

Newsletter

Director: Lucy Chaille
Phone: 503-591-0604
Editor: Brit Eagan

www.creativechildrenscenter.com

“Nothing Without Joy”

Parent Teacher Conferences

- Bring in any artwork or writing samples your child has done at home that you would like to share with the teacher (scribbles count!). You are welcome to have the teacher add it to your child's portfolio of work samples.
- Arriving on time is crucial, and will ensure that you get your full, scheduled time. This also helps keep your teacher on-track for the rest of the day. We respect and appreciate everyone's time.
- Be considerate of teachers. Sometimes preparing and conducting conferences can be even more stressful and tiring than a day of teaching.
- Exchange child care with other families in your class that have the conference time before or after yours. Children can play on the playground under supervision while parents are in conferences.

The teachers are excited to share with you what your child has been doing in school and can't wait to learn more about you and your family!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 6	Campus Work Party
Oct. 10	<u>K-3 Class Gathering/Curriculum Night</u>
Oct. 11	<u>Sunshine Kids, Rainbows, and Play Pals</u> Class Gathering / Curriculum Night
Oct. 12	<u>Teacher Inservice - No School</u> Creativity Club Opened
Oct. 24-26	<u>Parent teacher Conf. - No School</u> Creativity Club Opened
Nov. 9	<u>Teacher Inservice - No School</u> Creativity Club Opened
Dec. 18	NO SCHOOL — CCC Family Feast

Parent Education Gathering

October 10th, 7:00 pm

★ Our next parent education gathering will be on
★ October 10th, (Elementary) and October 11
★ (Preschoolers). Besides being a fun time to meet and
★ connect with other parents, our goal will be to
★ introduce CCC's unique Curriculum and approach.
★ Parents are invited to bring light food to share,
★ (appetizers or desserts), making this both a social
★ event and a parent education meeting. Child care is
★ not available so please make other arrangements.
★ Hope to see you there! ☀

What's Reggio Emilia?

By Kim Strelchun

CCC is a Reggio inspired school. So, just what is Reggio Emilia you may be asking yourself? Is she a person, place or thing? Well, Reggio Emilia is a town in the northern region of Italy that is celebrated for having the best schools in the world. Many of our staff first heard about Reggio Emilia in the 1990's when the media really began to spread the word about this educational gem! Their schools started with a base in social constructivism (like CCC), but they have taken it to the next level. In 2000, Director Lucy Chaille traveled with a group of teachers from The Opal School and Lewis & Clark College for her first study tour of the infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio. In the spring of 2002, Lucy returned to Reggio Emilia with the staff of Portland State University's Helen Gordon Center. With each successful trip, Lucy's passion for the best early childhood education practices grew. In the summer of 2003, the Parent Advisory Board voted to send the entire staff to Reggio Emilia to further study these wonderful schools. Our school accomplished the unthinkable when we all worked together to raise the funds to send all five of our teachers as well as two parents to Reggio Emilia in February of 2004. As you learn more about this approach, you will see the value given to the relationships between parents, teachers and students. Not only did our team of seven have a four-day study tour of the schools in Reggio, but they were also participants in an International Conference of Early Education that brought 1,500 people from over 50 countries to Reggio Emilia. Amazing! We heard how different nations all over the world approach early childhood education, we heard the importance of this work, and we were inspired to bring this quality of education not only back to CCC, but to our community. Over the years, CCC has hosted leaders from the Reggio Emilia schools as visitors to CCC. We have organized conferences and presented at numerous workshops. We partnered with Opal, PSU, and Mentor to sponsor and bring The Wonder of Learning Exhibit to Portland, and put on two conferences sharing "social constructivist education" and the Reggio Philosophy in Oregon. Teachers Niki, and Vivian have since attended their own study tour in Reggio Emilia Italy. As the school year continues, we will be sharing more with you about the Reggio Emilia approach. Feel free to contact any of the staff with questions regarding CCC's constructivist philosophy and the Reggio Emilia approach. ✨

The Reggio Inspired Approach

Here's a glimpse of some of the guiding principles to the Reggio-inspired approach to early childhood education. Dr. Rebecca Isbell prepared this summary. The notes in parenthesis are ways you may see these values at CCC.

The Image Of The Child: All children have potential, construct their own learning and are capable.

Community and System: Children, family, teachers, parents and community are interactive and work together. (Parents in the classroom, regular class meetings, ongoing research with teachers and parents in the community setting).

Interest In Environment And Beauty: School and classrooms are beautiful places. (Bringing nature into the class – bugs, flowers, wood, natural items).

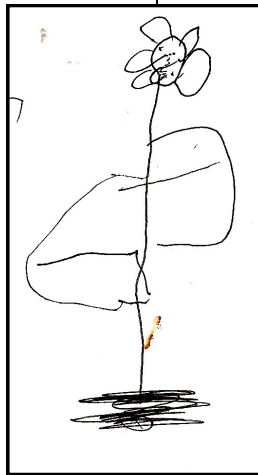
Collaboration By Teachers: Team, partners, working together, sharing information, sharing in projects. (Staff working together in constant collaboration about ongoing projects, etc.).

Time Not Set By Clock: Respect for children's pace, time table, stay with teachers for several years, and relationships remain constant. (Honoring children's ideas, allowing everyone a chance to share at circle time, looping multi-age classes with the same teacher).

Emergent Curriculum/Projects: Child-centered, following their interest, returning again and again to add new insights. (Allowing curriculum to emerge as children show interest; for example, Sunshine Kids started a study of paper when the children took paper lines and started creating shapes).

