



“Back To School” Hurricane Season

Dear Parents,

As our summer comes to a close, we are left with lots of wonderful & exciting memories to treasure until the following year. Our little ones had a blast this summer swimming, painting, taking part in ceramics, visiting various area parks, the Children’s Museum, the Houston Zoo, Chucky Cheese, watching Ice Age, and “Building a Bear!” A special thanks goes out to all the parent volunteers who helped us to make this summer possible!

August 24, 2009 marks the first day of the 2009-2010 school year here at P.E.A.C.E of Mind and schools throughout the Houston area. We’re excited about the dynamic program we’ve put together for this school year filled with monthly theme-based trips, cooking, “show & tell,” technology, and much more.

Additionally, we will be introducing students to our new “Learning Box Curriculum” packed full with learning activities, interactive sensory materials, and theme related recipes for each of our little ones to enjoy.

This new school year also kicks off our before & after school program. Parents must complete a new application prior to the first day of school. All program participants will receive meals and homework assistance while in our care.

Lastly, we’d like to welcome back our loyal customers who will be continuing care with us another year. Your loyalty means a lot to our business and we take great pleasure in providing your little ones with quality care. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Cinthya J. Pages
Director

Hurricane season has begun and runs through November 30th. Many of you have vivid memories of last hurricane season which left many Houstonians without water, power, gas, food, or daycare. Our facility was scheduled to open in September but was delayed due to water & structural damage, and lack of utilities and available supplies. In our neighborhood, there were downed power lines and trees along with serious flooding. This year we are open for business and trying our hardest to prepare for an impending emergency.

P.E.A.C.E of Mind will do everything in its power to reopen promptly in the event of a natural disaster. However, if utilities are lost or impending weather warnings are present, we will remain closed. Additionally, if while children are in care, warnings are sent out from the National Weather Center for any type of long lasting severe weather such as flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, or tropical storms, parents will be called to pick up children immediately. Parents are urged to discuss our policy with their employers prior to the event of an emergency, as we take severe weather very seriously and will not negotiate with parents at the risk of injury to a child.

Our facility is not built to withstand violent weather or heavy flooding and we will not risk the well being of children in our care. Parents will receive credit for any unused days in the week which they previously paid for and new childcare payments will not be billed for days closed. Please visit our website at www.peaceofmindcdc.com for opening updates. We ensure parents that we will do everything in our power to reopen quickly and keep parents informed on our opening status.

Block Play Essential

According to *Childcare Quarterly*, "no other single learning tool provides as much support for social, literacy, physical science, language, art, mathematical, muscle, or problem-solving skill development. Rapid growth and development in early childhood make open-ended toys essential. Blocks fill the bill by being infinitely flexible and a great learning tool for children from toddlerhood through school age."

As you observe children's interests and skills change, modify the block and construction materials to include a greater variety of block skills. Beware of choking pieces that can be hazardous to children under three years old. Additionally, make sure to sanitize blocks regularly to prevent the spread of germs. Every child should own at least one set of blocks for each stage of their development. These tools are perfect busy activities and definitely economical.

Behavior Tools

In helping children learn to be responsible in their behavior, we are often tempted to lecture them. When something bad happens, we tell them what happened, why it happened, how they should feel, and what they should do in the future. Lecturing may make us feel we are doing our job of teaching, but it deprives children of the opportunity to learn to think and solve problems... "What can you do about it?" or "What's your plan for fixing the situation?" prod children into thinking of solutions, and by doing this, they are more likely to own them and follow through without reminders from us or nagging.

Courtesy of Child Care Quarterly

This Month's Highlights

Birthdays

Saniya Brown turned 5 years old in May!

Announcements

Learning Box Curriculum Added!

New Computer Center!

2009-2010 Event Calendar Online!

Donations Needed

Lots of Old Magazines for "Show & Tell" Collages

Washing Machine

Non-Toxic Paint

Coloring Books

Upcoming Field Trips

September 1, 2009- Exploration Station

September 22, 2009- Fire & Police Museum

Student Milestones!!!

Jean Paul Weekes: Is now a special helper!

Izaiah Juarez: Utters three-word phrases!

Saniya Brown: Entering Pre-K like a big girl!

Kaden Matthew Turner: Entering Pre-K like a big boy!

Justin Joseph: Is sitting up all by himself!

Jameson Gray: Has almost completely overcome mirrored writing!

Lessons at a Glance

SEPTEMBER, 2009



Apples All Around - Red, yellow, or green ones! Which is your favorite kind of apple? Math, science, arts and crafts are used to explore different aspects of the apple.

Dinosaur Days - Long ago they roamed the Earth, some were very big and some were small. What do we know about these creatures? This learning box will help your preschooler explore the "Days of the Dinosaurs".

Letters: A, D, B Numbers: 1,2
Shape: Circle Colors: Red & Green

