

WMU Children's Place Learning Center



September 2010 *Newsletter*



Accreditation

We are proud to announce that the center has successfully been re-accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC Accreditation lets families and our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, we went

through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by an NAEYC Assessor to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. Programs are accredited by NAEYC for a five-year period.

We are one of four accredited centers in the Kalamazoo/Portage area. For more information about NAEYC Accreditation, visit www.naeyc.org/academy

Bridging home and school

We all know that if a bridge is not structurally sound, it will eventually collapse. Likewise, if relationships are not built on a sturdy foundation, they too will fail.

Too often parents and program staff are intimidated by each other. But by willingly beginning the home/school relationship with an open, sharing approach, we can build trust. Then, when issues arise – even sticky ones – we can talk about them without hesitation.

All of us here try to do our best to keep you informed. We post pertinent information on the parent bulletin boards. We send home other information in your child's folder or on the time key message system. We also want to talk with each of you often.

Feel welcome to visit the classroom at any time. Come eat lunch with us. Drop by and tell us a story or show us

something special. Or just take a break, have a seat and enjoy the children.

Clearly, ongoing interaction and support from both families and staff make the connection between home and school a two-way street. You can help by sharing information about your child with us. Especially during any crisis or period of change, when children are under stress and act or react differently, please keep us informed. Obvious times include a change in jobs, a move to a new house, or an illness or death in the family, but they also could involve the child experiencing nightmares, making changes in eating habits, and stopping or starting medication. Of course, anything you share with a member of our staff will be held in confidence.

In turn, we'll alert you to anything out of the ordinary that we might notice in your child here at the center. Only by sharing information can we build a bridge strong enough to support our children.

Excerpts from Family-Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs



Changes at WMU Children's Place

With the start of a new school year, we are seeing some staffing changes here at the center. While change can be stressful, we are working hard to make sure that children and families experience a smooth transition.

Miss Alison has moved on to the next step in her professional career in accepting a teaching position in the Battle Creek School System. Alison began at the Children's Place as the Head Toddler teacher three years ago. In January of

2009, Alison was promoted to the Assistant Director and Head Preschool Teacher position. We will miss her smiling face but wish her all the best in this new chapter of her professional life.

Miss Kristin is moving from the toddler room to the preschool room as the new Assistant Director and Head Preschool Teacher. Kristin has been the Head Toddler Teacher since March of 2009. We know the children in the toddler room will miss her but the good news is that they will once again be in her classroom when they move to the preschool room. This should make their transitions a little easier as they will be joining a familiar

face. Of course, Kristin will always be accessible to them and I'm sure she will visit the classroom often. She brings her experience and dedication to the preschoolers, and we are confident she will be a wonderful addition to the preschool room.

A search for another awesome toddler teacher is underway. We will continue to seek out the most highly qualified teacher for the toddler classroom. If you have any questions regarding the staffing changes, please feel free to discuss them with our Director, Kathy Gilbert.

Fall billing dates

Period covered	Payment due (Tuesdays)	Late as of (Fridays)
August 30 – September 12	August 31	September 10
September 13 – September 26	September 14	September 24
September 27 – October 10	September 29	October 8
October 11 – October 24	October 13	October 22
October 25 – November 7	October 27	November 5
November 8 – November 21	November 10	November 19
November 22 – December 5	November 24	December 3
December 6 – December 19	December 8	December 17
December 20 – December 24	December 22	January 7

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.



Announcements

Important dates

- August 23-September 2**... Break weeks – center open (must be pre-registered to attend)
- September 3**..... Staff Training Day – center closed
- September 6**..... Labor Day – center closed
- September 7**..... Classes begin
- October 14**..... Family Fun Night
- November 25-26**..... Thanksgiving recess – center closed
- November 29-December 3**..... Parent-teacher conferences
- December 13-17**..... Final exam week
- December 20-23**..... Break week – center open (must be pre-registered to attend)
- December 24-31**..... University closure – center closed
- January 3**..... Center re-opens

Program Director

Kathy Gilbert

Assistant Director and Head Preschool Teacher

Kristin Harte

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