



SAND CREEK

Our mission: To provide high quality, comprehensive early care and education for **all** children.

Antlers Place

108 Antlers Place, 80903

719-634-1277

18 months to 6 years

Historic Day Nursery

104 E. Rio Grande, 80903

719-632-0855

2 ½ years to 14 years

Sand Creek

550 Sand Creek Drive, 80916

719-591-1556

2 ½ years to 7 years

South Chelton

1465 S. Chelton Road., 80910

719-574-4422

6 weeks to 5 years

Dare to Dream @ Mountain Vista

2550 Dorset Drive, 80910

719-527-3412

School Age

Dare to Dream @ Sand Creek

550 Sand Creek Drive., 80916

205-2265

School Age

Dare to Dream @ Stratton Meadows

610 Brookshire Ave., 80906

719-538-1409

School Age

Corporate Offices

104 E. Rio Grande, 80903

719-632-1754

Visit us online at

www.earlyconnectionslearningcenters.org

From The Director

Welcome to May Sand Creek!

We had such a wonderful April. Thank you to all of our families who attended Family Night. We were excited to share our new, more fitting name. Early Connections Learning Centers really describes us. None of our wonderful programs have changed we just adjusted our name to better describe what we do. We had definitely outgrown Nursery! There is a stamp with our name to save your hand some writing when you make our your checks.

Because it is May in Colorado, please remember to continue to send at least a light jacket. Thank you so much for bringing in your extra change of clothes, it has really helped.

May is a big month here at Sand Creek. Some children will be moving up to the Dare to Dream

program on the 24th. We will miss them and we know they are ready to move on and explore and make some new friends.

This also means we will be meeting new friends in the preschool room as well. Keep an eye out and we'll introduce our new friends as they join us. We hope to see you at our celebration on the 21st! (See teacher section for more details)

Thank you,

Stephanie Enoch
Center Director

Upcoming Events



*Friday, May 7 & 21
Teacher Meeting 8:30-12:00 (Substitutes)

*May 10,12,17 Teacher
Training 8:15-1:15
(Substitutes)

*May 3,10,17,24
Teacher Planning 1:30-4:00 (Substitutes)

*Monday, May 24 Parent
Action Committee
(PAC) 5:30 Dinner,
Meeting 6:00

*Monday, May 30 Early
Connections Learning
Centers CLOSED

Accreditation Corner

As NAEYC defines it, *developmentally appropriate practice* (DAP) is a framework of principles and guidelines for best practice in the care and education of young children, birth through age 8. It is grounded both in the research on how young children develop and learn and in what is known about education effectiveness. The principles and guidelines outline practice that promotes young children's *optimal* learning and development.

From the Parent Handbook

HOME VISITS and CONFERENCES

Family participation is encouraged and welcomed. Early Connections Learning Centers uses The Home Visits / Conferences model for family support and communication. Home Visits / Conferences model is designed: To guide families and teachers with a way of sharing valuable information about their child; To individualize the planning process for each child in the context of their family, culture, and community; To explore ways to use a child's family's strengths to promote growth and development; To utilize practical, everyday activities and routines to enhance each child's development at home, in school, and within the community; To create an ongoing process for recording the growth and development of the child.

Each family (with the exception of school-agers) receives two personal/home visits and two conferences with their child's teacher each year. The first visit occurs upon enrollment and every August thereafter. The visit may take place in the home, at school, or at another mutually agreed upon place. The teacher and family discuss their child's strengths, likes and dislikes, and styles of learning. At this time we work together to set goals for their child's growth and development. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in November to update families of their child's progress. We will also share information with families on child growth and development as well as ideas to use at home to promote growth. Personal/Home visits will occur again in February followed by another Parent/Teacher conference in May. These are also used to share information about their child's development. A family may request a conference regarding their child's progress at any time. Early Connections Learning Centers encourages families to communicate concerns through conversations with their child's teachers or center director.

FROM THE CLASSROOM

We are continuing our Storybook Journey and learning about ourselves, our family and our friends. We are hoping that this will help promote a positive self image and improve friendships. Our Storybook Journeys this month are Elmer by David McKee, The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle and 26 Big Things Small Hands Can Do.

