



September 2015

# Bethel Children's Center Newsletter

## TRANSITIONS

This is the time of year when families face a lot of transitions. Siblings return to school and family schedules change. We concentrate on helping children (and parents) ease into the routines and excitement of pre-school. We will do our part to help with the transition process. In the Oaks' room there is a "Goodbye Window." The friends wait to see mom or dad drive by and then both parties wave a vigorous goodbye. Teachers are on hand to comfort and offer an engaging activity; tears subside in due time. Sometimes a parent will leave a family picture or favorite toy in the child's cubby to ease the transition.

## CHILDREN LOVE ROUTINE

We cannot underestimate the importance of routines. Children thrive when they know what to expect. "When Mommy comes home from work, then she reads the funny papers to me." "When I say good-night, then Daddy carries me to bed on his shoulders." Children love the "When-then" rituals in their lives. They feel safe, in control.

I think we have been conditioned to think that "control" is a negative

need; in fact "control freaks" are scorned. But I believe that all human beings need control. It makes sense; who wants to live in a chaotic world? It helps children to know what to expect: "When you take a bath, then we'll wash out the tub." "When you brush your teeth, then we'll read a story."

I remember picking my daughter up from the 3 year old room. She would always ask, "Is there a treat for me in the glove 'empartment?'" It was a happy day for both of us when the answer was "Yes!" Often we don't even recognize the importance of the ritual until it is interrupted and the child melts down.

As we begin a new school year at BCC, think about rituals and routines that can help your child adjust to his new circumstances. We'll do our part by giving children plenty of fore-warning of impending transitions: "In 2 minutes, it will be time to clean-up." We will teach our safety routines: "When we climb, then we'll use the jungle gym." "When-then...it feels safe!"



## HOLIDAYS

BCC will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

## WHAT WE DO... AND WHY!

I was doing an introductory visit with a prospective parent. She asked about the curriculum offerings in our Oaks room, "Any science, math or reading?" As I was explaining our program, I was reminded of a girl who was getting ready to wash her hands. As she pushed up her



sleeves, she quoted, "My teacher says always push up your sleeves before you wash your hands."

We are in full support of teaching cognitive skills that will prepare our students for the rigors of Kindergarten. But our first priority is to establish a strong foundation of life skills. Our Oaks Staff begins the process as they encourage the friends to develop independence in their self-help skills (toileting, nose blowing, hand washing, putting on jackets and shoes and socks, stowing nap linens, etc.)

Then it is a high priority for children to learn to self-govern, to learn how her actions affect other children. It's a tall order, but we also want the children to know how to sit quietly and participate in a circle time, how

to line-up and clean-up, how to scrape their plates and stack their chairs. It's all part of being a member of a community.

Then while all that is happening, we add in the readiness for Kindergarten. The academic skills are the frosting on the cake. After all, what's the point if a child can read all the rules, but has no idea how to follow them! We are truly gratified when we see the children pushing up their sleeves and washing their hands. I wonder how many are saying to themselves, "My teacher says..."

## TIME CLOCK

When you register, we enter the names of your authorized contact/pick-up people in our data base. Then we automatically take the last four digits of their phone/cell number and use that as their PIN for the sign-in/out clock. When we first started using the sign-in clock, if the contact was Mr. and Mrs. So & So with one phone #, we would use one PIN for the couple. But it is a Licensing Regulation that **each person has his or her own PIN**. As far as Licensing is concerned, your PIN is like your signature, which clearly substantiates who drops off and picks up.

As with any PIN, please do not share your PIN with another person and send them in to pick up your child. If you want to authorize a person to pick up over the phone, give us a call to alert us. We'll check that person's ID and set up a personal PIN. This seems a little nit-picky...but our shared goal is your child's safety.

God bless,

*Linda*

## NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS...

### REDWOODS *Miss Jackie S*

These funny creatures were made in the Redwoods class. Our play-dough was getting old and dry so we turned it into a 3-D collage. The friends added feathers, straw, and other items. Very cute!



### OAKS *Miss Jackie K*

Miss Jackie K was reading the book "Bear Shadow." When the friends went outside, they were sure they would see their own shadows. But, wouldn't you know, it was one of our overcast, cloudy mornings. As the children lined up to wash hands and go inside, the clouds miraculously parted and like magic, they could not only see their shadows; their shadows moved and waved their arms! Just then, as if on cue, the clouds gathered together and the mysterious shadows disappeared. Maybe Miss Jackie should read that story again!

### SYCAMORES *Miss Kristen*

Welcome to the Sycamore Class! The last couple of weeks we have been getting to know each other, learning how to be a good friend, and how to be a "Bucket Filler." We have also been working on some problem solving skills. In the coming weeks we will be working on colors, shapes, and numbers.

