



# Early Years Advisor

Danville Child Development Center

WE DO MORE THAN CHILD CARE

[www.danvillecdc.org](http://www.danvillecdc.org)

OCTOBER 2013

## REMINDERS:

**DCDC Family Fun Night** will be **October 17th.**

**DCDC Costume Parade** will be at **10:00 on October 31st**

**Preschool's Trunk or Treat** will follow the **Costume Parade**

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## A Note from the Executive Director

Welcome to a new school year! Although we are a month in (already!), we are excited about all the great things we have coming up throughout! We are planning lots of terrific events for our children, our families, and our staff to be involved in. We know that families that participate in activities with their children, help their children be successful in school! We have a variety of agency wide programs planned, and our classrooms will have opportunities for all as well!

October is PA's Promise for Children Month! Statewide, programs and families celebrate quality early education and

the families, teachers and leaders that help our young children reach their promise every day. We are celebrating locally with our Annual Family Fun Night (October 17) and Scholastic Book Fair. Also, on October 22, Child Care Information Services is hosting a Reading Round Up at our Bloom Rd site. Be sure to take a minute to check out the lobby artwork by our future Mommies, Daddies, Teachers, Pirates, and more! For more information on this special month, visit <http://papromiseforchildren.com/be-a-childrens-champion/pa-promise-month/>.

We also have opportunities for families to get involved! Celebrity Waiter, our biggest fundraiser, needs assistance with decorating, and gathering items for our auction. The committee meets about every six weeks, here at DCDC. It's definitely the most FUNdraiser around! We also have a few openings on our Board of Directors starting in January. The Board meets monthly. If you are interested in participating in either or both, please let me know – [ddixon@danvillecdc.org](mailto:ddixon@danvillecdc.org). We'd love to have you join us!



## How to Support Children's Approaches to Learning? Play with Them!

By Gaye Gronlund

As a parent, you want your children to learn all that they can—to grasp math concepts, to be curious about exploring the world, and to learn to read and write. Did you know that you can help your son or daughter academically by playing with them? Play and learning go together!

What kind of play helps children learn the best? Play that really engages children—play that they will focus on and stay with even when problems arise. This kind of play helps children develop their approaches to learning—in other words, the ways they respond to learning situations. Curiosity about the world, initiative and problem solving, and focused attention and persistence are just a few approaches to learning that children develop through play.

In the early years, parents can help

children develop the skills to be better students by playing with them. Yes, as they enter kindergarten and the elementary years, children need to have some understanding of letters and numbers. However, if they have not developed solid approaches to learning, they will not be as successful in school settings.

### Encouraging Toddlers at Play

Joey is 20 months old. He has a basket full of toys, including rattles, soft plastic blocks, a set of stacking rings, stuffed animals, and cloth and plastic books. Joey's dad often sits down on the floor with Joey and invites him to play with items in the basket. Joey's favorite activity is to dump out all of the toys and put the basket on his head! This is typical toddler play behavior. Joey is curious about the world and is looking at it another way—through the slats in the basket!

Joey loves to shake the rattles to hear the different sounds or to stack two or three blocks and knock them down. His attention to each might be up to five minutes or so, which is just right for his age. He may solve problems as he tries to place the rings on the stacking post or to add more blocks to a tower.

Joey's dad encourages his curiosity. He comments about what he is doing: "I see you are trying to get that last ring on the post, but it just won't fit." Or he asks him questions: "Where did that ball go? Do you see it hiding behind the chair?" He connects his play to learning by responding positively to his interest: "I can tell you like to look through the basket, you silly boy. Does everything look different from under there?" He also encourages him by asking him to keep trying even when he gets frustrated. "Oh, those blocks keep falling down, don't they? Can you try to put just one on top of



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another gently? Let's see what happens. I'll help you." This encouragement fosters his perseverance, his attention, and his initiative at problem solving, all positive approaches to learning.

### Encouraging Preschoolers at Play

Alicia is 4 years old. She loves to dress up in her mommy's clothes, jewelry, and shoes and then pretend to go shopping, care for her baby dolls, and cook dinner. Through her pretend play Alicia learns to think abstractly. When she holds a block in her hand and uses it to pretend to talk on the phone, she is using the block as a symbol for something else. That's abstract thinking in action! And, since letters and numbers are abstract because they are symbols of what they represent, pretend play is one way a child develops her understanding of letters and numbers.

Alicia's mom and dad have recognized that supporting her pretend activities keeps her engaged for 10 to 15 minutes at a time. They pretend right along with her, asking her to "bake some cookies" or to "go grocery shopping" for them. They give her paper and crayons so that she can pretend to write grocery lists. They encourage her to count how many items she has placed in her toy shopping cart. They accept her scribbles and letter-like shapes as her writing (just right for 4-year-olds) and help her when the numbers get a little mixed up.

Alicia will work with puzzles for long periods of time, too, especially if her dad joins her. Together, they figure out strategies for putting the pieces together. She may turn the pieces around, trying out different ways until she is successful. She is developing problem solving and persistence as she does so.

