



Early Years Advisor

Danville Child Development Center

WE DO MORE THAN CHILD CARE

www.danvillecdc.org

SEPTEMBER 2014

REMINDERS:

DCDC Family Fun Night will be October 16th.

October 20th Family Nutrition presentation.

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 back to a new school year! Although we are a month in (already!), we are excited about all the great things we have coming up! 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 to be successful in school! We have a variety of agency wide programs planned, and our classrooms will have opportunities for all as well! We hope you will join us as we continue to work on our September Selfies and share photos of you and your child for our bulletin board so

we can get to know our great, big family!

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 16) and Scholastic Book Fair. Also, on October 9, Child Care Information Services is hosting "The Magic of Reading" at the Bloomsburg Area YMCA. For more information on this special month, visit <http://papromiseforchildren.com/be-a->

childrens-champion/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. We'd love to have you join us!



Time to Play!

Understand the vital connection between play and learning.

By Kyle Pruett

For most parents, children's play is just that — diversion or entertainment. Kids do seem to like it, after all, and their pleasure in devoting hours to play, make-believe, and following their imaginations is usually obvious.

But to think that play matters *only* in so far as it brings pleasure is to miss the forest for the trees. **Play is ultimately about learning.** It has its roots in the delights found in the cabinet under the kitchen counter, or the hedgerow around the backyard, or Dad's desk drawer.

And *all play is educational play*, just as all television is educational television. We may not be happy about the curriculum, but the learning happens just the same. Good stuff, bad stuff, stupid stuff — it all gets played and learned.

All Play Means Something

The reason children love to play is precisely because it does *mean* something. They come to it very naturally from the beginning months of their life.

Experts in child development call the first play activities "**circular reactions.**" That's when an infant repeatedly kicks the inside of her crib to get the attached mobile to move, or tosses toys out of the playpen over and over, endlessly fascinated by whatever ruckus ensues.

Later, toddlers move to "**fantasy play,**" recasting personal experiences in symbolic form using toys or dolls. In both forms of play, the reward comes from the action, and repetition of the actions leads to mastery. Of course, the child is learning all the while.

What Children Learn Through Play

• Soft and hard, cold and warm, scratchy or smooth, as they touch

and manipulate everything within reach.

- Heavy and light, as they heft and fling things about their world.
- Sour and sweet, as they mouth, suck, and drool their way through everyday life.
- Quiet and loud, pleasing or raucous, as they scream and coo, or rub and smash.
- What works and doesn't work, as they pull and push, fit, stack, and destroy.

One of the most important things young children learn through all this tireless trial and error is how to connect events, feelings, memories, thoughts, and learning together into experience and to file it away in their brains under certain symbols. Miraculously, this all starts to happen well before they have command of spoken language. Simply stated, through play, they learn to symbolize their experience.

The Symbols of Play

Think about it. Their play helps them understand that things can stand for



SACK students spent all summer building a fort using materials around the center.

The reason children love to play is precisely because it does mean something.

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other things — that keys or shoes can stand for "Daddy," that her purse can stand for "Mommy," that a leash can stand for a dog. It is quite amazing, because there is no way we can ever achieve that for our kids. They simply have to sort it out on their own.

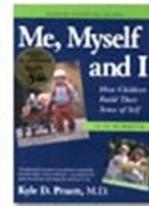
How? As a toddler rummages through the bottom of the closet and pulls out a familiar pair of big, old shoes, someone who takes notice of her play will say the word "Daddy," and probably more than once. The toddler pairs them up, hefts their weight, maybe even struggles to put on those size 12s. And the "power" word she hears in this whole scenario is "Daddy." After the memory and pleasure centers in the brain connect with the word heard for this experience, the experience gets filed (pleasantly) under "daddy" or "shoes" or "smelly feet" — probably all three.

But most importantly, she

remembers the experience — and soon the **play starts to symbolize her experience** with any or all of the parts of this scene. Which experience is hard to predict, be it remembering her father when he is gone, classifying pairs of things that belong together, or the raw joy of exploring. But the experience now has some kind of symbol connected to it, thanks to play. Moreover, she can create new symbols over time. She combines and reshapes old ones, or uses them in novel ways. This **capacity to manipulate and change** them gives her wonderful new tools for elaborating her own experience and understanding of the world and her place in it. This **remarkable capacity is what we call "imagination."**

Two-year-old Olivia stands at the pretend kitchen counter, animatedly talking into the plastic banana she is holding up to her ear. This is really a magical scene. Olivia's mind obviously has the theory that talking on the phone is a much larger event than

holding an earpiece in the hand. It's social, it's done in the kitchen, it's emotionally interesting, and it means something. All this adds up to such importance that a plastic banana can easily be pressed into service as the imagined portable phone. Yes, she might be missing her mommy right then, or calling her daddy, or making plans to visit grandma. But whatever is happening, it's hers.



