



CHILDREN'S CENTER CHATTER

October 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I wanted to welcome everyone to the MCC Children's Center! It is wonderful to see returning faces and I am working hard at getting to know all the new faces as well. I hope the semester has been going well for each of you.

As you may have heard or read, the flu season is upon us. With the addition of the H1N1 virus, this year is expected to be particularly bad for large numbers of the population. We have been asked by not only the Maricopa County Health Department, but also the Maricopa County Community College District Office to report any suspected and/or confirmed cases of, in particular, H1N1 but also seasonal flu. If you or your child develops flu like symptoms we ask you to stay home and call us to let us know. There are several fliers posted around our center with a list of symptoms of both the flu and a common cold. Please take some time to read these fliers.

Additionally, immunizations play a part in this epidemic. The County Health Department has recommended that all individuals receive the seasonal flu vaccination. We have posted information about vaccination opportunities that are free, for those who qualify, and some that have a minimal cost. If you have questions about whether you should get the vaccination, please consult your doctor or your child's pediatrician. If you do choose to allow your child to receive the

seasonal flu and/or H1N1 vaccination, please let us know, so we can update your child's immunization record. This vaccination is not yet required by the state, but they are asking us to report on the number of children who have received the vaccination. Your participation regarding this matter will help us out tremendously. Regarding immunizations, you may have also received a sheet saying your child needs to have his or her immunizations updated. This information is requested of us each year by the Department of Health. If you do not update your child's shot record by November 2, your child will be disenrolled from the Children's Center. Please read the form carefully. There is information attached to the form you received about free vaccination clinics around the Valley. If you have any questions about this please see Rita or me.

We are looking forward to a great fall semester and hope that everything is going well for you too. If there is anything we can do to help you along the way, please don't hesitate to talk to the teachers or the office staff. If we don't know the answers we will find the people who do. Enjoy the cool October weather!

Kris Bliss
Interim Supervisor

EAST ROOM NEWS

Dear Families,
Our semester is off to a great start! We have spent much of the last month getting to know one another and the classroom. Several children created family pages with photos and drawings. The children enjoyed sharing the pictures of their families with their friends at circle time and putting them up on the wall in the classroom. If your child has not made a family page yet and would like to, I encourage him/her to make one. If it is easier, you can send your child to school with pictures and a teacher can help your child create one at school. Making these family pages helps children make a connection between home and school and lets them share some of his/her home life with friends.

The children are very excited about our pet hermit crab, Snoopy. We did a week long unit on hermit crabs learning about how to care for them, how they grow and change shells and brainstormed what other kinds of animals live in shells. We also read, A House

for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle several times using different props.

The children are enjoying our current unit on snakes. We have observed a variety of snake pictures, learned why snakes stick their tongues out, traced laminated snakes at the writing table, played with plastic snakes and leaves in the sensory table, made spiral snakes using scissors at the art table and have read a wide variety of snake books in the library. You may have heard your child tell you about our boa constrictor poem that we have been acting out. You may remember the poem from your own childhood; the title is Boa Constrictor by Shel Silverstein. We have acted out the poem many times with a snake hand puppet. Soon the children will be introduced to the boa constrictor's "cousin" - this boa constrictor is made from a large bed sheet. Some of the snake topics in the weeks to come include, a snake's diet, prey vs. predators and a snake's habitat.

EAST ROOM NEWS CONT.

Many of the topics we talk about at school are directly related to what the children are interested in. If you hear your child talking about a particular subject/topic at home

please share that with the teachers so we can try to incorporate that interest into our curriculum.

The East Room Staff

WEST ROOM NEWS

We are off to a great start this semester. Everyone has been working wonderfully together, they are all eager to learn and help each other in the room. During their time at the Center your children have been actively involved in learning through play. Play, active learning environments, and social interactions with other children, and adults are the ways young children learn best, and that is what you will see in our classroom. Our teaching style is based on the emergent curriculum. The 'themes' and activities provided are built around the children's interests, ideas, and needs, thus making the learning process positive, developmentally appropriate, meaningful, and enjoyable for the children.

There is already a growing interest in emergent writing and early math concepts. Over the course of the semester we will continue doing lots of activities to encourage fine motor control, letter recognition, and age appropriate math skills. You will be able to see the growth of our curriculum by watching the information posted on the bulletin board along with the photographs taken during the day and the children's work as it continues to be displayed on our

classrooms walls. Information on various "developmental" topics can be found next to the sign-in/out book on top of the children's cubby shelves and on our classroom bulletin board.

As parents'/guardians we invite you to visit and join us anytime throughout the day. It may just be to stop by and say hello to your child between classes, or to join us for lunch, circle time or play.

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding your child or our program, please don't hesitate to ask. We as teachers are here for you.

Sincerely,
The West Room Teachers

Reminder: Each child also has his/her own "cubby" and art folder, where you will find further announcements along with art work and other belongings to take home. The cubby space is also where your child may keep his/her extra change of clothing. Please, remember to bring in a change of clothes if you have not already done so.

AFTERNOON / EVENING NEWS

The semester is off to a great start. Have you noticed color art work on display in the classroom? We have just completed a unit on color. The children made artwork with the colors red, blue, orange, purple, yellow, green, and pink. They also had the opportunity to color mix with water colors to see what would happen when they mixed certain colors together or to create their own colors.

With the arrival of autumn this month and October here at last, we will be starting some projects with pumpkins. We will also be doing some activities with apples and leaves. The children will be doing art projects and participating in

cooking experiences.

We welcome family participation. Please feel free to visit our classroom at any time. If there is anything we can do to help don't hesitate to ask our teachers. We wish you continued good luck with your classes for the semester.

Afternoon/Evening Staff

