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December 2011

## Child and Family Development Resource Center

# CFDRC

## New Staff >>>

### Danette Abitz

Please join me in welcoming Danette Abitz to the Child and Family Development Resource Center. Danette is our Registered Nurse/Health Care Professional. She is here to assist children, families, and the Center maintain good health practices. Danette also will help keep the Center in compliance with state regulations required for licensing. She is working on updating health records, visiting classrooms, and meeting children. Please stop in to visit her with concerns and questions surrounding healthcare policies and practices. She is with us Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:05 to 5:30.

Danette is an avid knitter and has won awards for her creations. She enjoys knitting for shelters in the community as well. Danette is involved in an anti-bullying campaign in schools, and is also a committee member to improve school climate. We are so thrilled she has brought her talents and dedication to the community here to the CFDRC.



## Science Fair

### Connecting children with science

On December 7, 2011, from 9:00 to 12 noon, the Early Childhood Education certification students will be hosting a Science Fair for our Center's children. Returning families will recognize this event from previous semesters. This time around, the students have planned centers/activities pertaining to the understanding and appreciation of our current investigation: Houses. It will be an active morning of hands-on exploration with deliberate minds-on thinking, facilitated by our undergraduate education students. Students have had the opportunity to meet with classroom teachers to brainstorm ideas for centers based on previous knowledge. There will be five different centers children will visit over the course of the morning. Please feel free to drop in and visit while the fair is in progress.

In years past, the college students have uniformly found the Science Fair to be an engaging educational experience that helped solidify their understanding of children's thinking and ways of learning. It also facilitated their own abilities to develop, modify, and implement curriculum. Alternatively, please ask your child that evening to share their experiences from the Science Fair. I am sure both interacting with your child at the Science Fair and/or hearing your child's narration of the day's events will make for an interesting experience.

I would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to Dr. Sudha Swaminathan, the professor coordinating this event.

# Immunization Requirements

Please be advised that Connecticut passed a law in June requiring children who are enrolled in or are enrolling in a licensed family day care home, a licensed child daycare center, or a licensed group day care home to show proof of immunity to influenza (“the flu”) and Hepatitis A disease (proof of Hepatitis A vaccine is required if born on or after 01/01/09). Physicians were notified of these requirements.

What does this mean for your child? This means that: **by January 1, 2011** (and by each January 1 thereafter), children aged 6-59 months attending CFDRRC “**shall have received at least one dose of influenza vaccine between September 1 and December 31, 2011 – and provide proof of this vaccination.**” All children who have not received vaccination against influenza before August 2010, shall have received 2 doses of vaccine. For those children who may have received the flu vaccine in August 2010 (for the current 2010-11 flu season), it will be accepted and count toward the mandated immunization requirement.

**Children who have not received the flu vaccine by December 31<sup>st</sup> must be excluded from child care** for the duration of the influenza season (through March 31<sup>st</sup>) or until they receive at least one dose. Please contact your child’s pediatrician to learn more about the flu vaccine that is right for your child and to schedule an appointment to **obtain the vaccine or proof of influenza vaccination by Dec 31, 2011.**

Further questions, please do not hesitate to ask Danette.

## Best Wishes, *Ashlee* >>>



It is with mixed emotions that I inform you my last day as a teacher in the Teal Room here at CFDRRC will be on Friday, December 16th, 2011. I am very excited to be stepping into my new role as a first time mom, but sad to be ending my time as a teacher at this wonderful program. Over the past two years I have enjoyed getting to know the children and families who attend CFCRC and will be leaving with many wonderful memories. I wanted to thank you for making my time as a teacher at the center such a rewarding experience! I very much look forward to visiting the center in the future and seeing how the children have grown and flourished over time.

## December Closures

Please be advised that the Child and Family Development Resource Center will be closed the following days:

Monday, December 26th, 2011

Monday, January 2, 2012

## PTO Place

What is a "PTO" you may be asking? "PTO" stands for Parent/Teacher Organization. If you're reading this, you're a member of this great group already. Welcome! This committee plans family events and fundraising activities for the children, teachers, staff, and families of the CFDRRC. We will be having a Movie and PJ night on Tuesday, December 13. All family members are invited to attend this 5:30-6:30PM event for some snacks, movie watching, and socializing. This event is free to attend and promises to be an evening the kids will remember. Our next meeting will be in January where we will discuss winter and spring opportunities. All are welcome to attend. A meeting date will be presented in advance. Thank you for making all of our PTO events a success!

———Kelly, PTO President

# Friendship skills...

Excerpts taken from an article by Karen Stephens in Parenting Exchange (Spring 2002).

