Trinity News

April 2010

NAEYC Accredited, 2006 ~ 2011

Trinity Preschool of Berwyn

Dear Parents,

The teachers are very busy getting ready for parent/teacher conferences this month. Our new assessment system is a big change from our past practices, so there is a lot of information sharing and thought going into the whole process. It is fascinating to see where each of the children's development lies along this continuum.

In preschool, we have the opportunity to focus on a child's strengths, and offer a wide array of activities and experiences that each child can interpret at their own level. As a child moves on to more formalized education, the practices become less individualized and responsive given the nature of our school systems.

We are fortunate to be able to observe and assess children where they are, without forcing them to fit in to a given level or group in individual academic subjects. We know from the best child development research that preschool children thrive in an environment where they are encouraged to play and explore with different activities and materials. We know that preschool children who are given these opportunities are prepared for moving on to kindergarten. For the children who may not be fully ready, we are prepared to work with parents to plan the best alternative for them.

Trinity Preschool is fortunate to have the resources and qualified, experienced teaching staff to assess children in ways that are developmentally appropriate and meaningful. Our caring, thoughtful teaching staff wants each child to feel successful, to grow to love school, and to learn to care for one another. Their assessments will be a reflection of all of those objectives. We look forward to sharing our observations and insights with you.

Have a wonderful April!

Suzi Alrutz
Director, Trinity Preschool of Berwyn

Important Dates In April

Thursday-Friday, April 8-9	Art Goes to School
Week of April 18th	Week of the Young Child
Thursday-Friday, April 15-16	Fitness Days
Monday-Wednesday, April 19-21	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday-Friday, April 22-23	Milky Way Farm Field Trips
Monday-Tuesday, April 26-27	Hooray for Bugs! Interactive Performance
Week of April 26th	Earth Day Collections
Thursday-Friday, April 29-30	Dentist Visits

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Scheduling forms will be going home soon for Parent/Teacher conferences. Spring conferences are held for every child in the school to share information with parents about their child's development as observed at preschool, and to listen to your perceptions about your child's development. This semester, teachers have assessed each child using the *Developmental Continuum* assessment system. The *Developmental Continuum* addresses four areas of development ~ social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language. Children are assessed on fifty objectives.

At conferences, parents will share their observations with teachers, and will receive a summary form that talks about the fours areas of development as well as plans to support their child's continued development.

We look forward to sharing the information that teachers have been gathering about your child. If you have any questions before your conference, please contact your child's teacher or the Director.

Week of the Young Child

Each year, the National Association for the Education of Young Children *(NAEYC)* presents the *Week of the Young Child (WOYC)* to celebrate those in our community that support early childhood education.

Fitness Days, April 15th & 16th

Each spring, Trinity Preschool celebrates Fitness Days with the children. Special fun gross motor activities like biking, outdoor games, and special extra-healthy snacks are offered to the children. Watch for more info, as **children need to bring their own bicycle helmets labeled with their name in order to participate in the biking**.

Thanks to Sara Boye and her committee for coordinating!

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NAEYC Notes...

The National Association of Young Children *(NAEYC)* has set 10 quality standards, called Program Standards, for early childhood programs that are based on research on child development and education of young children.

Standard #1: ***Relationships***
(outlined in the March 2010 newsletter ~ can be found on www.trinitypreschoolofberwyn.com)

Standard #2: ***Curriculum***
In a NAEYC-accredited program, you should expect to see:

- Curriculum that addresses all aspects of child development.
- Children have opportunities to learn and develop through exploration and play.
- Materials and equipment encourage children to experiment and learn.
- Activities help children gain skills in solving problems, getting along with others, using language, and other areas.

There are 88 specific criteria that relate to meeting the Program Standard for ***Curriculum***. Some of them will be displayed this month on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway.

Special Thanks!

Special thanks to our ***Moms Helping Moms*** volunteers who patiently oversee infants and younger siblings in cars while mom or dad take care of morning drop-off in the classrooms. Rain, wind, cold blistery days ~ the ***Moms Helping Moms*** volunteers are always there to lend a helping hand... and a watchful eye! If you are interested in volunteering 10-15 minutes of your time, please contact Lisa Lawler at lisalawler@comcast.net.

Milky Way Farm Field Trips ~ All Classes!

All of the classes are planning field trips to Milky Way Farm. Teachers will be sending home information about the day and time to meet with your child's class. As a reminder of our school field trip procedure:

- Parents are responsible for getting their child to the farm.
- A certain number of chaperones will be assigned to each class. Parents who are not chaperones are asked to either arrange a carpool ride for your child to the trip, or run errands near the Farm while the tour takes place. There is only room for a certain number of children and parents on each tour, so only assigned chaperones can attend the tour.
- Assigned chaperones cannot bring siblings on the tour. We need the chaperones to attend to the children they are watching on the tour.

Milky Way is always a fun day for the children ~ we're looking forward to it! For more information on Milky Way Farms, visit *www.milkywayfarm.com*.

Your Feedback is Welcomed & Appreciated

The Annual Trinity Preschool Parent Meeting will be held on Friday, May 14th at 9:15 in the downstairs classroom. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with the Director and members of the Board of Directors to share their thoughts and experiences at Trinity, and to have input in the program goals set for the coming year. ***Please join us!***

Trinity Preschool's FIRST-EVER Pre-K Yearbook!

Kids love to hear about themselves...and reading about themselves is even better! This yearbook will be a record of all the important experiences, memories and facts about the experience of the 2009~2010 Pre-K class at Trinity Preschool, as they make their march towards Kindergarten.

You may think you'll always remember your child's favorite food, favorite movie, what they want to be when they grow up, and what their favorite thing was about their preschool experience. Although it may seem fresh in your mind now, with time, it's easy to forget those special details. As the yearbook committee works diligently over the next month to produce the full-color yearbook and have it professionally printed, you will receive more information over the coming weeks. The cost is $12.00 per yearbook and Trinity is covering the remaining cost as a graduation gift to the Pre-K class. Order forms will go out this week and the yearbooks will be handed out at each graduation reception in May. Questions can be sent to Nicole Bennyhoff at nicolebennyhoff@gmail.com.

Won't it be nice for you and your child to have something to look back on later when preschool is a distant memory?