



Where a Lifetime of Discovery Begins...

From the Board...

The Board of Directors would first like to thank everyone who helped plan, organize, get donations, volunteered, and participated in Bella Notte. It was a great night, with delicious food and drinks from local business, amazing music, and fun auctions. Thank you to our generous sponsors, Visiting Angels and Service Stations Inc., and all businesses and individuals who donated items, food, and beverages for Bella Notte. We want to recognize Caven Keith, Ruary's dad, for creating, filming, and producing a commercial for Bella Notte, which was shown over 80 times on the public access channels. It was a great commercial, starring Reese (T+) and her mom Sarah. We are still working on our final tally, but it looks like \$5,000 will be going towards our Operations, and we will know how much will be going to our Expansion Project by next week's Board meeting. Hopefully, next year's Bella Notte will be even bigger and better!

Our last Board meeting of 2008 will be this upcoming Wednesday, December 3rd at 6pm. As always, families are welcome to come, and it is actually required for every family to come to one Board meeting a year. We will be discussing Bella Notte, new possible policies, next year's holiday schedule, and the status of CCSLV. Free babysitting is available during the meeting, and there will be a sign-up sheet in the Lobby on Monday to sign up. We hope to see many of our families on Wednesday!

Please mark your 2009 calendar that CCSLV's mandatory Annual Meeting will be on Saturday,

February 7th, 2009. This meeting will go over the status of CCSLV, some of our policies, and will vote in a new Board. We hope to see all of our families at this important meeting.

The Program Committee is looking for a few wonderful people to join this important committee. This committee focuses on facility issues, curriculum ideas, and family resource matters. The next Parent Education night will be in January, so please keep your eye open on more information on this subject in the next few weeks.

Thank you to all of our families and staff for making CCSLV a wonderful place to learn, grow and be!

Lori and CCSLV's Board of Directors

Second Harvest Food Drive

You may have noticed the big barrel in the foyer or the bags in your parent folders. We are helping Second Harvest Food Bank by hosting a collection barrel in our center. Your non-perishable food items will go straight to the people who need it most through Second Harvest.

Second Harvest provides every local food bank with food donations and serves as a clearing house and distribution point for large corporations. Just one can or box of non-perishable food can make a big difference in a families life! It is also a great way to teach your children about community and altruism.

Please try to support the local businesses that donated to Bella Notte and helped to make it a great success! A list is available in the Office.

Thank you!





Toddler Classroom News

We are wrapping up our theme of Fall Harvest. We explored the things that autumn brings-- wind and rain, leaves changing colors, and pumpkins!

We have moved on to the theme of Family. Please bring a family picture or two to share – pets included! We will post them in the classroom for everyone to see and they will be returned after we are done with our display.

The children enjoyed playing in the hay out on the yard. Lori works hard to maintain our beautiful garden with all edible plants. The children enjoy looking, and occasionally tasting, the plants. Thank you Lori!

Please be sure that your emergency pack is complete and up to date. If you have anything that needs to be changed on your emergency contact card please notify us!

As the weather gets cooler, we ask that you bring your child in weather appropriate clothing, including shoes. Also, check your child's cubby or backpack to be sure there is an extra outfit that is seasonally appropriate.

If you are going through your child's clothing and find some that no longer fit, feel free to donate them to the classroom. We could always use more spare clothing to have on hand. Any donations made to our classroom can be counted towards parent hours.

I noticed some of you are not signing out regularly. Please be sure to sign in the times on the weekday sheet and a full signature in addition to the time on the colored monthly sheet. Thank you.

I just want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication to our school.

Everything that you do from laundry to making play dough really helps us out, and we are greatly appreciative.

Sincerely,
Kat and the Toddler Team



Sick Children, Sick Center

For working families, there is a great deal of pressure to make sure we get our jobs done. But when it comes to bringing a sick child to childcare, you have to consider the big picture.

Other children and their families can get sick, and that can lead to outbreaks of illness throughout our community and even our county. Everyone loses work time and everyone suffers.

Staff can get sick and lose valuable work time. The Center has to over-compensate for missing staff, and that leads to fatigue and more illness. In turn, the staff can bring these illnesses home to their families and their children, which perpetuates these outbreaks.

If you bring a sick child to the Center, teachers and staff will most likely ask you to return home for at least 24 hours until the symptoms clear. Symptoms include (within 24 hours): vomiting, diarrhea, fever, blisters, rashes (outside of diaper), deep cough, fatigue, lethargy, over-sensitivity, swollen tonsils or glands, earaches, red eye(s), and general cold/flu symptoms as well as physical injuries w/o a doctor's note.

If your child becomes sick here, you will be called and asked to pick them up immediately. In certain cases, if you do not make arrangements to pick up your child within the hour of us making voice contact with you or a guardian, you will be charged a fee because we will need to isolate them.

