

WMU Children's Place Learning Center



January 2011

Newsletter

Child pick up policy

There may be times in your busy life when you may need someone other than yourself to pick up your child from the Children's Place. We take our responsibility to your child very seriously. Therefore, we have a policy in place regarding who is authorized to pick up your child from the center. Our parent handbook states the

policy for persons authorized to pick up your child as follows:

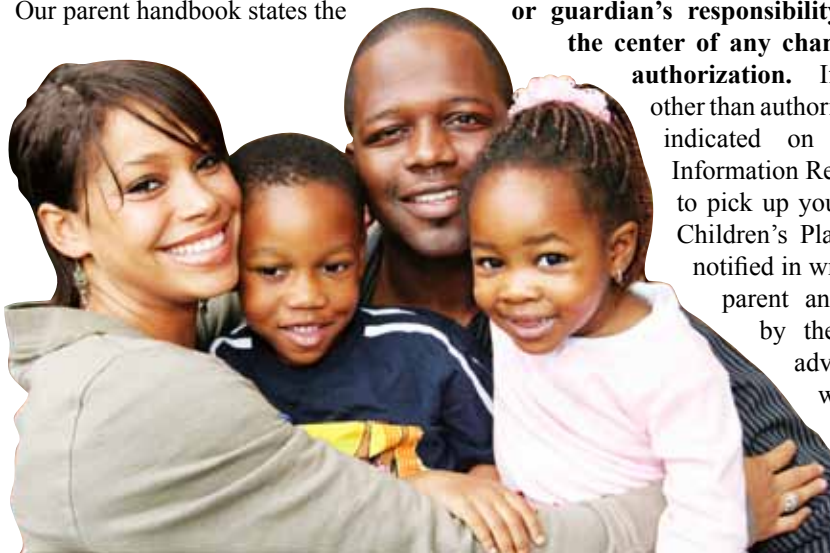
"At the time of enrollment, parents must provide the names and telephone numbers of persons authorized to drop off and pick up the child. **It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the center of any changes in this authorization.** If someone

other than authorized persons indicated on the Child Information Record card is to pick up your child, the Children's Place must be notified in writing by the parent and delivered by the parent in advance. We will release

children to authorized persons only. Photo identification or other official identification may be requested by a staff member before the child is released. Copies of legal documents must be provided to the Director before any staff member can actively prevent non-custodial parents from picking up their child."

If you prefer not to add a person's name to the Child Information Card, you may give us a written note (directly from you) in advance of the new person picking up your child. This person may **not** bring the note with them at the time of pick up. Please do not call us and request that a person not authorized be allowed to pick up your child. We will not be able to release your child to that person without advance written permission.

Please see Kathy or any Head Teacher if you have any questions.



Baby, it's cold out there

Winter is here. We go outside to play every day unless it is rainy or too cold. We define too cold as the temperature being in single digits after wind chill is taken into account.

Please bring suitable winter clothing for your child. You can leave some of these items in your child's locker or hook. **Please label them so we don't lose these valuable items.** (We have markers here if you would like to use them.) I often suggest an inexpensive pair of snow pants from Goodwill or a resale shop to leave at the center.

We strongly suggest the following items for your child for the rest of the winter:

- ▶ Warm coat
- ▶ Snow pants or extra pants to change into if their pants get wet
- ▶ Gloves or mittens (good to have even without snow)
- ▶ Hat or hood
- ▶ Extra socks (snow does get inside the boots sometimes)

Aggressiveness in children

Children who have not learned to control anger or frustration often resort to aggressive behavior. Aggression is a normal expression of emotion in young children. They have not yet learned acceptable ways to channel their anger.

Aggressive behavior includes hitting, throwing things, name-calling, spitting, biting, pushing or pulling, forcing someone to do or not do something, destroying property and taking someone else's possessions.

Our program recognizes the importance of dealing with aggressive behavior.

Teachers help children find acceptable ways to express their anger, negotiate to get what they want or need and handle aggression directed toward them by peers. We encourage children to express their feelings in words and to negotiate resolutions to conflict. We facilitate conversations between children when problems arise. Sometimes we even suggest words that help communicate the children's feelings. In time, with adult support, they are able to use these social skills to solve their own problems.

At home, when your child behaves aggressively, try redirecting his or her

attention by offering a choice of other activities. Emphasize words rather than actions. With time and practice, a child will learn to say, "I'm mad because I want to play with the truck," instead of lashing out.

As adults, we can help children learn to express negative emotions in more appropriate ways. And a positive attitude on our part is the best teacher.

Taken from Diffily, D., & Morrison, K. (Eds.). (1996). *Family-Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs*. Washington DC, DC: NAEYC.

Spring semester billing dates

Period covered	Payment due – Tuesdays	Late as of – Fridays
January 3 – January 16	January 4	January 14
*January 17 – January 30	January 18	January 28
January 31 – February 13	February 1	February 11
February 14 – February 27	February 15	February 25
**February 28 – March 13	March 1	March 11
March 14 – March 27	March 15	March 25
March 28 – April 10	March 29	April 8
April 11 – April 24	April 12	April 22
***April 25 – May 1	April 26	May 6

* Center closed: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday Jan 17. NO CHILD CARE AVAILABLE.

** Spring Break: February 28 – March 6. CENTER OPEN.

*** One week billing – end of semester.

Payments must be made to your University account. Please make checks payable to "WMU" and write your WMU identification number and "Childcare" on all checks. The University reserves the right to deny access to childcare to a family whose account is delinquent.

Important dates

- January 10** Classes resume
- January 17** Martin Luther King Jr. Day – center closed
- February 25** End of priority enrollment for summer I and II
- February 25** Spirit Day – center is open as usual
- February 28 - March 4** Spring Break begins
- March 4** Staff training day – center closed
- March 7** Classes resume after Spring Break



Program Director

Kathy Gilbert



Assistant Director and Head Preschool Teacher

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Jenny Fusciardi

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Off-site Administrator

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