



CHILDREN'S FRIEND

What's Going On?

The Children's Friend Family Newsletter



CHILDREN'S FRIEND



An Exciting Summer at the Cianci Center!

If you've been to the Cianci Center in Providence lately, you might have seen some unusual things. Like...Panera bread frosting cookies with a bunch of children? Scavenger hunts? A giant Paw Sox polar bear handing out stuff?

Don't worry, you don't need to get your eyes checked. That really has been happening!

Panera Bread brought bags of fresh baked shortbread cookies and helped the children to frost and decorate them. Each child got one to eat right away, and one to bring home. The Junior League of Rhode Island played games with the children and organized a scavenger hunt. Whole Foods came by and showed the children how to make healthy snacks like yogurt parfaits.

And we know you must have heard about the giant polar bear. Who could forget a **giant polar bear**?!! Paws, mascot of the Pawtucket Red Sox, came to visit and passed out calendars, personally autographed by Sox!

Let's not forget about the Providence Children's Museum. They visited the Cianci Center weekly with a different surprise activity for the children. Activities included Sand Play, Plant Play, Slime Play, Bubble Play, Paint Play, Music and Dance Play, Costume Play, and an End of the Summer Carnival.

There's more to come, too. MetLife is sending Snoopy to do a finger printing clinic and Nicholas Rogers of the YMCA will be showing the children fun exercises. Stay tuned for more news about these great summer activities!

What's New At the Child Care Center in Central Falls?

It's been a very busy few months at the Central Falls Child Care Center. After a lot of work and a lot of changes, we are now providing therapeutic child care.

Maybe you're wondering exactly what therapeutic child care is?

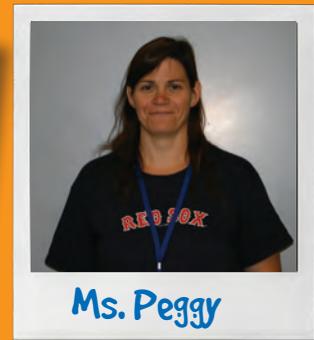
Many children are turned down by child care centers because they have problems or needs that can't be taken care of by an ordinary center. Sometimes mom or dad has to stay home with their child and can't work, and their child doesn't get to spend time with other children or get preschool education to give them a better start in kindergarten.

The great thing about therapeutic child care is that those children can go to a regular child care center with other children and learn and play with them, but they also get the extra help they need from people who are trained to work with them.

This program is still new, and space is limited, but Children's Friend hopes to expand this program and help even more children in the months to come.



Ms. Katie



Ms. Peggy



Ms. Sharon



Ms. Linda

Familiar Faces at Head Start

We know that you know there are some changes at Head Start, but we also want you to know that some of the best things are staying the same! That includes some friendly, familiar faces...



So, What Happens In September at Head Start?

That's a good question, and we'd like to help you figure that out. If you have questions or concerns about enrollment for Fall 2009 Head Start, get in touch with us at 401-272-2098.

We're waiting by the phone for your call. So call us, and tell a friend! We want to hear from anybody at all who's interested in Head Start. It's going to be a great year, and we want you to be a part of it.

Painting Parties!

We decided to paint some Head Start classrooms before September. We weren't sure how we were going to pull it off, but lucky for us, there are a lot of really awesome people out there in the community!

Hundreds of gallons of paint were donated by stores all over Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts. Then big bunches of volunteers came to paint! Some were Children's Friend employees, families who work with Children's Friend, volunteers from local companies, our community partners, the Met School and Americorp; tons of volunteers painting classrooms on some of the hottest days of the summer.

They did such a good job that at the time this newsletter was released the painting was just about done. But if painting (or any kind of volunteering) sounds like fun to you, please contact us! We would love to have you get involved. For more information about volunteering, call Amanda Ball, Volunteer Coordinator, at 276-4344 or email her at aball@cfsri.org.



Bright Stars is a five-level rating and improvement system in Rhode Island. It's about rating the quality of child care and early learning programs, so that parents and families can have more information to make choices about what programs they want their kids involved with. It's a great way to find out what's good and what might be not so good, about child care centers and preschools.

BrightStars looks at 6 things, and gives a rating of 1 to 5 stars for each category. The 6 categories BrightStars looks at are; Child's Daily Experience, Teaching and Learning, Staff-Child Ratio and Group Size, Family Communication and Involvement, Staff Qualifications and Program Management.

We look forward to earning the highest BrightStars rating we can for our Head Start program! If you'd like to know more about BrightStars, check out their website at brightstars.org.