



Message from the Director

I am excited to share with you that Montgomery Child Care Park Street will be completing our Accreditation pre-validation visit or “mock visit” from the Maryland State Department of Education later this week. We are hoping that the accreditation validator feels strongly that our center is ready to move forward so that we can schedule our final accreditation visit in the next few months. We hope to receive an announcement shortly after this final validation visit is complete about our accreditation renewal at which point I will notify the staff and families.

What's New

MATH CONCEPTS AND PRESCHOOLERS

Children are natural mathematicians! Research supports the notion that young children have an intuitive sense of informal mathematics and we can see this during times of play when they use mathematics to make sense of their world. Early math is not about rote learning of discrete facts like how much $5+7$ equals. Rather, a child's comprehension of math concepts is best supported through a variety of open ended and playful exploration opportunities. Numerically, young children count coins as they “shop at the store” in Dramatic Play, and use number sequences as they count the steps as they walk on them. Geometrically, children manipulate puzzle pieces, use positional words when they play movement games and investigate shapes as they build with blocks. From a measurement perspective, they build tall structures, they notice the difference between the heights of people in the classroom and they weigh items using a scale in the classroom. Because the situations are meaningful, children can gain a deeper understanding of number, quantity, size, patterning, and data management. The teachers at Montgomery Child Care Park Street work to bridge the gap between children's informal understanding about mathematics with the more formal, school based mathematics they will learn in later years. They do this in a variety of ways such as purposely placing math materials like rulers, sorting trays, and scales in the interest areas to encourage children to explore them as they play. The teachers intentionally introduce activities that have a mathematical focus such as button sorting, charting and graphing a classroom vote or individual preferences such as a favorite food. The teachers ask questions and observe the children as they investigate and interact within these activities so that they can plan for future math activities that will support each child's cognitive development and understanding of math concepts.

Adapted from the Creative Curriculum, Volume 4: Mathematics ©

Important Reminders

INCLEMENT WEATHER

With winter already here we are getting closer to the time where we may have some delays and closings due to the snow. Please make sure that you are familiar with our inclement weather



policy. I have provided a link to our family handbook below and you can read the policy on pages 9 and 10. Please also make sure that the email addresses we have for your family, are the ones that you would check first thing in the morning- so that you can receive any information about delays or closings before leaving the house. Once I learn of a delay or closing, I will email families with the details of when we will be opening or if the center will be closed. I will also change the message on the answering machine at the center, so you can call the center at 301-424-8952 for the information as well. You can also visit the MCCA website at www.mccaedu.org for information on weather related delays and closings. <http://www.mccaedu.org/pdf/Family%20Handbook%20August%202017%20as%20of%2082117%20FINAL.pdf>

Upcoming Dates

FIELD TRIPS

The Dinosaurs classroom will be taking a fieldtrip on Monday, January 8th. Please see the teachers for the permission form and for information about the location and when the children will be leaving and returning to the center.

The Fireflies classroom will be taking a fieldtrip on Thursday, January 25th. Please see the teachers for the permission form and for information about the location and when the children will be leaving and returning to the center.

The Tigers classroom will be taking a fieldtrip on Friday, January 26th. Please see the teachers for the permission form and for information about the location and when the children will be leaving and returning to the center.

UPCOMING MCCA CLOSINGS

Montgomery Child Care Park Street will be closed on Monday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

Montgomery Child Care Park Street will be closed on Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

UPCOMING MCPS EARLY DISMISSALS AND CLOSINGS

On Thursday, January 25th, Montgomery County Public Schools will be releasing students at 12:50 p.m. Children who are enrolled in the after school program may join us in the Extreme Kids program from 1:30 until 6:30. While children who are enrolled only in the morning program are not able to attend the program for the afternoon, morning only families can contact Erin to see if there is availability for a drop in on these days.

On Friday, January 26th Montgomery County Public Schools will be closed and the X-Treme Kids room will be open from 7:00-6:30. Children who are enrolled in both the before and after school program or children who are only enrolled in the after school program may attend for the full day of care. Children who are enrolled only in the morning program are not eligible to attend the program for the full day, but can contact Erin to see if there is availability for a drop in on this day.