



Bucksport Early Care And Education Center

March 2010



Center Updates

Self-Assessment: each year Child & Family Opportunities completes a self-assessment of our programs and services for children and families to assist us with program improvement and planning. This assessment includes parent surveys and we hope that each of you will complete this for our center and return them either by mail to our main office, or in the survey box – located in our lending library. Your opinions are important to us and we want to know what has gone well this year, and what you would like to see improved or changed for the upcoming year. We would like to have the surveys returned by **March 11th**. Parents will also be randomly selected to be contacted by phone and asked questions about your experience with our center this year. The phone interviews will be conducted by Managers from CFO - Pam Gagnon, Ellen Savage, or Melissa Mattes. Michael Lahti will be visiting classrooms to complete an ECERS (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale). Thank you for your assistance!

2010-2011 Applications are here!

If you know of families with 3 and/or 4-year-olds... please encourage them to apply. Applications are located in the folder, on the bulletin board just outside of the office.

Thank you!

Volunteer opportunities:

- Folding and distributing monthly newsletters to parent mailboxes.
- Filing artwork into children's mail slots
- Bulletin boards
- Craft projects
- Repairing books

Please check in with your Teachers if you would like to volunteer in the classroom, or take projects home to work on! Thank you for volunteering!

Parent Group

Hi Everyone,

We are still hoping to get a Parent Group together for the Bucksport Center and are looking for Parents/Guardians to participate! Meeting dates for the remainder of the year are: **March 10th, April 14th and May 12th from 10:30-11:30AM.**

Everyone is welcome to attend!

If anyone is interested in becoming a regular volunteer or substitute for the program, please attend the next parent meeting for orientation!

Possible Opportunities for Parent Group:

- Time to connect with other Parents
- Work on projects for the classroom
- Organizing volunteers for the classroom

Possible Trainings/workshops:

- Nutrition / Health topics
- Child development / developmental delays
- Behavior Management
- Fatherhood / Male involvement
- Volunteering

If you have any other suggestions for topics, please let Paula Webster (Center Coordinator) know.

Policy Council

Policy council meetings will continue to be held on the third Monday of each month. The March meeting will be held in two locations linked by video conference - - Ellsworth and Marshfield - - beginning at 8:30 a.m. **Arrangements can also be made for parents to call in via telephone.** For more information, call Cathy Feldkamp at the central office 1-800-834-4378.

Our Center may have 2 Parent Representatives (and 1 Alternate) per classroom. If you are interested in joining Policy Council or finding out more about Policy Council, please see Paula Webster, Center Coordinator or call our Main Office 667-2995 and talk to Pam Gagnon or Ellen Savage (our Health and Family Partnership Managers).



Miss Kelly and Miss Rose (A)

This month we have begun learning about nutrition and shopping for nutritious food. Our dramatic play area has been changed to a market. The children are having a good time exploring all the different food items and containers. We will be doing a lot of “Choosy” music. So far we have made paper pancakes and pizzas.

The weather is beginning to warm up a bit, but please remember your child still needs all of his/her winter clothing everyday. The playground is wet and we don’t want the children to be wet and muddy all day. This may mean you will need to take home their outdoor clothing to be washed on a regular basis. Also please remember to send sneakers and/or slippers to school each day. It is too hot in the classroom to be wearing boots all day.

We have almost completed our home visits. Thank you for meeting with us to discuss your child’s progress. In April we will be setting up appointments for our final parent teacher conferences. If you have questions or concerns before then please feel free to see one of us.





Miss Joyce and Miss Gina (B)



Hello! In an attempt to beat the cold weather "blahs" we are embarking on a travel adventure. We have been visiting the beach, we are going to go camping, and we will take a trip on a plane. Through this adventure we will be discussing different climates, sorting what we should pack, learning about the geography and what we might find in each area, and planning what to do while we are there. We might also sample some tropical fruits.

We will begin sending home some information home around the transition to Kindergarten. These sheets will be in your mailbox once a week. It will also soon be time to schedule a visit to the Kindergarten wing to meet the teachers. In April we will have parent-teacher conferences to further plan for this transition.

Even though the snow is disappearing, our playground is still cold and muddy. Please continue to send in coats, snowpants, hats, mittens and boots each day.

Thank you in advance for taking time to fill out and return our parent surveys. We welcome your input as it helps us to improve our program so that we are providing the best quality services to meet your family's needs.



Miss Betty and Miss Christine (C)

The afternoon class is enjoying some imaginary travel. Our housekeeping center has become a motel, complete with a phone, bell, suitcases, summer clothes, cell phones, etc. If you have not already noticed, there is a large palm tree "growing" in the circle area, which is now a beach. Your children enjoy basking in the sun in sand chairs and boogying to Beach Boys tunes. They have generated ideas for improvement, and as a result, we plan to make surf boards next week.

In the coming weeks, we plan to travel to far away places, such as Hawaii, Africa, and Italy. In our writing center, we have been studying maps and preparing airplane boarding passes and passports. At circle, we are sharing books, music, and dance related to distant lands. Your children have particularly enjoyed the book, Abiyoyo, which is based on an African tale about a father and son who use music to tame a scary giant.

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered their time in the classroom. We can use the help on a daily basis, and the children love it when you join us.

A HUGE THANKYOU to all of you for helping your children to prepare for show-and-tell. It has been a great success with all children seeming very eager to participate. Please remember to send items only on your child's assigned show-and-tell day unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher.

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR CHILD'S KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FORM, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND BOOTS, SNOW PANTS, HATS, COATS, AND MITTENS, EVERY DAY. IT IS STILL COLD, WET, AND MUDDY ON THE PLAYGROUND.

Heidi's Kitchen

PORCUPINE MEATBALLS

2 ¾ lb 85% Ground Beef
½ C Cracker Crumbs
2 Eggs
½ C Chopped Onions
½ C Uncooked Rice

SAUCE

2 29 oz cans Tomato Sauce
2 TB Vinegar
¼ C Brown Sugar
5 TB Worcestershire Sauce

Mix meatball ingredients into balls, 1 TB each, place in baking pan.
Combine sauce ingredients, pour over meatballs.
Bake @350 for 1 hour (155 degrees)

Nutrition Corner

(From TopHealth – March 2010)

BETTER WHITE BREAD. *If you want the nutrition of whole-wheat bread without the heavy flavor, here's some good news:*

White whole-wheat foods are now available and have the same nutritional value as whole wheat but taste more like traditional white-flour products. When buying bread, check for 100% whole wheat on the label – or at least whole wheat or white whole wheat as the first ingredient listed.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

1	2	3	4	5
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March Calendar of Events

8	9	10 <i>10:30</i> <i>Parent Meeting</i> Volunteer/Sub Orientation	11 Please return your Parent Surveys!	12
15 <i>Policy Council</i>	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		