

CCC Newsletter

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The mission of Concord Children's Center is to cultivate an intimate, welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared and inspired to learn

CCC October Special Events

Exploring the Natural World at Ripley



Gowing's Swamp and Thoreau's Bog Walk
Saturday October 16,
9:30 – 11am

120 Meriam Rd.

Wood and Fields Walk
Saturday October 30
9:30 - 11am

120 Meriam Rd



*Call to reserve a place on the walk/978-369-3747
Or ripley@concordchildrenscenter.org*

Rolie Polie Guacamole

October 24th 4 PM Concert @ Emerson Umbrella.

[Tickets on our Website](#)



Advance Tickets are:

- \$10 per person
- \$35/ per family
- \$12 at the door

Tickets will be available at our website www.concordchildrenscenter.org, or you can buy them from your program Director. If you would like to help with this event please contact:Heather at dumont.heather@gmail.com.

Parent Nights

October is the month when parents are invited to each school to learn more about what is happening in their children's classrooms and to get to know their teachers and program directors. We place a very high value on communication and the relationship between parents and teachers. Parent night is a great place to start developing this year's partnership.



Why 21st Century Children Need Nature

Thursday December 9, 2010 at 7pm
Concord Children's Center
1300 Main Street, Concord MA

"If we want children to flourish, we need to give them time to connect with nature and love the Earth before we ask them to save it."~ David Sobel

Communities around the world are creating nature - based playgrounds for young children. Author, and Educator David Sobel will discuss why this movement is so important to children growing up in today's technology infused world, and why it is critical for us as parents, educators and communities, to assure that children have places to play and learn that encourage the connection to nature. This lecture is free and open to the public. To reserve a seat please call 978-369-3747 or email us at ripley@concordchildrenscenter.org.

What is your favorite Grown-Up Book?

We are hoping to collect 35 titles to place in the Concord Bookshop Window on November 8th, in honor of our 35th. Birthday celebration. Send your favorite book and author to Pat at executive@concordchildrenscenter.org

CCC Calendar October



7	West Concord Parent Night
11	CCC Closed Columbus Day
13	Board Meeting at Ripley 7:30
16 & 30	Nature Walks at Ripley
20	Toddler Two Parent Night at Emerson
24	Family Concert/Rolie Polie Guacamole
26 th	Our 35 th day of school Birthday party
27	Infant Parent Night / Emerson
28	Parent Night at Ripley

Documenting Classroom Success at CCC

Joanne Saideh, Administrative Director

Throughout your child's day there are an endless number of experiences and interactions contributing to their learning. Teachers keep a record documenting what we are doing and how the curriculum and activities are contributing to growth. Our system of documentation follows the standards and criteria established by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children*. (NAEYC)



Since 1985, NAEYC's national, voluntary accreditation system has set professional standards for early childhood education programs. In 1986, Concord Children's Center was among the first programs in the country to receive accreditation. The NAEYC program standards and accreditation criteria were updated in 2006 to include explicit program standards for early childhood programs serving children birth through kindergarten and making the standards more evidence-based and aligned with the profession's knowledge of best practice. Again CCC was one of the first programs to become reaccredited under the new system. As part of the accreditation process CCC teachers created classroom portfolios containing plans, documents and records that provide evidence of classroom implementation of the NAEYC standards and criteria.

Our on-line Documentation system

We are now moving from our original paper versions of Portfolios to an on-line version that has been offered to us through NAEYC. Beginning this fall CCC will be working with *School Chapters Inc*, to enable our teachers to create and maintain portfolios electronically. *School Chapters* provides a safe and secure https on-line environment. The site uses SSL to encrypt communications between servers and client browsers and usernames and passwords are used to secure account access. We are very excited to move to this next phase in the accreditation process. Teachers are looking forward to this new, more efficient method of documenting the NAEYC standards and criteria as evidence of the high quality of the children's daily experiences in the CCC classrooms

If you would like more information about this on-line portfolio system please contact Joanne Saideh, CCC Administrative Director at 978-369-6790 or administrative@concordchildrenscenter.org.

**Thank you to our 2011 Auction Co-Chairs!
Jennifer Montbach & Leslie Lilly**

If you would like to help with this year's auction send us an email. executive@concordchildrenscenter.org

Our Hidden Curriculum

Jennine Lesser, Emerson Program Director

Parents coming to visit CCC often ask what curriculum looks like. When I think of curriculum, I think of two different types of curriculum. That which is obvious, what you see displayed on the classroom walls, depicted in the books on the bookshelf, the activities that come home, and the projects that are documented in teachers portfolios. I also think of the hidden curriculum, what you may only see by observing in the classroom.



At Emerson we have expanded the classroom age span. As Early Childhood professionals, we were well aware of the many developmental benefits of this classroom model, which is found in our pre-school classes and our Ripley Infant Toddler classroom. During the first few weeks of school we have been able to observe the wonderful benefits of this model.

What has been particularly striking to us are the types of interactions being witnessed; the older infant gently patting a younger infant who is crying, the two year old involved in a chasing game on the playground who stops to pick up a younger toddler who has taken a tumble. This empathy has in turn resulted in more relationship building and sense of community within the classrooms.



In addition to empathy we have also observed positive role modeling. Children at the older end of each group have been modeling classroom routines, language, and play for the younger children in the group. This has advantages on both ends. Both children are further developing skills, gaining independence and self pride in their abilities, and their observations of one another have further engaged them in the learning process.

The teachers have been noticing more opportunities to expand on learning. The wider age span in each room means a broader range of toys and materials are available. The older children in the groups have been using toys and materials in different ways. For example, a garage and ramp play set is being added on to wooden blocks and other materials for more elaborate play. The younger children in the group are participating in all of this, and in turn learning from it.

It is refreshing to reevaluate what you are doing and why. From our experience this first month of school, we feel pleased that what we are seeing in the classrooms reflects our mission to engage, prepare and inspire children to learn.