



Early Childhood Education Since 1981

Administrative Newsletter

Fall 2009

Granny Scholarship Fund

Play & Learn's Granny Scholarship Fund was established in 1988 in memory of Anna Schatz, a grandmother who provided a constant source of love and support for children of families and friends.

The Granny Scholarship Fund offers temporary child care tuition assistance for families in need. From 1988 through 2009, more than \$450,000 has been given to support nearly 1,200 children.

Through center specific events, fundraisers and donations, Play & Learn is able to make this happen. For the past three years, Play & Learn has hosted an annual family night at the Elmwood Park Zoo, a time for families to come together and have fun while raising money for a good cause.

Elmwood Park Zoo

On June 5, 2009 families and friends from all 10 Play & Learn centers attended the 3rd Annual Family Night at the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown. Some of the activities included: pony rides, face painting, a moon-bounce, educational shows, superior art work from our children and yummy food and drink. The event was a huge success raising approximately **\$5,000 for the Granny Scholarship Fund!**

Tuition Raffle

Play & Learn also holds an annual **Tuition Raffle** that benefits the **Granny Scholarship Fund**. Congratulations to the Mardt Family from our Fort Washington Preschool center for winning a \$1,000 tuition voucher. The Tuition Raffle raised over \$3,000 for the Granny Scholarship Fund.

Thank you to everybody who joined us at the Elmwood Park Zoo and who participated in the Tuition Raffle. The Granny Scholarship Fund would not be a success without you!

Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

Play & Learn is one of several schools in Pennsylvania participating in an exciting, new giving option: the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC). The PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has approved Play & Learn as an Educational Improvement Organization. This allows businesses to contribute to Play & Learn's Granny Scholarship Fund to support families in need and receive a tax credit in addition to their federal charitable deduction. To learn more about the PA Tax Credit go to www.newpa.org or call DCED Center for Business Financing at 717-787-7120.

For more information about the Granny Scholarship Fund, call the Administrative Offices at 215-643-4142, 610-489-9598 or e-mail admin@playandlearn.com.

United Way

Being a non-profit corporation, Play & Learn relies on fundraising and donations to provide the quality care that we do. Through the United Way, individuals have the option to donate money through employer payroll deductions as well as private donations. Play & Learn's United Way code number is 6996.

United Way remains one of the most outstanding ways for individuals and corporations to make an impact on local Education. Contact your employer's Human Resource department for more information.



Spotlight On...

PLAY & LEARN DEVELOPS A \$150,000, STATE OF THE ART, MULTI-AGE PLAYGROUND

Play & Learn recently invested over \$150,000 on its multi-yard playground at the Blue Bell center, as part of the on-going commitment to families to provide the best not only in education but also play. Situated on one acre, the playground is enclosed to offer age segregated play areas.

With the guidance of a licensed playground consultant, the multi-age playground now boasts expanded play areas, artificial grass that is safer and cleaner, new toddler and preschool climbing equipment, an expanded hard surface area for bikes and games, all new fencing and an infant play yard, complete with soft foam mats and climbers.

Parents and children alike are captivated at the site of the new playground when they visit the Blue Bell Play & Learn for the first time. There is something for all ages.

Outdoor play is an important aspect of the Play & Learn philosophy. The development of gross motor skills, exploration of nature and cooperative games are all learned through outdoor play. This new, exciting space has already provided challenges and opportunities.



Annual Hauntless House

Looking for FREE-non scary Halloween fun for your little ones? Come to Play & Learn's Hauntless House! Join us for an evening of fun activities, exciting games, music and much more. Remember to wear your costumes. Admission and parking are FREE! This event is open to the community so feel free to invite your friends, family and neighbors!

Who: Parents and children of all ages

What: Play & Learn's Annual Hauntless House

When/Where: See below for details

Dates & Locations are as follows:

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Lansdale Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

800 S. Broad Street, Lansdale

Friday, October 23, 2009

Blue Bell Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

6024 Butler Pike, Blue Bell

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Green Lane Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

3000 Main Street, Green Lane

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Abington Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

1319 Old York Road, Abington

Ardmore Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

36 Ardmore Avenue, Ardmore

Bryn Mawr Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

1111 County Line Road, Bryn Mawr

Collegeville Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

35 Evansburg Road, Collegeville

Fort Washington Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

200 Camphill Road, Fort Washington

Friday, October 30, 2009

Hatboro Play & Learn from 6:30pm-8pm

32 N. York Road, Hatboro

Halloween Safety Tips from Play & Learn

1. Make sure your children's costumes are bright and reflective. They should fit well and be short enough to prevent tripping and entanglement.
2. A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children when trick-or-treating.
3. Only go to homes with a porch light on.
4. Always walk on the sidewalk or, if no sidewalk is available, walk on the far edge of the road facing traffic.

After trick-or-treating is completed, inspect all treats your child has collected. Make sure any items that could cause choking (like hard candies and gum) are given only to children of appropriate age.



Back-Up Emergency Care

Play & Learn is pleased to offer a Back Up Emergency Child Care Program, providing temporary placement for families not currently enrolled in Play & Learn who are seeking emergency care. This program can be used in a variety of situations, including last minute emergencies, such as a sick caregiver, and expected breakdowns such as school holidays. If you know someone who is interested in this unique program, have them contact Play & Learn.

215-643-4142

www.playandlearn.com

610-489-9598

Willow Grove Mall Morning Club Program

Each month, Play & Learn hosts the Morning Club at the Willow Grove Mall. Play & Learn begins the program with a story told by one of our wonderful center Directors, followed by a fun craft project and ending with a thirty-minute sing along, suitable for children of all ages! The program begins at 10:30 am and runs for one hour.

Tell your friends to join us on:

October 20, 2009: Theme– Trick or Treat

November 17, 2009: Theme– Let's Give Thanks

December 1, 2009: Theme– Winter Wonderland

December 15, 2009: Theme– Chrismahanukwanzaa



Play & Learn Goes GREEN!

With the help of Terracycle, all ten of our Play & Learn centers have joined the *Drink Pouch Brigade!* Terracycle is a company that recycles products to make new products. The drink pouches that our centers collect are sent back to Terracycle and turned into soft coolers, pencil cases, backpacks and more. It's a wonderful program that allows the children to understand the importance of recycling and the importance of helping our environment.

Play & Learn has also begun efforts to switch over to electronic paperwork. The long term goal is to reduce the amount of paper that Play & Learn uses by approximately 90%.

This is the first year that our Parent Handbooks were sent electronically and it was a huge success. Parents commented "*loved the esign feature! Easy and very convenient!*" This is just the beginning of endless possibilities for Play & Learn to do our part to help the environment.

Grandparents Month

September 13, 2009 was Grandparents Day and all ten of our Play & Learn centers celebrated this wonderful day throughout the week. Grandparents were invited to join their grandchildren for story time, luncheons, special snacks, arts and crafts, outside play and more! The children really enjoyed spending quality time with their grandparents and the staff enjoyed meeting all of the wonderful inspiration in our children's lives. We appreciate all that grandparents do and the unique role that they play in our precious children's' lives.

