Cooking Reading with Ray	21 Mariandale	22
23 “Creepy Crawlers”	24 Arts & Crafts Hip Hop	25 Trip to Maritime Center	26 SWIMMING @ YMCA	27 Cooking Reading with Ray	28 To Be Announced	29
30	31	See August 2017 Calendar				



ELIZABETH MASCIA CHILD CARE CENTER

PARENT HANDBOOK

Do visit our website (www.masciachildcare.org) and look on the scroll down "About Us" to view the newly revised Parent Handbook. Pay particular attention to the Health and Safety sections, as our mandates regarding fever have changed.

We give a special thank you to the Personnel Committee with valuable input on these changes.

Here is a portion:



The Elizabeth Mascia Child Care Center can care for a well child or a mildly ill child but not a moderately ill child. A mildly ill child has symptoms of a minor illness, which does not represent a significant risk of serious infection to other children. A minor childhood illness is one that is not designated as a communicable disease requiring exclusion by the New York State Department of Health. A mildly ill child can participate in the regular program activities with some minor modifications, such as more rest time.

You will be contacted and your child will be excluded when symptoms of moderate illness as listed below are present. Since the well-being of your child and the other children in the group are the primary concerns, a prompt pick up is encouraged for the benefit of all. In some instances, your child will be kept away from the other children, but always supervised by a staff member, until he or she is picked up in an attempt to prevent the further spread of illness to other children or adults.

A moderately ill child should not be brought to the Center. If your child is moderately ill and staying home for the day, please call and let the office know during the morning hours. Also, let the office know about the nature of the illness so that other children can be observed for symptoms and other parents can be notified, if appropriate.

Symptoms of Moderate Illness, as indicated by the New York State Department of Health, are:

- The illness, or your child's reaction to it, requires more care than staff can provide or compromises the health and safety of other children
- Signs and symptoms of possible illness such as unusual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, persistent abdominal pain, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, wheezing or other unusual signs until a medical examination allows inclusion
- Persistent diarrhea, defined as three or more stools in a 24 hour period, when the pattern represents:
 - An increased number of stools compared to your child's normal pattern
 - Increased stool water

- Diarrhea accompanied with symptoms of dehydration, such as sunken eyes, dry skin, concentrated urine or small amounts of urine, fewer than 6 wet diapers in a 24 hour period, or no urine in 4 hours
- Diarrhea accompanied with blood in the stool
- Significant fever as defined below, until evaluated and approved for inclusion by a health professional:
- Children over 6 months of age should be excluded and referred to a health professional whenever fever is accompanied by a behavior change, stiff neck, a rash, unusual irritability, poor feeding, vomiting or excessive crying.
- ***Fever means temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit***
- Undiagnosed rash, with the exceptions of diaper rash and rash that is present in only a small area and is not accompanied by any other signs of illness, particularly in the diapered area of a child
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) until symptoms have resolved, or until 24 hours after medications have been administered, or approved inclusion by a health professional, or grouped in a room only with other children with conjunctivitis
- Untreated infestations, such as scabies or lice
- Vomiting three or more times in a previous 24-hour period, or any vomiting accompanied by symptoms of dehydration or other signs of illness.

Children may not return to the Center until vomiting has resolved for a 24-hour period and are eating normally.

- Contagious stages of chicken pox, until 6 days after the onset of rash or until all sores have dried and crusted, unless children are grouped in a room only with other children with chicken pox
- Any of the following illnesses until approved for inclusion by a health professional:
- Mouth sores with drooling
- Diarrhea due to Shigellosis, Salmonella, Campylobacteriosis, Giardiasis, E. coli type 0157:H7
- Versinia, Cryptosporidiosis, until there is one negative stool test obtained at least 48 hours after treatment (if prescribed) is completed; or unless a plan for grouping children has been approved by the local or State Health Department
- Active tuberculosis, until treatment has been initiated and readmission has been approved by the local health unit
- Impetigo, until 24 hours after medical treatment has been initiated unless there is only a small patch of
- Impetigo that can be cleaned and covered so no other children can come into contact with the sore
- Strep throat, or other streptococcal infections elsewhere in the body until 24 hours after the initial antibiotic treatment
- Mumps, until 9 days after onset of gland swelling
- Rubella (German measles) and measles, until 5 days after onset of the rash
- Hepatitis A viral infection (Infectious hepatitis) until one week after onset of illness, and until immunoglobulin has been administered to appropriate children and staff, or as directed by the local health unit
- Shingles, if sores cannot be covered by clothing or a dressing or until sores become crusted
- Pertussis (whooping cough), until 5 days of a total course of 14 days of antibiotic treatment has been completed
- Diphtheria, until readmission has been approved by the local health unit
- Hepatitis B, until readmission has been approved by the local health unit
- Meningitis or meningococcal disease, until readmission has been approved by the local health unit

- Other illness or symptoms as determined by the Center

Children may not return to the Center until she/he is fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

Head lice: You will notified if we find your child has head lice. You will be required to treat your child with a lice removal product and include daily combing to remove any nits. Your child may return to the program once you have effectively used a lice removal treatment.