From Me, Myself and I: How Children Build Their Sense of Self — 18 to 36 Months by Kyle D. Pruett, M.D.

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Staffing Scoop



Kellee McIntyre is back with us this school year. You will see her at our School age program in the afternoons. Kelly is 20

years old and a junior at Bloomsburg University, where she is majoring in Exercise Science. She is a member of the Bloomsburg Women's club Soccer team and the exercise science club. She enjoys spending her free time running, kickboxing, and drawing. She grew up in Easton Pennsylvania where she has 2 dogs and 1 cat. When she is home for breaks she works full-time at a childcare center in Allentown and part-time at Rita's Italian Ice. While at school she was interested in finding a job that not only fit her schedule but also her personality. Given her past in childcare, she knew DCDC was the way to go. I am excited to get to know

each of your children and watch them grow.



Kristina Van Time is back with us this school year too. You will see her with our

preschoolers in the afternoons. She is working on a dual major in Special Education and Early Childhood Education with a minor in Psychology at Bloomsburg University. Her younger brother Joseph, has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of Autism and is her inspiration and motivation for choosing her major. She has 2 dogs, Sam and Cashew, and comes from a large family.

In her spare time she likes to go to the gym, cook, bake, and hang out with friends. She chose to work at DCDC because she has always loved

working with kids and knew DCDC would be a great added experience.



Please welcome, Denise Aunkst the new teacher in our Panda Bear Room. She has an

Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education from Pennsylvania College of Technology. Before joining DCDC, she worked for 18 years with Snyder, Union, & Mifflin Child Development Inc. During those 18 years she worked with infants and toddlers. Currently, she lives in Milton with her husband Brady and 3 daughters. In her free time, she loves spending time with her family, watching and cheering on her girls at their sporting events, camping and doing crafts

~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 : Staying Safe & Healthy

Key Learning Area: Scientific Thinking and Technology

Infant: Sing while talking with your child about putting on a coat, hat, mittens, blanket, etc. Explain that mommy is keeping the baby safe and warm.

Toddler: Take your child to the bathroom while visiting the doctor's office and wash his/her hands. Explain the importance of washing hands and explain germs and how to prevent germs.

Pre-kindergarten: Ask your child to tell you the name of a healthy food item and then you name one, too. Go back and forth with your child. Explain why it is important to eat healthy foods.

Kindergarten: Talk with your child about wearing a bicycle helmet when riding a bike. Explain why a helmet should be worn. Have your child share other safety rules when riding a bicycle.

~Early Years Learning Academy

● Parent Reminders

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 14th to the 17th
- **Family Fun Night** -Will be held Thursday October 16th on Wall St from 6:00 to 7:30pm. There will be light refreshments and activities available in every classroom.
- **Family Nutrition Presentation** -presented by Geisinger, on October 20th a family nutrition presentation will be held at 6pm at our Bloom Rd site.

~Child Care Information Services

Child Care Information Services of Columbia, Montour and Northumberland Counties is proud to sponsor a **free family event** to celebrate PA Promise for Children Month on **Thursday, October 9th from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. at the Bloomsburg YMCA 30 E. 7th St. Bloomsburg, PA 17815**

"The Magic of Reading" will feature storytelling by Lydia Hannibal, guest artist from Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble, and the artistry of AIR WEAVER, with balloons and magic acts. There will also be a craft and each child will receive a balloon creation!

This October, help us celebrate quality early education and the families, teachers and leaders that help our young children reach their promise every day.

Hope to see you there!

- **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 contact Jen at 570-284-4055 x100 or jhodish@danvillecdc.org.

- **Parent Survey-** Parents, thank you for taking the time to respond to our annual parent survey! We are pleased to announce that overall, results were fairly consistent with the past year.

Based upon the results, areas identified for improvement include the communication of policies & procedure changes, transition information, as well as ongoing communication.

DCDC is committed to providing families to the very best of high quality services and experiences. As a result of these findings, we will be providing on-going training and resources to classroom staff surrounding parent communication during our monthly staff meetings. We have also purchased communication software called One Call Now, so that parents may be immediately notified of change in the center's status, or other important information.

WE DO
MORE
THAN
CHILD
CARE



My Toddler & Me
Starts Wednesday
Oct 1st and will be
held every Thursday
until Nov 19th
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 \$3601 that will go towards improving SACK's playground.

