



JOHN KENNEY CHILD CARE CENTER at Heller Park November 2011

211 Mill Road, Edison, NJ 08837 (732) 287-4888 Fax (732) 287-2161

Subsidized Quality Child Care

for Heller Park Employees, and Edison Residents and Employees

Thank You

This year's Halloween Party planners were:

Stacie Afonso

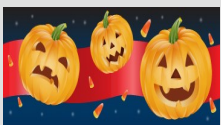
Tanya Bickers

Jennifer

D'Antuono

Tanya Hickey

They had the help of many, many other parents who donated items for the party and volunteered to give of their time to supervise an activity during the party. Also many of our staff members attended voluntarily without pay to join in the festivities as well as helping to clean up after the event.



Friendship Matters

One of the many jobs early childhood teachers have is to help children develop skills which will promote positive relationships with other children.

According to ExchangeEveryDay (Oct.4, 2011) Eileen Kennedy-Moore in Work & Family Life (Oct. 2011) writes, "Friendships are not only a source of fun, they help kids grow in meaningful ways. They create a sense of belonging through shared interests. Friendships can provide acceptance and help children feel good about themselves. Having friends also makes it easier for kids to tolerate stress, rebuffs, or aggravation. And friendship encourages children to go beyond their own self-interest. Caring about a friend, or just wanting to play with that friend can temper selfish urges and open the way for negotiation, compromise, and even generosity."

You can help your child to gain social skills by hosting play dates at first just with one other child, by referring to their classmates as "friends", role playing various social situations they might encounter and helping them to read facial expressions. Show by example by being kind, giving compliments and waving to a friend. Avoid competition that would provoke conflict. Read stories that have a lesson or moral and then discuss how the characters felt.

Today's children interact with children of many different cultures earlier than ever before. It is even more important for them to learn how to interact with all kinds of people. Children who master social skills are happy and have fun and grow up to be more successful in the workplace as well.



Friendship

Sophie, Johannah and Samantha share a seat on the train in the recreation room.

As young as they are, they already have learned some of the early skills needed in order to make friends and be accepted by others.

Fund Raiser Results

13 families sold 5 or more coupon books:

- 12 books: Michael Micklos
- 9 books: Michael Rueda
- 7 books: Ariana & Dylan Pino
- 6 books: Aastha Patel and Chloe Lewis
- 5 books: Divie De LosAngeles, Olivia Daniel, Thomas Gustavson, Alyssa & Nicole Piecka, Isaiah Torres, Johannah Parada, Lily D'Antuono, and Aiden Celestino

We received \$375.00 in cash donations. We earned \$2,137.50 from the sale of the coupon books. This represents only 50% of what was collected in last year's fund raising event. **It is not too late to make a donation.** This money covers the cost of pony rides, magicians, musicians, chick hatching, puppet shows, etc.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Family Holiday Party on Friday, 12/9 at 7:00 pm and pictures with Santa

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Classroom Holiday Parties on Thursday, Dec. 22.

Center closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving.

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Center closed on Monday, 12/26 for Christmas

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Center will be closed on Monday, Dec. 31 for New Year's Day.



Meet Dawn Lutz

I have worked many years in childcare. I worked as a teacher's assistant in the Blue Room for 3 years. Recently I transferred to the Red Room.

I resided in Edison for 15 years before moving to Linden last year.

I am a newlywed. I was married to my best friend at the "Little Wedding Chapel" in Las Vegas this past July. I enjoy spending my free time with my husband and our dog, Raz. We rescued her from the local animal shelter. I am a strong supporter of animal adoption.

I share the same birthday with Miss Zeenat

CHEF COMBO RETURNS!

Miss Kelly, assistant in the Orange Room, will be bringing Chef Combo to visit the children each month. He hasn't been around much since our nutrition theme in 2009-2010.

Through this puppet the children learn to make healthy food choices, to try new foods, and many healthy habits such as washing hands before eating and the benefits of exercise. Now that there is a national campaign to curb childhood obesity, this curriculum is more important than ever.

Encouraging Language Development

Here are some helpful hints to get your children talking and maybe telling you a little bit of what goes on here during the day.

- Get down at the child's level and look him in the eye when you talk to him.
- Since children between the ages of 2 and 6 learn an average of 6 to 10 words a day, introduce new words in your conversations.
- Ask open-ended questions, those that can't be answered with a yes or no response to encourage them to answer with several words.
- When reading stories, ask them what they think will happen next or what the characters might be thinking or feeling.

A good way to estimate portion size is to remember that as we grow our stomach is about the size of our fist. When we expect children to eat more than this we are encouraging them to over eat.



Friendship

Here Miss Teresa, our gym instructor, plays with our youngest enrollee, Chloe. Young children are more interested in interacting with their caregivers than with each other. As children grow older their peers become more and more important to them.

Jobs on Jobs (ExchangeEveryDay, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011). A quote from Steve Jobs' 2005 Stanford commencement address:

"I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me...It was awful tasting medicine, but I guess the patient needed it. Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking until you find it. Don't settle."

The children here are already on that path of discovery. The block builder may be a future architect, etc. We need to allow children time to explore and encourage their interests.