

# WMU Children's Place Learning Center



March 2009 *Newsletter*

## The best learning is active learning

Active learning takes advantage of a child's natural desire to move and touch. Young children love to manipulate items and explore new ideas. They enjoy the opportunity to see how things work and to test their own theories.

Active learning takes advantage of a child's natural motivations, abilities, and interests. Kids get many opportunities to investigate what interests them, to solve problems, discover relationships and make comparisons.

Children use all of their senses to make discoveries: How heavy is it? Does it smell? Can I find another one that feels the same? What does it sound like when I drop it? How is it different from the other items? Using their hands, eyes, nose, ears, and mouth to explore an item, children gather more information and remember what they learn.

As they interact directly with the environment, children not only gather sensory information, they also refine their senses and motor skills. For example, it takes very refined movement of the hands and fingers to produce the penmanship required for writing. Squeezing clay, picking up puzzle pieces, and lacing threads through beads are ways for young children to practice using hands and fingers.

We organize the classroom environment to promote active learning, and we do many things to encourage children to think and talk about their discoveries and creations. The next time you want your child to learn about something, provide the materials, space and time. Then step back and watch. You will be surprised at how much more the child will discover through active involvement.



*Diffily, D. A., & EDS. (1996). Family-Friendly Communications for Early Childhood Programs. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.*

## Scholastic book orders



Scholastic book orders will be available again during the early weeks of March. Scholastic book orders offer parents the opportunity to purchase reasonably priced children's books. This year, the book orders will be online. You will receive a letter containing information about how to access orders.

Book orders should be placed at:  
[www.scholastic.com/parentordering](http://www.scholastic.com/parentordering)  
Class User Name: **wmuchildrensplace**  
Password: **western**

March book orders will be available online from March 9-13. You may begin to place orders during the WMU spring break as early as March 2. However, orders will not be finalized until March 13.

In addition to reasonably priced books for your family, your purchases earn free books for our classrooms. Books ordered through this program will be delivered to the center and distributed by our staff. In the past, turnaround time on books has been approximately one week.

## Changes in the toddler room

We are pleased to welcome **Kristin Cooper** as our new Head Toddler Teacher. A WMU graduate, Kristin completed her early childhood internship right here at the Children's Place in the toddler room the Fall 2007 semester. Kristin has a bachelor's degree in elementary education with an early childhood education endorsement. Since her graduation, she has been the Head Teacher in a preschool program. Her first day at the center will be March 2.

# Flu season is still here

Whether we welcome it or not, it seems the flu season arrives on schedule. There are numerous preventative measures we take at the center to help keep your child as healthy as possible. Some of the tasks include extra sanitizing of play equipment, extra careful hand-washing, and playing outside as often as the weather allows. Studies show that being cooped up inside only helps to spread illnesses. Taking children outside daily gives them the opportunity to get fresh air and work off some of the pent-up energy for which they are so famous.



**Here are some things you can do to help stop the spread of illness and keep all of us healthier:**

- 1. Keep your child home if he/she has any of the following symptoms:**
  - Appears ill, is abnormally pale or unable to comfortably participate in regular school activities
  - Is sweaty (when the weather is not hot) or has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher without Tylenol or Motrin
  - Has a cough or sneezing that is not normal for child
  - Complains of pain in the ears, throat, head or chest
  - Has thrown up in the past 12 hours, or had two or more episodes of diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- 2. Remind your child to cover coughs and sneezes.**
- 3. Remind your child to wash hands often, especially after coughs and sneezes.**

We will do our best to keep you informed of any illnesses at the center through the Time Key computer message system. If your child is ill and you have a diagnosis, please let us know so that we can inform the rest of our families as well. We also add “Cover Your Cough” curricular activities to the classroom at this time of year.

As a team, we can help keep everyone healthier and happier during the cold and flu season.

## Notes

Tax information is available at the bottom of your child’s billing statements. Our tax ID is also on your statement. If you need additional copies or other information, Kathy or Tracy should be able to help you.

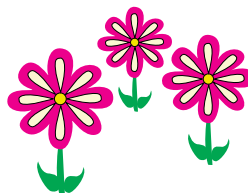
Did you know that past newsletters and articles are available on our website?

[www.wmich.edu/childrensplace](http://www.wmich.edu/childrensplace)

## Announcements

### Dates to remember:

- February 27 ..... Spirit Day – Center open
- March 2-5 ..... Spring Break – attendance must be reserved
- March 6 ..... Staff training day – Center closed
- March 16 ..... Fall priority enrollment begins
- March 22 ..... CAPE Meeting at 5:30 p.m.  
**Topic:** How to fund your child care when CAPE ends in September 2009
- April 1 ..... Exam and break week schedules due
- April 6-10 ..... Parent Teacher Conferences – sign up in child’s classroom
- April 20-24 ..... Final exam week
- April 25 ..... Fall priority enrollment ends
- May 4 ..... Summer I begins
- May 25 ..... Memorial Day – Center closed



### Program Director

Kathy Mohney



### Assistant Director and Head Preschool Teacher

Alison Frye

### Head Toddler Teacher

Kristin Cooper

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### Off-Site Administrator

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