



Summer 2017 Newsletter



*Manager: Rachel Weber
Program Supervisor: Traci Adams
Administrative Resource Teacher: Sue
Brandenburg*

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2017 Family Program Evaluation Results

Thank you to the parents who participated in our Annual Family Program Evaluation, completing a Survey Monkey questionnaire and giving us valuable insight on the family perspective of life here at Meriter Children's Center. 23 surveys were completed, representing 30% of Meriter Children's Center families. Attached you will find the strengths, areas for improvement, and a comparison from 2016. We are happy to see positive results in every area of improvement from last year! The results of the survey were very strong in supporting the hard work that is done each and every day here.

Action Plans for 2017/2018:

- Change for this year
-

Fall Teaching Teams

We would like to share our fall teaching teams and take time to introduce our new teachers! For those who will be transitioning to a new room; Polliwogs, Frogs, Chipmunks and older Owls, you should of received more information on transitions and a welcome packet for your new classroom. Please let us know if you haven't.

- **Badger Room (3-5 year olds)-Mary T, Vicki, and Laura**

The Badger Room will graduate some of their children and send them off to kindergarten and 4K. Many will also stay through the year in addition to joining our 3 year old Chipmunk & Owl friends.

- **Owl Room (2 year olds)-Holly Cl, Chris, Sharon**

The Owl room will add some of our current Frog friends as the teachers help transition them upstairs. We will have between 9-10 friends each day.

- **Chipmunk Room (2 year olds)-Michelle, Trudy, Rachel**

The Chipmunk room will have many 3 year olds who will transition into the Badger room . Our youngest Chipmunk friends will stay in the room and some of our current Frog friends will join them.

- **Polliwog (infants)-Emily, Melinda, Kristina, Danielle**

In September a brand new group of infants arrive to start in the Polliwog room. Our current Polliwog friends are all turning one and will move as a group to become Frogs!

- **Cub (infants)-Diane,Rhonda, Bridget, Bev**

Our Cub room will keep the current group of smiling babies in here until March/Apr. 2018

- **Frog (1 year olds)-Jodi,Holly Craig,Wendy K**

This will be home for our current Polliwogs as they move up together, and the current Frogs all hop upstairs into the two year old rooms!

- **Bear (1 year olds)-Molly,Wendy Y,Nicole**

Our Bear room friends will hibernate (or be active one year olds!) in here until March 2018

[Also, make sure to check out the article attached for some great transition tips!](#)



Welcome Natalie !

WELCOME **Natalie Zimmerman!** Natalie joined our team in June and has done a wonderful job of supporting our youngest infants. She is a full time student at Edgewood College pursuing a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Special, and Regular Ed. She is from a small town just outside of Madison and is excited to serve a community she cares for deeply in a field she has been passionate about since a young age! Natalie has worked in various positions related to early childhood education over the past 9 years and been in group childcare for the past 2 years. Natalie is dedicated to supporting the individual needs of each child and giving them the opportunity to explore their potential.

New Tuition and Payroll Deductions

Tuition rates for the 2017/2018 school year are attached to this newsletter and will become effective **Sept. 11th**. We are pleased to announce that due to the continued increase in our enrollment, we have been able to keep our tuition increase to only **1%** this year! You will soon be receiving a new parent agreement to sign and return. Unity Point-Meriter employees may also sign up for payroll deduction during this time for the year.

PLEASE advise Sue Brandenburg (susan.brandenburg@unitypoint.org) if you have signed up for TASC, before the end of this year.



Calendar of Events for 2017/2018 is here!
Please mark these upcoming dates on your calendar....

September

Monday, Sept. 4th CLOSED ALL DAY

Tuesday, Sept. 5th CLOSED ALL DAY

Wednesday, Sept. 13th Welcome Families Night 4:30-6:30pm

Wednesday, Sept. 20th Parent Advisory Council 4-5pm, Gym

October

Monday, Oct. 16th CLOSED ALL DAY FOR STAFF ED. TRAINING- Flyer attached. Parents are welcome to attend the morning session! Sorry, no children or child care will be provided.

Meriter Children's Center Curriculum Corner:

Field Trips & Enrichment Programs

Here's the scoop on some of our latest adventures provided by the enrichment program and team...



Music Together with Krystal:

Yoga and Mindfulness with Bev: This month we jumped on farm theme from our recent trip to the Petting Farm We started yoga with a story called *A Farmer's Life For Me* by Jan Dobbins. This is a very cute book on CD with country sounding flute, guitar, and fiddle music. The simple refrain "1 2 3 it's a farmers life for me" is one that the children can learn quickly and anticipate throughout the song. After listening to the tale, we pretended to be scarecrows, windmills, a farmer driving his tractor, apple trees, cherry trees, cows, cats, ducks, mice, pigs, and birds using our imagination to "stretch" standard

poses. It is such fun to listen to the children giggle as they try poses as animals, and create their own poses as they think of one I forgot. Next up...Pirate Yoga!

Gardening: We have been taste testing the greens and root garden the past few weeks. They are eating spinach, red and green lettuce, several varieties of radish, kale, mixed Swiss chard, and the carrots and beets are now starting to grow well. It appears a favorite right now is the Swiss chard. The children are very interested in helping with the care and watering of the garden as well.