## **To make and keep friends, children must be able to:**

- ~ *Recognize common interests*
- ~ *Have an ability to join play*
- ~ *Read nonverbal cues*
- ~ *Identify common goals*
- ~ *Listen to and respect feelings*
- ~ *Appreciate another person's perspective*
- ~ *Practice compassion*
- ~ *Cooperate*
- ~ *Accept*
- ~ *Include others*

That's not all there is to making and keeping friends. Human's social relationships are much more complex than that. Like those of adults', children's friendships are full of ups and downs. There are many more social skills children must develop. For instance, they must learn to tactfully stand up for their wishes and to express their own point of view during social play.

And children must learn how to get their own play needs met in socially acceptable ways (i.e. without aggression or name-calling).

To function in the world of social relationships, children must also be able to cope with rejection from time to time. It's hard to hear a child being told, "No, I don't want to play now." But it's a reality that some people want alone time when others don't. To face such rejection without taking it too hard, children must be able to de-personalize statements and learn that people's moods vary. If one child refuses an invitation to play, children can learn to seek out another playmate.

Sharing, negotiation, and compromise are skills that come into play as children interact with others. During play, children must learn to express their ideas and reasons for them. But at the same time, they must be receptive to the ideas of others. Compromise and negotiation skills help children build upon each other's ideas for mutual enjoyment.



Dramatic play centers provide additional opportunities for children to 'practice' social skills. In dramatic play, or pretend setting (i.e. housekeeping, tool shop), children take on pretend roles such as a mechanic, nurse, or customer. Numerous books and articles have been written to support this type of play among preschoolers and most highlight the value it serves to relationships among peers. First and foremost, it provides an opportunity for children to take on other people's perspective. For example, in order to pretend you are a mechanic in a tool shop, you have to be able to take his/her perspective and understand that it may be different than the perspective of the peer role playing the customer. Through this experience, children are also practicing self-regulation: an integral part of development both socially and cognitively (more on this next month). So remember, next time your child is pretending, assume a role and play along. Then, switch roles and see how that plays out. Have Fun!

# December 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1 Ella's' Nook Open	2
5 Literacy Play Centers 9:00-12:00	6	7 Science Cen- ters 9:00-12:00	8 Ella's' Nook Open	9
12	13 PTO Movie Night 5:30-6:30	14	15 Ella's' Nook Open	16
19	20	21	22 Ella's' Nook Open	23
26 Center Closed	27	28	29 Ella's' Nook Open	30 1/2 Day Closing at 12:30 for Professional Development

## Fire Safety

In an effort to practice in the event of a fire emergency, the CFDRC conducts monthly surprise fire drills. In order to keep it as authentic as possible, staff rarely are aware of the date/times of the drills. The children have been taught to stop what they are doing and line up at the designated emergency exit for their class. We all meet at an assigned location where attendance is taken. At the moment of a drill, the priority is to get the children out of the building above all else. Second, we make sure any medications which children have is brought out side as well. We have observed children, upon hearing the fire drill, quickly and calmly line up with dress-up clothes, paint smocks, etc. We praise them for their ability to know exactly what to do in the event of an emergency. Chief Garewski, Chief of Public Safety at ECSU, is always extremely impressed with the children's cooperation during this important drill.

## Ella's Library Nook:

A special place for borrowing books for family reading time

### Playaway View arrives at Ella's Library Nook

by Hope Marie Cook

This fall the J. Eugene Smith Library purchased a small collection of Playaway Views for two special libraries located on Eastern's campus. The all-in-one preloaded digital player is small enough to be handheld and controlled with just a few intuitive buttons, and has a durable, scratch-resistant viewing screen that is comparable in size to the screen found on a GPS.

The player features educational content with curriculum-aligned programming that spans the K-12 curriculum. Most of the preloaded, kid-friendly content derives from award-winning programs such as PBS Kids, National Geographic, Sesame Street and Sesame Workshop, as well as Weston Woods, TumbleBooks, and Spoken Arts Publishing and Studios.

The portable format allows one to listen and read in any setting, and picks up the story from where it is turned off. Additionally, the words are highlighted as the player audio narrates the text, creating an excellent learning tool for those new to reading and English language learners. Each portable player comes in an easy to carry container and includes a built-in speaker, a rechargeable internal battery, and an electrical power adapter. Most units provide up to eight hours of continuous play, giving young users hours of gratifying instruction and entertainment.

For those who appreciate that knowledge can be accessed and presented in many different formats, including electronic, this might be just the right piece of technology for your child. The players circulate at Ella's Library Nook, in the Child and Family Development Resource Center (CFDRC).