We are happy to support you during illnesses. If you need us to, we can personally inform your employer that your child is ill. We also have information available about your right to family leave time in the State of California.



Toddler Plus Classroom News

Our theme for November and December is "Family". We have a family shelf in our room where each child can bring something special about their child to display. Good examples are a special book or toy, pictures of family outings, vacations, or something that reflects the family's background. Each family will have a week to display their things and we will have a sign-up sheet in the classroom. We hope that parents will make time to come in during circle time in the morning or afternoon to share about what is on the shelf with the children. This is one way we can get to know you and your child better. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to talk to Lote.

We have been taking children on walks in the park. They had fun running around the grassy area behind the Center. They collected leaves from our walks and glued leaves on paper. We also put leaves on contact paper for the door.

In the classroom, there are lots of sensory activities going on such as play dough, painting, gluing, drawing with markers and pencils, puzzles, birdseed, water play, oobleck, and gak.

Ongoing group activities include block building, building with legos, working with the train set on the floor, and dramatic play.

Large motor activities include climbing, jumping on the mattresses, riding tricycles, digging in the sandbox, and running.

At circle time, we use reading and singing as language development activities. In the afternoon, I have linking yoga into our circle time. The children have been learning to be trees, turtles, and airplanes while we hum, we stretch, and we do controlled movement.

Sincerely,
Lote and the Toddler Plus Team

Do you ever wonder why play dough is always on the table?

Play dough is a staple play material in the early childhood classroom. This squishy substance provides an enjoyable and satisfying experience for young children.

Play dough also provides a valuable hands-on active learning experience for young children. Through this medium, teachers address early learning standards and observe children's progress in many areas of development.

The notion that play is a child's work is widely accepted among researchers and educators in the early childhood field. Young children learn best through the manipulation of materials where they can see the effects they have on the world around them. These experiences come through play.

Creative experiences with materials like play dough offer children many valuable learning opportunities. The children learn to interact and cooperate with peers, communicate their ideas through spoken language, express themselves through creativity and dramatic play, learn about the effects they can have on their environment, and experiment with scientific concepts.

Experiences with play dough allow children to explore and experiment in various ways. Learning occurs in social, emotional, language, physical, and cognitive domains. This provides a solid foundation for future school experiences.

We hope you can use some of the ideas and activities you see in our classrooms and give your child(ren) the opportunity to "play" with these at home.





From the Office...

Dear Families,

It is December, and the holidays are right around the corner.

Bella Notte was a lot of fun, and we even made some money. I wish that we had seen more of our families there, but it was great to see many of our alums and friends! Many thanks to all that helped to make this event a success. Please write down your hours at the bottom of your bill so I can credit you. I know it's difficult right now and money is tight and it seems that we're always asking for your help.

We are required to raise at least \$10k annually through fundraising efforts. Fee increases are a given but the amount that we need to increase can be offset by what we raise at our fundraisers.

Just a reminder that December 3rd is our last Board of Directors meeting before year-end fees will be assessed. I have a list of parents who will be charged if they don't attend the meeting. Please stop by the office if you have any questions.

Please get your child's emergency pack in as soon as possible! It's time to update your child's pack with weather appropriate clothes and food. Amy is handling this and can answer any questions that you might have.

Additionally, I want to mention my usual reminders about checking your child's box regularly and calling the office or your child's room if they are going to be out.

I will be out of the office for two weeks (December 22-Jan 6, 2009). Amy and Heather will be taking care of things in my absence. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Enjoy the holidays,

Kelli Polite
Executive Director

2008 is rolling to a close, and I want to thank all the parent volunteers that have given their time and effort to make our Center events a success. Since I started in April of 2008, you have made me feel welcome and I think I am a happier, healthier person just for being here.

The Children's Center is special among other childcare centers because we are a parent-participation center. It is the efforts of parents and alumni that make it possible for our Center to stay open even in stressful of economic times.

I want to emphasize how valuable your time is to our Center. Every parent hour you provide saves us time and money. Every time you give a little extra time to tell a friend, or even a random stranger, about our Center and our events, you are making a difference in your child's experience at CCSLV.

This coming year we have some big projects planned. For example, there is a plan to remodel the Toddler Room playground. We also hope our Pre-K pilot program will begin in 2009. Our community members will help us make these things a success, just like they did at Bella Notte.

Please remember to check out our website, www.ccslv.org, to see any new information about CCSLV. Remember to shop locally! Dollar's that go into our community help everyone!

-Amy Mireault

Old Cans = New Dishwasher

We are collecting recyclable cans and bottles to buy a new water-efficient industrial dishwasher. Our old dishwasher is leaky, the wheels pop-off, and a new one would make life in the kitchen a lot easier.

If you want to donate CRV cans and bottles toward our cause, we will take them, or you can just bring us the CRV fees you get when you recycle them at our local redemption centers in Ben Lomond and Felton. **Thank you!**