



Children's Center Chatter

Winter Has Finally Arrived!

Winter has finally arrived to Central New York and the children are excited to see snow on the ground!

Outdoor fun is part of everyday at The Children's Center and School Age Program. Winter is no exception.

Despite some days that are too cold to get outside, we make our best effort to get outside for fresh air and physical activity.

Our School Age Program has been participating in the community open-skate on Thursdays at the on campus Ice Plex.

The Blue Room has

been out searching for snow to roll and jump in.

It is extremely important that your child have all their winter clothing items. The Center does have a supply of extra outdoor winter gear but not enough for everyone. Even our babies should have their winter clothes ready for any opportunities to get out for some fresh air.

If you have snow pants, jackets, boots, mittens or hats that your child has outgrown, please consider donating it to our "supply of extras".

This is a good time to remind all families that

The Center is closed when ever Morrisville State College is closed for inclement weather. In addition, The Center may close when the weather interferes with teachers making it to work. The closing would be posted on our website, on our voice recording and local news (channel 3 & 9). You can also sign up for emergency texts sent directly to your cell phone by texting the word CHILD to 24587. Any questions, please see Jen.

We're looking forward to some more sunny winter weather. Stay warm!

The Children's Center at Morrisville State College, Inc.

Winter 2012 Issue

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Dress for the weather!
- ☺ Scholastic Book Fair April 25
- ☺ Picture Day TBA In March
- ☺ Center CLOSED February 20
- ☺ Center CLOSED May 18
- ☺ Regular hours February 20-24
- ☺ Morrisville State College Break February 20-24
- ☺ Morrisville State College Break April 2-6
- ☺ Immunization Records Due in February

Inside this issue:

Center Continues Commitment to CACFP	2
Picture Day	2
School Age Program opening	2
Week of the Young Child	3
Immunization Records	3
Upcoming Dates	3
NAEYC Visit Day	4

Student Interns

The Center is very fortunate to serve as a host to many academic programs at Morrisville State College as well as BOCES.

This semester the Infant Room is hosting a senior from Morrisville Eaton that is enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Program at BOCES. She is shadowing the work of the Infant Teachers and learning best practice.

Over the next several months students from the Nursing II Program will rotate through the classrooms observing the progression of child development.

The Center will also host students from the HPHP Bachelor's Degree, Dietetic and Nutrition, Early Childhood Observation and Assessment, Child Development and Journalism.

All students are under the direct supervision of Center Teachers. Students sign a confidentially agreement and are signed in as visitors. They are asked to be respectful of the families and children served. Their placement in our center is a learning experience and fulfills an academic purpose. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to see Jen.

Center Continues Commitment to CACFP

From the very beginning The Children's Center has been committed to good health and nutrition. The Center enrolled as a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) the first year it opened, starting a commitment to quality meal choices for children. On-site meal preparation, healthy menu choices and a full time food technician have made our meal-times a success.

Every three years The Center is visited by auditors from CACFP. They review meal records, food preparation, classroom mealtimes and vendor receipts.

The kitchen and classrooms

have always received rave reviews for cleanliness, and the quality of food preparation.

One component we are most proud of is our family style mealtimes. If you stop by during one of our meals, you will see children and teachers eating together family style even in our youngest age groups.

Robin Branch works very closely with CACFP. She receives



5 a day is a better way! Get five servings of fruits and vegetables each day.

monthly updates, newsletters and prepares our monthly vouchers for reimbursements. Annually Robin sends out new applications to every family. This is a requirement that must be met every year. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to stop by and see her.

Keeping your child happy and healthy is important to The Children's Center; we believe it starts with a healthy, happy mealtime!

Picture Day in March 😊

This year The Center will once again offer Picture Day. Brian McDowell, Chair of Journalism, and a senior working on his capstone project will be volunteering their time to take the photographs. Individual and class photos will be taken in March. The classroom teachers, Jen and Robin will assist the children during their individual sittings. You

are more than welcome to have siblings sit together. Family sittings are also available on the same day. Please make your appointment with Jen or Robin.

A black & white proof and order form will be delivered for each child before orders are due. All orders will be delivered before the

Easter holiday.

As soon as the Picture Day is scheduled, it will be posted in all the classrooms. Any questions, please see Jen. Thank you for your support.



School Age Program Openings for Before and After School Program

Many of you may not know that in addition to the care offered here at The Center, School Age Child Care is also a part of our program.

The School Age Program (SAP) is located in the Edward R Andrews Elementary School. SAP provides before school, after school, holiday, vacation and summer care for children ages 5-12. The program can enroll up to 20 children and has

openings.

