

Parent Connection Update

SEPTEMBER 22, 2009



Welcome!

Welcome to Jack and Jill Childcare!

We welcome you to our program and invite you to ask any questions you may have along the way.

We are here to provide a safe, loving, caring, and nurturing educational program for your child.

Thank you for joining our program and we look forward to serving you.

**Carol Arens,
Administrator
carol@jackandjilledu.com**

**St. Anthony Center:
Phone: 612.455.8955
Fax: 612.455.8958**

**Blaine Center:
Phone: 763.784.1451
Fax: 763.757.2942**

**Visit us on the web:
Jackandjilledu.com**

Parent Meet-and-Greet

Thank you for taking the opportunity to meet your child's teachers last week during our back to school meet-and-greet night.

Jack and Jill Welcomes Happy Feet Dance - September 15th!

Jenny Hansell of Happy Feet Dance began dance classes Tuesday, September 15th. Dance times are as follows: Blaine 10:45 am; St. Anthony at noon. Registration is still underway - forms are near the parent sign-in area. Classes are filling up so please be sure to register.

Jack and Jill Welcomes Denise Meyer & American Sign Language Training - September 16th!

We will begin offering bi-monthly American Sign Language Instruction to our 2 ½ to 5 year old Preschool classrooms as of Wednesday, September 16th. Classes will be the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Denise has taught our staff ASL for several years and has provided parent classes at our center typically twice per year.

The instructor, Denise Meyer, holds a degree in Psychology and American Sign Language Studies and has used ASL in her work with young children since 1989. She has taught thousands of parents, childcare providers and teachers nationwide how to use this tool with infants, toddlers and preschoolers with her uniquely simple and effective training method with both English and Spanish-speaking participants. Her work has been featured nationally on PBS, ABC, NBC, FOX and UPN news affiliates, as well as in numerous newspapers and magazines, including the Minneapolis Star Tribune, St. Paul Pioneer Press, Baby Times and Minnesota Parent. She is author of the upcoming book, ***The SignBridge Method: Communicating in Multilingual Settings with Sign Language.***

Parent Teacher Conferences:

Fall conferences are scheduled as follows:

- St. Anthony: Monday November 30th through Thursday, December 3rd
 - Blaine: Monday, December 7 through December 10th
- Sign up sheets will be posted in early November.

Family Fall Harvest Fun Night:

Mark your calendars for this year's Family Fall Harvest Fun Night! The evening includes games, prizes, kid-friendly snacks, pumpkin cookies and juice.

There will be a Pumpkin Bean Bag Toss, Duck Pond, Pick-A-Pop, Fish Pond, Coloring Contest, Face Painting, and Arts & Crafts!

Plan on attending this event with your family:

- Blaine's Event: Wednesday, October 21st 4-6 pm
- St. Anthony's Event: Thursday, October 22nd 4-6 pm

Classroom Picture Day:

Classroom photos are scheduled to be taken by Clarissa Hadler of Lilypad Photography. Clarissa recently did our individual child photos this summer and families were very pleased with her photography. You are welcome to visit her website at:

www.lilypadphotography.com to view her work.

Sibling photographs will not be taken at the time of the Classroom Photo schedule. If a family wants a sibling photo, they should contact Clarissa directly via phone (507) 732-5720 or email at clarissa@lilypadphotography.com

Photo Schedule is as follows:

St. Anthony Child Picture Days: Beginning at 7:00 am

- Infants: Tuesday, October 6, 2009
- Toddlers: Wednesday, October 7, 2009
- Preschool: Thursday, October 8, 2009

Blaine Child Picture Days: Beginning at 7:00 am

- Infant and Preschool: Tuesday, October 13, 2009
- Toddlers: Wednesday, October 14, 2009

You do not need to sign up for your child's picture to be taken. If the picture day is scheduled on a day that your child does not normally attend, you are encouraged and welcome to bring your child in to have their picture taken. All children will receive a classroom composite.

