

# Infant Toddler Enrichment Center

## Chit-Chat

Spring 2011

Dear Parents,

Is spring really here to stay? I find myself asking this question each day as I listen to the weather report in the early morning and then again on my car ride in to work! I am happy that I can only count on one hand the number of days the program has closed this winter, but as a true New Englander I know that the threat of snow is not over until after April 1<sup>st</sup>! And though it's been tough for the children and teachers to not get outside everyday, they make the most of it by making sure the children are given opportunities to move all day long! The classrooms have been spending time in the motor room, dancing in the classroom, marching through the hallways, and learning new parachute songs and games. We do these activities each day because movement is so important for infants and toddlers.

Infants from the moment they are born move to explore and learn. They spend their first months figuring out how to grasp at, shake, and release objects, all while they are also learning to roll over and sit up! From when your infant begins to crawl or your young toddler starts to walk that is all they want to do, in fact, it's their job. When children move it's not only about motor skills and keeping active, they gain communication skills, problem solving strategies, and self confidence. For us as their caregivers we need to keep infants and toddlers engaged and curious as they move. In the winter this can be challenging but activities such as dancing with scarves, musical instruments, or setting up an obstacle course can make a day of being 'stuck' inside much more fun. And while you are moving and grooving with your child, just think spring is just around the corner...and so are trips to the playground, walks in the neighborhood, and trips to the local zoo!

Karen

Resource: <http://www.zerotothree.org/child-velopment/social-emotional-development/onthemoveenglish.pdf>

### Teacher in the Spotlight

Jamie Cohen

Jamie started at the Infant Toddler program as an Assistant Teacher in September 2006, spending time in all three classrooms. In September 2008 she 'found a home' as a Teacher in the Green Room. Jamie loves working with the older toddlers and 'every day she learns something from them.'

Jamie has shown her dedication to the field of Early Childhood during her time at Cole-Harrington. Since beginning at the program Jamie has taken college courses to receive her Lead Teacher and Director I EEC certification. In addition Jamie is working toward her Child Development Associate (CDA), a Nationally Recognized Credential. The CDA is an assessment process for professionals in the field of Early Childhood and include completing college course, professional development, classroom observations, and an exam.

As some of you may know, Jamie is not only a teacher at Cole-Harrington, she is also a parent! Her son, Brendan, is enrolled in the Yellow Room. As Jamie says, 'being a teacher has made me a better parent.'

Thank you Jamie for all that you do for the Infant/Toddler program!

## Curriculum Corner

Since spring has sprung here are some more movement ideas to do outside on beautiful sunny days or indoors during 'spring showers'!

### Obstacle Course

Make an obstacle course to go around and climb on. Indoors use couch cushions, boppy pillows, yoga mat, and blankets rolled up. Outside use balls, plastic laundry baskets, or yoga mats to run around.

### Bug Hunt

Make a walk in the neighborhood or spending time in your back yard even more fun! Search for bugs and talk to your child about the size of the bug, if it flies, what color it is, and where it lives. This is also a wonderful science activity!



### Rolling a Ball



Find balls of all sizes and roll them on the floor and under the kitchen table. Make a ramp out of couch cushions and see how fast the ball rolls!

### Let's Build

Use cardboard boxes to build tall towers and knock them over.

Additional Resources on Infant, Toddlers, and Movement:

[http://www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral\\_resources/pdf/ECTonline/letter05\\_04.pdf](http://www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/ECTonline/letter05_04.pdf)

<http://www.aap.org/obesity/pdf/Fact%20Sheet-%20Healthy%20Active%20Living%20for%20Families.pdf>

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Pizza Day

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

SAVE THE DATE!

Family Brunch



Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

Picture Day-SAVE THE DATE!



## Upcoming Closures

Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> Patriots' Day

Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day

## Staff Notes

All the staff are busy working on completing their classroom portfolios for NAEYC accreditation. The classroom portfolios highlight all the work the teachers do with the children through the year!

In addition, most of the staff at the Infant Toddler program are looking forward to starting a 12 hour training on Social Emotional Development.

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