Typically students enrolled at Morrisville Eaton Elementary School are served during the school year, while students from any district can be cared for on vacation days and during the summer.

Sandy Chapman, the SAP Assistant Director, plans a ton of fun for the children. A wide variety of crafts, games and physical movement activi-

ties happen each week.

If you or someone you know needs care for a school aged child, please see Jen or Robin.



Week of the Young Child

Across the country, young children and their families depend on quality education and care, which help children get a great start, and bring lasting benefits for our society as a whole. Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the people, programs and policies that are helping to build better futures for all children.

The Children's Center at Morrisville State College will celebrate Week of the Young Child (WOYC, April 20-24, 2009) to recognize the needs of young children and thank educators and others involved in

building better future for all children. Week of the Young Child is celebrated across the country by hundreds of local organizations working to improve opportunities for all young children.

The Children's Center will be celebrating all week in the classrooms. Teachers have planned some of the children's favorite activities. Diversity, literacy, learning through play and educating about health and wellness will be embraced and displayed.

Please consider joining us for one of the family events that will be

scheduled during the WOYC. The events and times will be scheduled at a later date.



The Children's Center works every year with NAEYC, the largest organization of early childhood education programs, and local affiliates to build public support for high quality early childhood programs. The Center has been held its accreditation since 1998.

Annual Report of Immunizations Due

As a licensed Child Care Center, we play a crucial role in ensuring that children's immunizations are up to date. Each year, to fulfill a state requirement, The Center completes a state wide immunization survey.

The survey requires The Center to verify that each child is under the medical care of a physician and all immunizations are up to date.

At the time of enrollment,

The Center requires a medical form be completed by each child's physician. A section of that form is specific to immunizations. We encourage families to update that form when children are seen for well child visits. Young infants that are seen more frequently, and receive a majority of their immunizations before age three, should submit a copy of their shot record at least twice a year.

The Center is also supporting the local county's push for lead screenings.

Children should be tested at age 1 and 2 for lead levels in the bloodstream.

This year's report is due to the NYS Department of Health on March 5th. Please be sure to get us an updated shot records by the end of February. If it is easier, you can request your medical provider to fax a copy to 684-6424.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Upcoming Dates

The Center's Annual Calendar was distributed at the start of the new year in August. Extra copies are available at the front desk.

The calendar accounts for holidays and closings stated in our Family Handbook. There are always a few days that are undetermined at the start of the year. Two In-Service trainings days are reserved each year. This year there

have been additional closings for construction work.

Please note that The Center will be closed Monday, February 20th for construction work. There are no Morrisville State College classes in session that week. The Center will be open February 21-24 (regular hours). There is extended School Age care that week.

The Center will also be closed on Friday, May 18th for the second annual staff training day.

On February 6, 2012 there will be a construction update meeting for all families. Jennifer will be sharing the plans for interior renovation and temporary summer space. Please plan to attend and bring any questions you might have.

**The Children's Center at
Morrisville State College, Inc.**

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Licensed and Nationally Accredited



The Children's Center at Morrisville State College is a licensed and nationally accredited child care center serving children ages six weeks to twelve years.

The Center offers priority to the faculty, staff and students of Morrisville State College. Community families are served as space is available.

The program is offered year round to children. It offers a safe, home-like environment for children when they must be away from home.

For more information about enrollment or to schedule an appointment to tour The Center, please call 684-6400 and ask for Jennifer or Robin.

NAEYC On-Site Visit

In the Fall 2011 Children's Center Chatter Issue I reported that The Center was in the renewal phase of NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Accreditation.

The Center was supposed to have a visit some time between October and February. As of today, it has not been scheduled. During my last conversation with NAEYC, they were hopeful that I might hear something this week. When they do contact me, they will set up a calendar that includes a 15 day window. During the 15 day window they can come any-time with just 24 hour notice.

In the past the visit days have gone extremely well. The assessor is

well trained and will spend a lot of time in the classrooms observing activities and interactions. He/she will spend time reviewing the portfolios that the teachers have made that represent their classroom environment.

After the visit The Center will receive a decision based on the documentation and site visit. The decision is usually announced within three months of the visit.

I am confident in The Center's quality program and feel positive about the accreditation process. This is my fourth time working on accreditation (1999, 2002, 2007 and 2012) at The Center and each success is owed to the dedication and work

that the Board, staff and teachers put forward. The process is on going and always educating. The criteria and standards remind us of why we do what we do and why they are so good for children.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation during the upcoming process.

Jennifer Britton

