

Administrative Newsletter



Play & Learn

Early Childhood Education since 1981

SUMMER 2010

WELCOME TO PLAY & LEARN

With 10 convenient locations throughout Montgomery County, Play & Learn has played a valuable role in the communities we serve for nearly 30 years.

Community is very important to us at Play & Learn. We pride ourselves on teaching our children the importance of helping others and giving back to the communities in which we live.

Community involvement builds strong character and has a positive effect on personal development. To show our children the importance of community involvement, each of the 10 Play & Learn centers participates in a community giving drive each year around the holidays.

This past holiday season, Play & Learn participated in the Pajama Program, Wordsworth Academy Gift Drive, Toys for Tots, food drives for Manna House, the Ambler Community Cupboard and Philabundance as well as food and toy drives for the St. Barnabas Mission and the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth, adopted a family of 5 through Open Line and made cards for patients at Abington Memorial Hospital.

We're In Your Neighborhood!

WHO'S WHO AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Play & Learn is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. A central administrative team is located in Fort Washington to lead and support all 10 Play & Learn centers. Our administration includes:

Executive Director:	Judith Cooper
Employment Coordinator:	Rosalinda Fidler
Facilities Coordinator:	David Cooper
Financial Coordinator:	Linda Schatz
Enrollment Coordinator:	Cara Medina
Marketing Coordinator:	Kim Moore
IT Coordinator:	Trever Kalan
Administrative Assistant:	Angela Phillips
Receptionist:	Trish McCreery

An Accounting staff of 8 including receivables, payables and financial report to the Finance Coordinator.

DEDICATION TO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Keystone STARS

All ten Play & Learn centers are currently participating in the Keystone STARS Certification Program. Keystone STARS is a four-level program in Pennsylvania to evaluate and improve the quality of child care. The program offers Standards, Training, Assistance, Resources and Support (STARS) to child care providers.

Success By 6

Success By 6 is a program offered by the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania. It is an 18 month program that provides expert technical assistance services, program improvement funds, expanded access to professional development for our Directors and opportunities for our Directors to network with other child care professionals who are also in the program working toward STAR 3.

Mind in the Making

The Mind in the Making program is a 6 month course that includes 12 modules or training sessions offered by the Family & Work Institute. Each module focuses on a different area of a child's growth and development.

Six Directors have completed the program and are now certified to train their own staff members. Parents are excited about the new program. A parent from the Bryn Mawr Play & Learn commented, "I am happy to hear of your staff's enthusiasm and willingness to explore ways to enhance their teaching methods and the quality of their relationships with their students."



For more information:
215-643-4142
www.playandlearn.com

PLAY & LEARN STAFF

At each Play & Learn center, there is a Center Director who oversees the program's daily operations and a support secretarial person.

Our staff, experts in early childhood development and education, observe and evaluate each child's learning, behavior, progress and adjustment. Through encouragement, staff help each child develop his own pattern of interests and talents.

We feel this educational philosophy gives young children a strong basis for developing into a well rounded, responsible, fulfilled adult.

Trainings

Play & Learn is dedicated to providing the most up to date and appropriate trainings for the staff in the early childhood education field. Training topics have included Baby Sign Language, Professionalism, Multicultural Perspectives, Observing and Reading and How to Listen so Children Will Communicate. These trainings offer our staff the opportunity to grow as teachers and to provide a better education to the children. In addition to evening and weekend trainings, staff attend three in-service trainings each year.

ANNUAL & MONTHLY EVENTS

Throughout the year, Play & Learn hosts a variety of events that are for our children, families and the communities we serve. Some of these events benefit the enrichment music and gym programs while others are for fun and to have a great time.

Annual Events

- January- New Year's Day Celebrations
- February- Kindergarten Open Houses
Valentine's Day Celebrations
- March- St. Patrick's Day Celebrations
- April- Easter/Passover Celebrations
- May- Mother's Day Celebrations
- June-Annual Family Night at Elmwood Zoo
Father's Day Celebrations
- July-Annual Tuition Raffle
Independence Day Parades
- August-Annual Summer Fairs
- September- Grandparents Day Celebrations
- October- Back to School Nights/
Annual Hauntless Houses
- November- Thanksgiving Celebrations
- December- Holiday Gift Drives

Monthly Events

- Willow Grove Park Mall Morning Club
(The 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10:30am)
- Kid's Night Out
- Family Nights

For a specific date of an event or directions to a Play & Learn location call the Administrative Offices at 215-643-4142 or visit www.playandlearn.com.

LENDING A HELPING HAND

Play & Learn's Granny Scholarship Fund offers temporary child care tuition assistance for families facing financial difficulties. From 1988 to present day, more than \$500,000 has been given to support nearly 1,400 children.

Through center specific events, fundraisers and family donations, Play & Learn is able to make this happen. Current events that raised fantastic funds include:

Elmwood Park Zoo

On June 4, 2010, families and friends from all 10 Play & Learn centers attended the 4th Annual Family Night at the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown. Some of the activities were: pony rides, face painting, moon bounces, photographs with Coop the Cougar, musical performances with Peter Moses and yummy food and drink. The event was a huge success raising over \$12,000 for the Granny Scholarship Fund!

Tuition Raffle

The annual Tuition Raffle raised over \$5,000 this year!

This years prizes included:

- First Prize: \$1,000 Tuition Voucher
- Second Prize: On-Location Portrait Package
from Carriage Studio
- Third Prize: 1 Year Membership to the
Elmwood Park Zoo

If you are interested in making a donation to the Granny Scholarship Fund, please contact the Administrative Offices at 215-643-4142 or e-mail admin@playandlearn.com

BUILDING LASTING PARTNERSHIPS

Play & Learn has developed many partnerships within the areas we serve. The following are the partnerships Play & Learn holds:

Corporate Partnerships

- Abington Memorial Hospital
- Centocor
- Pfizer
- Prudential
- Quest Diagnostics
- SEI Investments
- Wordsworth Academy

**Play & Learn offers families employed in any of the above companies a partnership discount.*

Community Partnerships

- Montessori Children's House
- Willow Grove Park Mall

Newsletter Produced by:
Kim Moore

Play & Learn is a non-profit, equal opportunity organization dedicated to serving families by providing a supportive and secure environment where children can play, learn and develop positively and in which parents can have confidence.