Elmer is an elephant that looks different from the rest of the elephants. He is always the center of their laughter. At the end of the book we discover that being different is a good thing. In the Grouchy Ladybug we will talk about our emotions and how we can get along with our friends. We will talk about using our words to express how we feel. While reading 26 Big Things Small Hands Can Do we will promote independence and celebrate all the things the stu-

dents can do. On Friday May 21, 2010 we will celebrate the end of the school year and our friends that are moving on to kindergarten. Please join us in the morning for breakfast and special activities. Our celebration will be from 8:30am to 10:00am. This will be an exciting and special day. We hope you will join us!

In June we will start our outside water play. We will have a water day every Friday starting June 4th. Please be prepared to bring a swim suit, towel and water shoes. If possible, please avoid flip flops.

Thank you!

Ms. Tiffany, Ms. Tami and Ms. Emily

Safety First

Talking with Young Children About Threats to Their Safety

Most children who attend school in this country won't find themselves in life-threatening situations, but kids do need to be reassured that they'll most likely be safe in the classroom. However, it's useful to establish some ground rules for communicating about safety issues before problems arise. Here are some ideas:

The Words You Need

The Words: If anyone ever threatens to hurt you, someone else, or himself, it's important that you tell me about it — even if the person tells you to keep it a secret. If you know that someone has hurt you, someone else, or himself, it's also essential to tell.

The Reason: Loyalty to peers is something children learn early in grade school, and most kids dread being labeled a "tattle tale." However, kids need to learn that there are times when "telling" on a friend is essential and could save lives.

The Words: If, for some reason, you can't get hold of me when something like that happens, let's think about other people you can tell.

The Reason: Help kids think ahead of time about who their adult resources are.

Then, if something happens, they'll know where to turn.

The Words: I don't expect this will ever happen to you, but if it does I want to make sure you know how to get help.

The Reason: Talking about safety issues with children doesn't have to be terrifying if you reassure them that you don't expect that anything bad will happen to them.

The Words: Let's talk about this again sometime. I'm happy to talk with you about anything, even if it's something that makes you uncomfortable.

The Reason: It's important to let your kids know that you're available and willing to talk to them about whatever they want to talk about.

Beyond the Conversation

Make sure you have safety conversations with your kids several times as they grow up. Each time, let them know that you're available when they need help.

From: www.familyeducation.com

You Are What You Eat



Family Dinners: The Recipe for Connectedness

Getting Together for Dinner

Family dinners? Who's got the time? Only one third of U.S. families eat dinner together most nights. The time-honored, slow-paced family dinner of past generations now looks more like a frantic pit stop, where family members simply refuel before beginning their evening activities. But consider this: sitting down at the table together is still one of the best ways for families to grow and stay connected.

Making family dinners a priority is not easy, but the long-term benefits are well worth the effort. The family dinner offers a natural forum that fosters togetherness. It can give all family members a chance to share their lives and to receive encouragement and support. Regular family meals also provide children with a much-needed safe haven of stability in a world that is often confusing and frightening.

Here are nine tips to help you get the most out of your family dinner:

1. Don't feel guilty if family dinners are not a daily event. Start with what's possible at the moment, naturally

transitioning toward eating together several times per week.

2. Family discussions need not begin and end while seated at the dinner table. Family members, including even young children, may begin communicating while helping to prepare the meal and setting the table. Mealtime conversations may continue as the family clears the table and does the dishes.

3. The family dinner should be a relaxing, pleasurable occasion. Unpleasant topics, negative criticism, and passing judgment are not appropriate dinner conversation.

4. Always involve your kids in the dinner discourse. Their participation will not only make them feel more valued; it will also expose them to new language and ideas. The art of conversation and learning how to take turns speaking are important social skills for everyday life.

5. Specific questions to children (for example, "How many nibbles did you get on your line when you and Dad went fishing Saturday?") are more likely to trigger conversation than general questions. ("How was your day today?")

6. Laughter is the best dinnertime music.

7. Family dinners don't always have to be evening events. They also can be weekday or weekend breakfasts or lunches. What's most important is communicating the importance and desirability of these family meals.

8. Change the family dinner location sometimes. How about an afternoon picnic, dinner under the stars, or Saturday breakfast in your child's room?

9. Turn off the TV and radio. Unplug the phone or put on the answering machine. Don't let interruptions spoil this special time.