### Your Role as Your Child Plays

Playing with your child helps keep your child engaged in the kind of play where learning occurs. Your interest, questions, and comments as you play alongside will help your child use toys productively. And the two of you will have lots of fun together! Most importantly, you will be working toward your child's future success as a student by building important approaches to learning. Play and learning go together!

- See more at: <http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/child-development/how-support-children%E2%80%99s-approaches-learning-play-them#sthash.GGkXJWK1.dpuf>

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## Staffing Scoop



My name is Denise Zaruta and I am the Receptionist here at DCDC.

Professionally, I have been in childcare since 1985 and have held various positions including, Para-professional aide, Teacher and Administrative Assistant. I earned my Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education and my PA Director Credential. Throughout the years I have enjoyed touching minds and shaping the futures of our youth. Personally, my husband's name is Bill, I have 2 children Joshua

and Janae, 2 Stepchildren, Alyse and Bill, 3 beautiful Granddaughters, Evelyn, June and Adaline. In my spare time, I enjoy oil painting, hosting campfires with family and friends, reading and playing with our 2 Golden Retrievers, Max and Maggie



My name is Bill Boudeman. I have been working at Danville Child Development Center as bookkeeper since July 2010.

Prior to coming here, I worked 35 years at Danville State Hospital, retiring in September

2009 as the Accountant.

In my spare time I enjoy gardening, woodworking, volunteering and bowling. I also am one of the assistant girls' soccer coaches for the Danville Jr. high and varsity/J.V. soccer teams.

I reside in Danville with my wife, Kathy. I have two daughters, Stephanie who graduated from Virginia Tech, working at Target as Sr. Logistical Analyst, and Lisa who graduated from Penn State with a B.A. in Environmental Science, working in Elizabethtown PA at the Material Matters as an Environmental Specialist.

## ~Early Intervention

### Is Your Child on Track?

Every child grows and learns new things at his or her own pace. Children may vary by as much as 6 months in some of the things they are able to do. If you have any concerns about your child's development, call Early Intervention (EI). Please feel free to also speak with Jen Hipps, our Early Intervention coordinator and Infant/Toddler Specialist.

### What is Early Intervention (EI)?

EI consists of services and supports designed to help families with children who have developmental delays. While all children grow and change at their own rate, some children can experience delays in the development. Sometimes this can be cause for concern. EI provides supports and services to young children and their families/caregivers to help the child grow and develop.

### Who is eligible?

Infants, toddlers, and preschool children who have special needs due to a developmental delay or diagnosis are eligible to receive EI services.

### What are EI Supports and Services?

EI supports and services are provided at no cost to families. Services may include: information on how children develop skills and abilities; education and support for the parent/caregiver, and specific developmental therapies designed for their child. EI provides ideas for how a family can help their child at home as well as in the community and is individualized to enhance both growth and learning. If a child is attending an early care/education setting, EI teachers/therapists/specialists can assist the early childhood staff with strategies to promote the child's development. Early Intervention can also assist families in finding and linking to a variety of community services and supports.

### Where do children/families receive supports and services?

Service may be provided during the child's daily activities at home or in the community, at child care centers, nursery schools, play groups, and Head Start programs.

### Who should families contact to see if their child is eligible for Early Intervention?

A first step for any family with a concern about their child's development is to call CONNECT Services (toll free: 1-800-692-7288) or their local county EI Program. The Early Intervention program will determine if the child is eligible for Early Intervention.

## ~Advocates for Children

### Learning is Everywhere Calendar Activity : Communicate!

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy

Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

**Infant:** Holding your baby on your lap, make eye contact and engage him/her in conversation by repeating back the sounds your baby can make. Your baby will delight in the sounds they are practicing with you.

**Toddler:** Toddlers love action. Engage your child in using "action words" like "up" "down" "wiggle" and "jump". Shout or whisper the word as you act it out together. For example, lie on the floor together, kicking the air as you say "kick, kick". Your next action word may be "laugh" or "jump".

**Pre-Kindergarten:** Your child's world at age three and four is expanding. Encourage your child to tell you stories about places that he/she goes. If you have photos of places or people that your child has visited, sit together and listen as he/she tells you stories about the photos.

## ~Early Years Learning Academy

### • Parent Reminders

Peanut Free Policy

DCDC is a peanut free facility. In order to provide all of our children with a safe learning environment, we do not use peanuts or peanut products. Please keep our peanut free policy in mind when bringing in special treats.

### Coming up:

#### • Book Fair

Begins October 15th to the 17th

## ~Child Care Information Services

### Funding Available to Help Pay for Child Care

Attention residents of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland Counties! Child Care Information Services has funding available to help eligible families pay for child care. Families may choose any registered child care provider in or out of these counties.

Parents can call 1-866-698-2247 if they feel they may qualify.