Congrats to Taylor H for winning a bike by bringing in the most donations.

Congrats also to Natalie S! She won a \$50 Dunham's gift card for turning in the most names.



Mum Sale!

Coupons available \$7.50 for one or 3 for \$20. Forms need to be turned in by 25th. Coupons to purchase the mums at Whitenight's Farms can be picked up at the front desk after payment.

Thank You

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

Building Our Future Campaign:

PPL

Scholarship Fund:

FNB Bank (EITC)

Danville Area United Way

Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way

Merck Foundation

Operating Support:

Amazon Smile Foundation

Movin' & Groovin':

Karen Kuras & Alla Kazakevich
Anonymous (5)
Karen Prater
Mrs. Helen Gerringer
Emerson Archer
Joe & Judy Shipe
Liz Labant
Julie Malick

Mr. & Mrs. John Terry
Gretchen & Chuck Hess
Penny Hodish & Donna Vitale
Mr. & Mrs. Hodish
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hoffman & Katie
Mr. & Mrs. John Karod
Cole Hodgson
Garry & Sherry Letteer
Mr. and Mrs. John Lahr
Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Cressinger
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Heddings
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ryan
Ms. Annie Lewis
Mr. Matt Bauer
Patty Dillow
Lynn Johnson
Joanne Fox
Ron Stigler
Donna Donovan
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Rambo
Deb Bowman
Bill Stobo & Pat Heft
Miss Glenann Radzai
Mrs. Jen Hodish
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Pirie
Mr. Walter Cook
Lisa Yeager
Mark & Sue Cromley
Scott & Judy Edwards
Hasenbalg Family
Dorothy Schrader
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Mertz
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Gerst
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Gerringer
Mr. & Mrs. John Furhman

Pat & Patrick Keppler
The Gerringers
Ron & Andrew Bringer
Joe & Brek Hodish
Dick & Janice Johns
Ellen Matragano
Dorris Badger
Craig Nunn
Brad & Mary Scott
Mark and Deb Shipe
Matt and Chris Shipe
Mr and Mrs. Butch Pickering
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heddings
Ms. Treva Dockey
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Walker
Amy Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Campbell
Jerry Swanger
George & Wanda Traver
Tim Kehoe
Lyndsey Zimmerman
John & Pat Zimmerman
Janet Leary
Mr. & Mrs. John Leighow & Alyssa
Mrs. Shirley Radzai
Joanne Aurand
Bob & Jan Deitrick
Kehoe
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Berkey
Deb & Libby
The Brannons
Karen & Al Griffin
Toma Foresman
Pam Showers (PSP)
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Tomlinson
Dan Stigler
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Cook
Pat & Eileen Aurand

Fred & Doreen Palmatier
Steve & Kacey Hinkle
Don & Sandy Hinkle
Donna Swengel
Glenn Mechling
Melvin and Krysta Hiranaka
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Deitrick
Mr. and Mrs. John Gold
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Reedy
Mary Vegh
Cindy Cornell
Kate Stobo
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Erb
Mrs. Angie Gibson
Mrs. Allison Seiger
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Walter
Mandi Conigliaro
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Neff
Kim Edwards
Heather Marks
Todd & Angie Hack
Eugene Wertman
Laurie Wilson
Lindsey Cutler
Gene Shipe
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Smith
Polly & Ernie Shearer
Earl & Karen Matthews
Megan & Chris Yergey
Kristin O'Rourke
Rosemary Stobo
The Jacks Family
Joseph Doyle
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Shaffer
Lee Reibsome
Mary Steiner
Mary & Tim Makuch

Parent Information

DCDC would like to take a proactive approach to the possible risk of the new respiratory virus that is affecting young children in the US. Here are some helpful reminders:

- Use the hand sanitizer before you sign your child in/out each day.
- Have your child wash their hands as soon as they arrive at school.
- Please follow our illness policy and keep your child home if they are ill. Remember to call us if your child has a communicable disease.
- Teach your child proper hand washing

and coughing into their arm.

-Keep to a daily routine and making sure they get a good night's sleep.

DCDC takes lots of steps everyday to help keep everyone safe and healthy too.

-We sanitize toys, shelves, tables, napping mats, door handles and disinfect our bathrooms and changing areas.

-Teaching the students proper hand washing. Use soap and water and rubbing their hands for 20 seconds. You may have heard your preschool sing their ABC's while they wash their hands at home.

- Having them nap to help them rest and reenergize.
- Taking them outside or in our gross motor room for exercise.

Keep Me Home If...



When Your Child is Sick:

1. Have plans for back up child care.
2. Tell your caregiver what is wrong with your child, even if your child stays home.