JJ'S Jam:

Registration is underway for our school release days for elementary age school children Kindergarten through 6th grade. Brochures are available at the table near the office. Days fill up fast and space is limited. Field trip and fun each day. Any questions regarding JJ's Jam School Age Care should be directed to the office via email Anna annam@jackandjilledu.com or Carol carol@jackandjilledu.com

Say No to Baby TV

Common Sense Media is dedicated to improving the media and entertainment lives of kids and families. Among other things this organization provides handouts for parents on the impact of the media on children that can be downloaded for free. In the handout:

- 61% of babies under 2 years old spend time in front of a screen (and 14% of babies are in front of a television or computer for two or more hours a day).
- 19% of children 1 year or younger have a TV in the bedroom.
- Each hour of viewing baby DVDs/videos is associated with lower vocabulary development for infants.

The handout's introduction points out:

"The programming is adorable. The packaging conjures up famous thinkers and composers. All of this baby media is part of a multimillion-dollar business — a good thing to think about when tempted to buy or use them. After all, you are your baby's best teacher. So when it comes to trying new ways to help your child think, you may want to start by putting that baby program on pause.

Families – Are You Aware of the New 2009 Car Seat Regulations?

Child Passenger Restraint Law Minnesota Statute 169.685, subd. 5

- Children under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches tall are required to be fastened in a child safety seat or booster seat that meets federal safety standards.
- Safety seats must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions:
 - Child must be secured in the safety seat
 - Seat must be secured to the vehicle with a seat belt or LATCH
 - Infants (under 20 pounds and under 1 year) must be in a rear-facing safety seat
- Law applies to all motor vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts
- Law applies to all seating positions
- Driver is responsible
- Petty misdemeanor fine for violation is \$50 (may be waived if violator shows proof of obtaining a safety seat within 14 days)
- Applies to both residents and non-residents of Minnesota
- Suspected non-use is a valid basis to stop a motor vehicle

Exceptions

- Children riding in emergency medical vehicles, when medical needs make use of a restraint unreasonable
- Children riding in a motor vehicle for hire, including a taxi, airport limousine or bus, but excluding a rented, leased or borrowed motor vehicle
- Children riding with a peace officer on official duty, when a restraint is not available (a seat belt must be substituted)
- Children certified by a licensed physician as having a medical, physical or mental disability that makes restraint use inadvisable
- Passengers in school buses

Minnesota Department of Public Safety • June 2009

Infant Room Changes – Please Read:

During a regularly scheduled monthly evaluation on 9/14/09, our Public Health Nurse of Health Consultants for Child Caring, Kathy Welch, updated us on recent Rule 3 legislative changes and requirements for programs caring for infants.

Some of these changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sole use of Sleep-Sacks (which we provide for families in our program).
- Sole use of One-Ply Light fabric receiving-style blanket.
- No use of Two-Ply blanket of any type (if you can pull the fabric into 2 parts it is considered a two-ply blanket)
- No use of fleece blankets or other heavier style weighted fabric.
- No Swaddling of any baby at any time (swaddling is defined as tightly wrapping and “restraining” a baby’s natural body movement.
- When a child is in its crib the blanket must be tucked in around 3 edges of the crib and not tucked around or underneath the child.
- Blankets cannot be placed over a child’s head and mouth area to assist in getting them to sleep. This method cannot be used with any other age group as well, including napping Toddler and Preschool children.
- If a parent insists that their infant child be placed on their stomach versus their back to put a baby to sleep, the family must complete the appropriately required paperwork at the time of the registration to be handled by administration. This pertains to infants that have not developed the ability to roll-over on their own.
- Effective immediately sleep sacks will solely be used in the Baby Bear rooms at both locations.
- Light one-ply blankets can be used in the Big Bear rooms at both centers effective immediately.
- Swings and bouncy seats will not be a replacement for an infant’s crib. If a baby falls asleep in a swing or bouncy seat the infant will be moved to their crib as soon thereafter as possible.
- Any parent questions regarding the new regulations that are not contained within the above described rules should be directed to carol@jackandjilledu.com or calling either of the center offices.





