

Trinity News

March 2010

Trinity Preschool of Berwyn

NAEYC Accredited, 2006 ~ 2011

Dear Parents,

An integral part of our program is building relationships with children, and guiding them as they develop relationships with other children. I was able to observe a teachable moment the other day in one of our classrooms, as the teacher took the opportunity to teach a hands-on lesson in empathy.

One of our PreK children and her family presented some of the customs of their culture, including a feast of their traditional food. Anticipating some of the children's possible responses to food that was new and different for them, the teacher took the time to teach manners about what we say when we don't like something. An important step further, the teacher talked about how it makes a friend feel when we say something that might offend them. I was delighted and proud to see that all of the children tried the food. Some of them did not finish it, but each of them learned that day not only about the foods of a different culture, but about how to think about others' feelings. These are lessons that are learned best in an environment that feels safe and comfortable, where children have learned to trust and respect their teachers and peers.

Empathy is a complex life skill that takes children a long time to learn. Preschool is the perfect place for young children to talk about it, to see it modeled, and to practice it under the guidance of a caring adult. This is the kind of learning that allows children to develop successful relationships throughout their lives.

Have a wonderful March and start of Spring!

Suzi Alrutz
Director, Trinity Preschool of Berwyn

Important Dates In March

Thursday, March 4	No School, Teacher In-Service
Friday, March 5	Original Artworks Orders Due
Monday, March 8 - March 31	Caring Cupboard Collections
Thursday, March 11	Parent Volunteer Coffee, 9:15-10:00
Friday, March 12	Parent Volunteer Coffee, 9:15-10:00
Sunday, March 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Friday, March 26	Child ID Program

Caring Cupboard ~ March 2010 Collections

Trinity Preschool collects food and household items in October and March of each school year for the *Caring Cupboard* food bank at Trinity Presbyterian Church. *Caring Cupboard* provides emergency food to local families and individuals in need. We will begin collecting in classrooms next week, the week of March 8th, and will collect through the end of March. Watch for more information and thank you for your generous support.

Trinity's Admissions Policy

Trinity Preschool admits children regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Scholarship funds may be available from a donation from St. John's Presbyterian Church and FLITE. Please contact Suzi Alrutz, *Director*, if there is a need for assistance.

Create Memorabilia From Your Child's Artwork

Please submit your little artists' originals by Friday, March 5th. Their masterpieces can be turned into a variety of great gift items. Sample creations are available to view outside of the Moms & Tots room.

Thank You, Parent Volunteers!

Whether you've helped us for an hour or every day, the staff of Trinity Preschool would like to invite you for coffee and homemade goodies as a special thank you for all you do. Please join us in the downstairs room, next to the Moms & Tots room, on Thursday and Friday, March 11th and 12th from 9:15 ~ 10:00. We couldn't do it without you!

Parent/Teacher Conferences ~ Date Change Reminder

Please remember that Parent/Teacher Conferences will now be held the week of April 19th. Forms will be coming home in early April. Teachers are working on child assessments on an ongoing basis. If teachers feel that children's class placements may need to be changed for next year, they will be contacting you near the end of March to discuss.

Child ID Program, Free ID Card and Amber Alert CD ~ DATE CHANGE

The Child ID Program will be held **Friday, March 26th**. All spots have been taken for that day. For those who signed up for the cancelled sessions, the same program will be held at: St. Matthews Methodist Church, 600 Walker Road, Wayne, on March 21st, from 12:00 ~ 2:00 pm.



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NOTES...

A 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.

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C As we enter our year of self-assessment for NAEYC reaccreditation, we will focus on one Program Standard each month. Thousands of early childhood experts and educators have contributed to the development of these standards. Here are some of the things you should expect to see at Trinity Preschool as we maintain these standards:

Standard #1: **Relationships**

- *Children and adults feel welcome. Teachers help new children adjust to the environment and make friends with other children.*
- *Teachers engage in warm, friendly conversations with the children and encourage and recognize children's work and accomplishments.*
- *Children are encouraged to play and work together.*
- *Teachers help children resolve conflicts by identifying feelings, describing problems, and trying alternative solutions. Teaching staff never physically punish children.*

There are 37 specific criteria that relate to meeting the Program Standard for Relationships. See some of them illustrated on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway.

Special Thanks!

Thanks to Sandra Simpson and Michelle Lynch, for pitching in to shovel and salt the sidewalks during the snow.

Thanks to the Simpson family for the donation of puzzles.

Thanks to Denise Orsulak, Amanda Ivory, Vivian Lee, and their crew of volunteers who collected and sorted cars full of shoes and toys for our February *Cradles to Crayons* and *Shoes for Haiti* drives. Thanks to Karen Wilder for driving the shoes to Wilmington for the shoe drive. Even through all of the snow delays, the families of Trinity Preschool demonstrated their generosity with donations. Thanks to all who coordinated and supported these efforts.

Snow Days & Re-Scheduled Classes

FYI ~ Regular classes will make up any snow days after 3 missed days. Teachers will be in touch to plan make up sessions for those who have missed more than the allotted 3 days. Make up times may be outside of usual class times depending on staff and room availability. Enrichment classes will make up any more than 1 missed class. Teachers will reschedule ~ watch for more information. Spring is less than 3 weeks away!

Flat Screen TV + Kids = safeTVision

Parents looking to protect their flat screen TV from flying objects, crayons, fingers, dust and scratches can now do so with a new product called safeTVision. SafeTVision is a clear protective cover for flat screens of any size and make.

Through a special campaign for the month of March, safeTVision will donate \$5 to Trinity Preschool for every screen purchased. Families should enter a special coupon code "trinity" during online checkout and will also save on shipping for all local orders.

Prices vary according to size. For a 32" flat screen TV the cost is \$41.75, 40/42" TV screen is \$54.75, and for a 50/52" flat screen TV cost is \$69.98. It is easy to install and offers a seamless viewing experience, and most importantly, peace of mind for owners of flat screen TVs.

www.safeTVision.net



Take Time To Chase The Snowflakes...