Art Studio with Rachel and Anne: Our art studio has moved outside this summer so we can enjoy the art outdoors! This month we had a Lemonade Art Studio including homemade lemonade, printing with lemons , rolling lemons in paint and frozen shaving cream in the sensory table.

Homemade Ziplock Lemonade:

½ Cup Water

1 quarter lemon

1 t sugar

Add a Straw and Enjoy!

Additional Special Events included: We went to the Fitchburg Splash Pad and will soon head to the Dream Park in Cottage Grove in August along with make pizzas, and explore bubbles with Anne & Sue!

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Current Members and Open Positions

Current Members:

Jennifer Canty-President

Amy Pawlitzke-Vice-President

Treasurer- Shannon Morrison





Secretary-Rachel Behl

Parents at Large- 3 OPEN Positions

Next PAC meeting is: Wednesday, September 21st 4-5pm in Tower C Conference (hospital cafeteria)

Please join us, all families are welcome!

Become a member and:

-  Be actively involved in your child's education & care
-  Bring the family's perspective and voice into our program
-  Get the "inside scoop" on program, budget, policies, tuition rates, etc.
-  A flyer is attached on our current openings with more info!

MCC Policy Corner:

New closing time 5:45:

Late fee policy:

Due to our State licensing operational requirements, the following recommendations have been suggested by the MCC-PAC group. The following Late fee policy will become effective 9/12/16 with the new school contracts:

- \$15 charge for the start of each 15 minute period beyond the child's 9.5 hour schedule.
- \$25 charge for the start of each 15 minute period after we close at 5:45pm.

Tornado and other Emergency Situations:

In the case of a tornado warning: Children will go to the gym and/or basement for safety. The gym was built to specifications that will withstand a tornado. In the case of an imminent threat to our building, or where we have a small group of children, everyone will be taken down to the basement which is located in the lower level of our west stairwell.

New Tuition Rates for 2017/2018 School Year

Meriter Employees Tuition Rates			Meriter Community Rates Premium Tuition Rates		
2017/2018					
OPTION A - Full Time Enrollment			OPTION A - Full Time Enrollment		
	Weekly	Biweekly	Weekly	Biweekly	
Polli,Cub	\$ 377.00	\$ 754.00	\$ 410.00	\$ 820.00	
Frog,Bear	\$ 365.00	\$ 730.00	\$ 397.00	\$ 794.00	
Chip, Owl	\$ 322.00	\$ 644.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 700.00	
Badger	\$ 305.00	\$ 610.00	\$ 331.00	\$ 662.00	
OPTION B - PT, Fixed Schedule			OPTION B - PT, Fixed Schedule		
	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	
Polli,Cub	\$ 98.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 106.00	\$ 64.00	
Frog,Bear	\$ 85.00	\$ 57.00	\$ 103.00	\$ 62.00	
Chip, Owl	\$	\$	\$	\$	

	84.00	50.00
Badger	\$ 79.00	\$ 47.00

	91.00	55.00
	\$ 87.00	\$ 52.00

DROP-IN CHILD CARE	
Hourly (up to 5 hours)	\$ 10.00
Half Day (5 hours)	\$ 50.00
Daily (5+ to 9.5 hours)	\$ 100.00

DROP-IN CHILD CARE	
Hourly (up to 5 hours)	\$ 15.00
Half Day (5 hours)	\$ 75.00
Daily (5+ to 9.5 hours)	\$ 150.00

Infant Rooms: Polliwog, Cub

Toddler Rooms: Frog, Bear

Twos Rooms: Chipmunk, Owl

Preschool Rooms: Badger

Minimum Enrollment is .4 fte biweekly

*Attendance is limited to a 9.5 hour day

Full Day is attendance 5+ to 9.5 hours

Half Day is attendance 5 hours or less

*A **Late Fee** will be charged for pick up times after scheduled attendance hours or after 6pm.

A **Sibling Tuition Discount** of 10% will be applied to the oldest child(ren)'s tuition

A Non-Refundable **Registration Fee** of \$75.00 is required for enrollment (\$20.00 for Drop-In)

A Non-Refundable \$225 **Tuition Deposit** (applicable towards first months' tuition)

A **"Hold" Tuition Fee** of \$250 Biweekly is required to hold an opening beyond 3 weeks

For information on child care expense savings through **Meriter's Flexible Spending Account** (pretax deductions for dependant care), contact Patti Ripp in Human Resources, x76837.

For information on **Financial Assistance** for child care tuition contact:

WI Shares Program/Dane Co. Jobs Center (242-7441)

City of Madison Office of Community Services (266-6520)

UWChild Care Tuition Assistance Office (265-9662)

NEW RATES EFFECTIVE September 12th, 2016

Try this "I love you ritual"....

Hello, Toes/Good-bye, Toes

Preparation and Instructions: This game is wonderful to play while dressing or undressing your child. Take off the child's shoes and socks.

The Game: Once the shoes and socks are off the child's feet, bring one of the child's feet close to your face or move your face close to the child's foot and say "Hello, toes." At this point, you could look at them, blow on them, count them, touch them or nibble at them. Quickly say, "Good-bye, toes" and hide the toes from your sight. Then begin with a hide and seek dialogue. "Where did those toes go? I just had them in my hand. They were so lovely. Now I have lost them. Oh dear, what will I do? Maybe I put them here." (Search for the feet all over the child.) You can then do the same with your child's hand and say "Hello, hand" or other body parts.