Having more family dinners may initially be met with some resistance, especially if they are not a regular part of your household schedule. In time, however, the pleasure and security they are guaranteed to provide will have everyone looking forward to coming to the table.

From: www.familyeducation.com

"Cha-Ching" - Ways To Save Money

When money is tight, you might be tempted to look for "big" ways to start saving more money each month. However, quite often, you'll find that saving money in "little" ways every day begins to add up to considerable savings. Put these money saving tips into practice, and make a point of putting the money you save into the bank.

#1: Use Coupons Effectively

If you're going to bother to clip coupons, make sure you use them in a way that saves you the most money possible. Ex. Find out what days your store doubles coupons, use the store's sale flyer to watch

for sales to use with your coupons.

#2: Use inexpensive Toiletries

Use toiletries that have money-back guarantees, buy brand name products at a dollar store.

#3: Use Generic Laundry Detergents

Add it to your dollar store shopping list.

#4: Do Not Have Your Clothes Professionally Dry Cleaned

Either don't buy clothes that need to be dry cleaned, or use the dry cleaning fabric sheets that can be used in the dryer.

#5: Drink Water

Drink tap water during the day.

#6: Make Your Own Snacks

Buy in bulk and store them in snack-sized Zip-loc bags.

#7: Double Your Recipes When You Cook

Purchase twice the ingredients and freeze the extra batch. Saves on ingredients and keeps you from ordering out if short on time.

8: Buy Generic Foods and Staples

Ease the family into the changes by mixing generics in with name brand items.

#9: Only Buy Used Cars

Buy a decent "certified" used car from a dealer you trust.

#10: Downgrade One Luxury Item

Think about downgrading or eliminating things like your cell phone or cable plans.

Excerpted from: Jennifer Wolf, About.com Guide



From the Get Well Center

McNeil Consumer Healthcare Announces Voluntary Recall of Certain OTC Infants' and Children's Products

Fort Washington, PA (April 30, 2010) - McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Division of McNeil-PPC, Inc., in consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is voluntarily recalling all lots that have not yet expired of certain over-the-counter (OTC Children's and Infants' liquid products manufactured in the United States and distributed in the United States, Canada, Dominican Republic, Dubai (UAE), Fiji, Guam, Guatemala, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, and Kuwait.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare is initiating this voluntary recall because some of these products may not meet required quality standards. This recall is not being undertaken on the basis of adverse medical events. How-

ever, as a precautionary measure, parents and caregivers should not administer these products to their children. Some of the products included in the recall may contain a higher concentration of active ingredient than is specified; others may contain inactive ingredients that may not meet internal testing requirements; and others may contain tiny particles. While the potential for serious medical events is remote, the company advises consumers who have purchased these recalled products to discontinue use.

The company is conducting a comprehensive quality assessment across its manufacturing operations and has identified corrective actions that will be implemented before new manufacturing is initiated at the plant where the recalled products were made.

Consumers can contact the company at 1-888-222.6036 and also at

www.mcneilproductrecall.com. Parents and caregivers who are not sure about alternative pediatric health treatment options should talk to their doctor or pharmacist and are reminded to never give drug products to infants and children that are not intended for those age groups as they could result in serious harm.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Division of McNeil-PPC, Inc. markets a broad range of well-known OTC products.

Recalls include certain:

- Infants' Tylenol and Children's Tylenol Products
- Infants' Motrin and Children's Motrin Products
- Children's Zyrtec Products
- Children's Benadryl Products



"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it."

-Buddy Hackett

Focus on Community Resources

Colorado Legal Services

Colorado Legal Services Programs



Colorado Legal Services assist in civil matters with divorce; allocation of parental responsibilities (e.g., custody); protection orders; evictions;

housing discrimination; foreclosures; immigration (VAWA/U Visa); powers of attorney; collections; bankruptcy; consumer issues; denials/decreases/overpayments/etc. of public benefits such as Food Stamps, TANF, Low Energy Assistance Income, Medicare and Medicaid; denials of Social Security Disability or SSI; hearings on unemployment benefits. Colorado Legal Services is free to

those who meet the income guidelines provided by the Federal Government, except those aged 60 or over there is no income restriction. Please call to schedule an appointment at (719) 471-0380. Hours of operation: 8:30 AM-Noon and 1-5 P.M., Monday through Friday Located at 671 S. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

www.coloradolegalservices.org