In the case of a medical emergency with your child requiring more than first aid, 911 will be immediately called for assistance. You will also be called. If necessary, your child will be transported by ambulance to a hospital (likely Phelps Memorial Hospital or Westchester Medical Center) accompanied by a staff member provided adequate staffing is available to supervise the remaining children in the group so that staff to child ratios can be maintained. The child's folder containing the medical record and emergency treatment card will accompany the child to the hospital. EMCCC will not provide transportation.

Medication can be administered by trained and certified staff members while your child is at the Center only when both the Physician and the parent correctly complete the **Written Medication Consent Form**. Medication must be in the original container with the original label with all identifying information as dispensed by a Pharmacist. When a topical over the counter ointment is to be administered at EMCCC, the parent / guardian complete the form. Topical over the counter ointments must also be in the original container with the original label.

Please let us know if your child is receiving medication at home, so the teacher can monitor him or her for side effects like diarrhea, irritability, lethargy, or others.

Staff members are trained and certified to give out medication are also trained and certified in Infant and Child First Aid and CPR.



Let Your Child Get Dirty! It's Essential for Physical and Mental Development

By Charles Kassotis

Are you still following your child around worrying that they might stain their clothes? Do you forbid playing outside because they might get dirty? Do you see germs and infections in every step they take? Are you trying to keep away friendly dogs or cute kittens because they might be disease carriers?

Do any of the sentences above represent your attitude towards your child? If yes, you must reconsider. Depriving your child of physical contact with the "Dirty, Outside World" is bad for its health. Sound unbelievable? How can something full of germs be essential for a kid's development?

First of all, your child, in the delicate years between childhood and puberty, develops its immune system. The immune system is designed to defend the organism against millions of bacteria, microbes, parasites, viruses and toxins. But it needs to be trained; just as muscles need exercise to function properly. In order to recognize harmful germs, it needs to meet them first. Then it creates an archive, where it is all installed. When the time comes for a fight, the immune system will be prepared because it knows the enemy. Pure exposure to various microorganisms and other environmental factors leads to pure immune resistance. That means that the child will be less susceptible to disease later in life. So, don't exaggerate in hygiene matters. Let your child's immune system harden, with the help of dirt.

Your child needs also to be active, run around and feel happy playing outside. Worrying about stains will make the child feel guilty about activities that make it happy. You cannot replace that happiness with clean clothes, or with indoor inactive activities such as TV or video games. This is especially true during the school year. Imagine being seated in a chair while experiencing growth and energy spurts! Getting loose outside home will help the child deal with that pressure.

Don't underestimate your kids' explorative skills. By exploring –not the house of course- it discovers the world. Exploration boosts the imagination as well as creativity, social and physical skills. Well-developed physical skills result in a healthy body. Creativity will bring adaptability, and social skills will bring success and mental health. All those will eventually turn an active child, into a lively, successful healthy adult.

Let friendly animals approach your child. They won't hurt it; they will be of benefit. By keeping animals away, you teach your child to do the same. Have you considered having a pet? Children raised with pets show many benefits. Developing positive feelings about pets can contribute to a child's self-esteem and self-confidence. Your child will develop trusting relationships with others much easier. A good relationship with a pet can also help in developing non-verbal communication, compassion, and empathy.

Finally, how important do you think memories are? Memories are moments of our lives, forming our personality. What would you like your child to remember from its childhood memories? Clean, germ-free clothes? Or shiny days outside, filled with laughter and a sense of adventure?

Are you still afraid of dirt? No need to be, after all, dirt is health! So, let your child go and play outside, loose in the dirt. Join in if you get jealous, you might want to get a little dirty too!



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EMCCC AUTUMN GALA NOVEMBER 2, 2017

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EMCCC AUTUMN GALA NOVEMBER 2, 2017

EMCCC AUTUMN GALA & CA\$INO NIGHT
Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill

Eugene and Frances Porcaro

&

**The Children's School for Early Development,
Arc of Westchester**

2017 Honorees

Save the Date
November 2, 2017

6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Benefit for the Elizabeth Mascia Child Care Center

