



February 2007 Newsletter



From the Director:

Dear Playhouse Parents,

As I sit by the fire on our first snow day with my new dog, Penny, I feel blessed to have the opportunity to connect with our families and to guide your children's development each day.

I want to welcome students Zachary, Mackenzie, Ally, Molly, and their families to The Playhouse. Molly's mom, Margie, was a teacher at The Playhouse last year and she will sub for us occasionally. Also, a warm welcome to Mechelle Linehan, who joins our teaching team on Monday a.m. in the preschool. Her son attended The Playhouse in Holliston several years ago. She will sub in both schools as needed.

Now that we've had our first official Nor'easter, please send in labeled winter gear as we'll venture out, temperature permitting. We follow a weather chart provided by the Department of Early Education and Care that takes the wind chill factor into consideration.

Lastly, thank you to all the families who sent in Valentine treats and projects, as well as recent toy and book donations. Thanks to Sean's dad for joining our group meeting time to read the class a story. We appreciate your efforts.

Next week is vacation, February 19-23. Enjoy the snow!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Ida

Upcoming Workshops

Anxiety Workshop-

Barbara Capaldo of Insight Education will hold a Saturday workshop on Anxiety Disorders in children on March 10th from 10-1 upstairs in St. Paul's church hall. Please pre-register if you can but walk-ins are welcome.

Curriculum Workshop-

On Wednesday March 14th from 6:30-8, our staff will present an information night on the Playhouse Curriculum, toddlers through pre-kindergarten. We'll share our philosophy of learning and the kinds of skills your children are

developing as they play and explore in the various learning centers.

Miss Margaret will describe our new pre-K program that will be offered next fall, Monday – Friday from 12-3. The following is a brief synopsis of what Margaret envisions for our older, afternoon group:

Next September, The Playhouse Preschool will be offering a daily Pre-K program from 12-3. I am very enthusiastic about developing this program for the upcoming school year and wanted to share a little bit about what you can expect.

One of the special qualities that sets the Playhouse apart from other area preschools in our emphasis on and respect for the children's spontaneous play. Play is the hallmark for this age and continues to be crucial to development through the "early childhood" years, which many theorists believe extends through age 8. Play will be the focus of the pre-K program. However, we recognize that four year olds are preparing for the demands of kindergarten. They will need to demonstrate the ability to sit quietly in a group, follow directions, show adequate motor, listening, and speaking skills.



Children are learning on a concrete level at this age, therefore, the experience that they have during the course of their daily play are the most meaningful and long-lasting. As a result, we plan to develop our curriculum based on what we observe their interests are within the context of their play at school. From there we will expand on their knowledge by making connections to new learning through literature, song, science, and art. As we plan for how to extend the children's learning, we will imbed letter recognition, phonemic awareness, number concepts, and many other skills considered to be necessary to "kindergarten readiness" into activities and centers. Children will participate in both large and small group lessons and there will be more teacher-directed lesson during the week than our pre-school currently offers.

I hope you share in my excitement for this new program and I encourage you to contact me with any questions that you might have.

-Miss Margaret



Book Club

I've attached the new order forms and will need all orders placed in the brown envelope as you enter The Playhouse by March 12th. Marie and I ordered several free books from the bonus points you've accumulated with your orders. Thank you again.



Music Class

Miss Pamela of Music, Movement, and More offers a class on Tuesdays at our preschool from 1:15-2. Your child is welcome to join mid-semester. It's a class size of 10 right now. Help yourself to a brochure as you enter our school or just show up.

September '07 Registration

It's not too late to register for The Playhouse for September '07. I've attached a registration form to this newsletter. Thank you for spreading the word about our program. We are growing!

Make-Up Policy

Because classes were not full the first half of the year, we were able to offer a flexible make-up policy. Recently,

spaces have filled in, but we will do our best to call you if a spot opens up or let you know ahead of time. The toddler and preschool classes have open a.m. spots on Thursdays, and the afternoon class on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday is never full.

Teacher-Parent Conferences

We are changing our conference day from Friday to Monday, 8-1. You can sign up with your child's teacher for a 20 minute conference as needed. Please don't hesitate to use this time.

NAEYC Accreditation Update

We are still working towards accreditation for our Hopkinton school. We'll be purchasing our study materials soon and will keep you posted as to our progress.