Subsidized Child Care Services provides parent counseling on early learning opportunities in their communities and manages Pennsylvania's Child Care Works program. Through a statewide network of Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies, Subsidy Services provides families a central location for information on local child care and early education opportunities. CCIS agencies also enroll eligible families for Child Care Works subsidy for child care. DCDC is a grantee for the counties of Columbia, Montour and Northumberland.

Please share the information with families who may be eligible.

#### • Family Fun Night

Will be held Thursday October 17th on Wall St from 6:00 to 8:00pm. There will be light refreshments and activities available in every classroom.

#### • DCDC's Costume Parade/ PS Trunk or Treat

Will be October 31st on Wall St at 10:00 am. The Preschool Trunk or Treat will start right after the parade. If you are interested in participating in our Trunk or Treat please see Jen in the Teddy Bear classroom.

#### • Parent/Teacher Conferences

Will be coming up in November be on the look out for sign up sheets outside your child's classroom.

WE DO  
MORE  
THAN  
CHILD  
CARE



**My Toddler & Me**  
Starts Thursday  
Oct 3rd and will be held every Thursday until Nov 21st  
Classes start at 10:00am

## ~Fundraising & Development

### Our 3rd Annual Movin' and Groovin' for SACK.

- Thanks to all of our SACK kids and families for all their hard work collecting names and being active. We were able to raise \$3000 that will go towards

improving SACK's playground.

Congrats to Jay M for winning a \$100 Gift card by bringing in the most donations.

Congrats also to Taylor H! She won a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card for turning in the most names.



DCDC is always appreciative of all the donations we receive to help support our program and special activities.

### Building Our Future Campaign:

M&T Charitable Foundation  
Marks, McLaughlin & Dennehy  
Judy Shipe

### Movin' & Groovin':

Emerson Archer  
Matt Bauer  
Deb Bowman  
Bill & Kira Bowman  
Dawn & Wayne Brookhart  
Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Cressinger  
Patty Dillowe  
Donna Donavan

Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Drenick  
Pat Enigk  
Gary & Judy Fetzer  
Diane E. Force  
Jen Galada  
Philip and Theresa Girio  
Jim Glennon  
Belinda Gordner  
Karen Gresh  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heddings  
Jeffrey & Sabrina Heddings  
Cynthia Houser  
The Hunters  
Lynn Johnson  
Patricia Keller  
Frank & Sue Keller  
Liz Labant  
Mr. and Mrs. John Lahr  
Jack Martin  
Earlyn Mcleod  
Chris Moyer

Sharon Moyer  
Vince O'Day  
Lamar Ploppert  
Karen Prater  
Don & Esther Remley  
Mrs. Elvira Schumacher  
Dawn Searfoss  
Charles and Kerry Siarkowski  
Gene Shipe  
Joe and Judy Shipe  
Mark and Deb Shipe  
Doyle Winn & Jean Smead  
Mr. and Mrs Greg Smith  
Ron Stigler  
Bridget Thompson  
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Tomlinson  
Amy Walker  
Scott & Patricia Walker  
The Wallaces  
A. Lynn Walshaw  
Beth Walshaw  
Allison & Jeff Wild  
Jeremy & Erin Winn  
Laurie Wilson

## Dalo's Pizza Sale Coming Soon!

Be on the lookout for order forms in your child's mailbox. Funds will be used to buy program supplies for the classrooms.

Mrs. Reba Yoder  
Heather Yost  
Mark & Pat Zamboni

### Other:

Microsoft Corp.  
Giant A+ Rewards  
Renee Beisswanger  
Tim & Erin Fitzgerald  
Dennis & Mary Kay Torretti  
Jeffrey Watson  
Precision Pipeline  
Cassel Farm & Greenhouse

## Parent Information

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Classrooms plan various activities throughout the year where all parents are invited as special guests. All parents are also invited to participate in center activities by helping with fund raising drives, assisting with special events, or volunteering their time on special projects. If you are interested please contact the front desk or your child's teacher.

Parent conferences are scheduled twice per year, or anytime upon request.

Parents are also welcomed to serve upon the Board of Directors. More information can be obtained by contacting the Executive Director.

Parents are given a parent satisfaction survey once a year. This is a great way to provide feedback in order to help us improve the quality of our center.

Parents are encouraged to discuss their children's problems and progress with the teacher when dropping off or picking up their children. If a special problem arises, a meeting can be arranged at a time convenient to both parent and teacher. We encourage you to bring small problems to our attention so that they don't turn into big problems!

### PARENT REFERRAL PROGRAM

Word of mouth is one of the most effective methods of advertising. Many families have come to us through a parent referral, or

have referred our program to other families. We would like to reward those families that continue to share their satisfaction of our program with others.

*How it works:* existing enrolled families that refer a new family who maintains enrollment for a period of 3 months will receive one week's tuition. The tuition credit will be based upon the highest tuition rate and be applicable for only one child.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Enrollment Coordinator, Lori McDonnell. We hope that you will continue to share your great experiences with our program to others!