Environmental Stimulation: Encourages activity, involvement, discovery and using a variety of media. (Children can communicate in hundred different languages; we have a studio full of supplies for them to share their thoughts).

Documentation: Observing, recording, thinking and showing children's learning. (In the documentation, writing, photos, etc.; we can all learn from the children. We see parents and teachers as co-researchers on this educational journey). ✨



Facilitating Problem Solving

(The below excerpt was taken from *Kids Can Cooperate* by Elizabeth Crary).

As we discussed at our recent Problem Solving workshop at CCC, the primary job of an adult facilitator is to help the children remain focused on the problem and the problem solving process.

Gather Data

Collect information about events and feelings. Decide what parental options you will use. If you plan to help the children negotiate avoid blaming anyone (even if you think someone is at fault). You may ask questions such as: *What happened? Why did you...? How did you feel when you...? How did you feel when your friend/sibling...? What happened then?*

State the Problem Clearly

It is easier for children to solve a problem if you have a clear understanding of the problem. State the problem in terms of both children's needs. You might wish to use either of the following approaches or develop your own:

- Some questions: You want to ... and your friend wants to What can you do so you can both be happy?
- I know you are both upset about what happened. I do not want to focus on that. I want to focus on what we can do *now*. What are some things we might do so that both of your needs will be met?

Remember: Include all children's needs in the problem statement.

Generate Lots of Ideas

Go for quantity of different ideas, not quality in this step. Write the ideas down if you can't remember them. Encourage children to suggest silly ideas as well as practical ones.

Write down all the ideas. Evaluate them later, evaluation stops the creative process.

Encourage different ideas. If a child offers similar ideas, tell the child how they are similar and ask her for something different. For example, "Hitting, punching, biting are all hurting ideas, what is something different?"

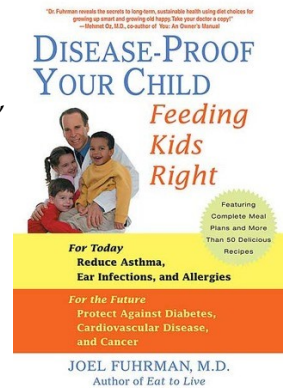
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Disease Proof Your Child

By Tia Fields (CCC Alumni)

As we all know, our child's behavior, IQ, and success in school is strongly impacted by what they eat.

I was always interested in eating healthy as a Fitness Trainer. Once I became a mother, I had to really educate myself on how to feed a little one. To my surprise, there was a lot of confusion. Most of the foods that were considered child-friendly were anything but child-friendly! It seemed like the information being marketed was so mixed up, but after looking into the subject a bit further I came across this amazing book: *Disease-Proof Your Child*, by Dr. Joel Fuhrman.



In the book, Dr. Fuhrman helps families transform their eating habits and recover their health. His nutrient-rich eating plan can have a significant impact on your child's resistance to dangerous infections, as well as a dramatic effect on reducing the occurrence of illnesses like asthma, ear infections, and allergies. Dr. Fuhrman explains how you can make sure your children are eating right to maintain a healthy mind and body, and how eating certain foods and avoiding others can positively impact your child's IQ and success in school.

He also presents fascinating science that demonstrates that the current epidemic of adult cancers and other diseases is closely linked to what we eat in the first quarter of life. Eating well in our early years may enable us to win the war on cancer. Bolstered by this scientific evidence, he helps you do everything you can to protect your child against developing diabetes, cardiovascular disease, autoimmune diseases, and cancer through a solid nutritional groundwork.

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Elementary Fieldtrip

By Lucy Chaille

The K-3 elementary program is off and running! Last month, we had the pleasure of visiting the farm of Corbin Scovill. Corbin, who is eight years old and a member of our elementary class, lives with his mother, father, and older brother on 27 acres out in North Plains.



We had a fantastic day meeting alpacas, feeding the chickens, dropping rocks down the well (and listening to the echo), zip-lining, and crayfish hunting in the stream! We learned all about sustainable gardening and how to love and care for the forest. It was a fun and educational day for us all. Our class plans on visiting throughout the year and seeing how the farm changes throughout the seasons!



Last Night I Dreamed of Chickens

By Jack Prelutsky

Last night I dreamed of chickens,
there were chickens everywhere.
They were standing on my stomach,
they were nesting in my hair
they were pecking in my pillow,
they were hopping on my head
they were ruffling up their feathers,
as they raced about my bed.
They were on the chairs and tables,
they were on the chandeliers,
they were roosting in the corners,
they were clucking in my ears.
There were chickens, chickens, chickens
for as far as I could see...
When I woke today, I noticed
there were eggs on top of me.

Introducing: Teacher Olya!

Hello, My name is Olga Miroedova, most people call me Olya. I am a Mom of two children Revir and Even, who are currently in Teacher Lucy's Elementary class. This is Revir's 5th and Even's 2nd year at Creative Children Center. This school year I am excited to be a part of the CCC staff as a Teaching Assistant! 12 years ago, my oldest daughter Darina (then 6 y o) and I moved to Oregon from Russia. My best friend, who happened to be my husband, is an Oregonian and we found a second home here. In Russia my home region was the beautiful Kamchatka Peninsula - the land of 129 volcanoes. Back there I had degrees as a historian and children's psychologist. I worked as a teacher of history with kids of different ages from elementary to high school. After moving to Portland I worked for three years in a Russian Emersion Program as a translator of kids books. Then my little ones were born and I became a dedicated Mom, looking for inspirational



and advanced children's environments for their development. That's how our path led us to CCC. In my free time I love to read, to make bracelets out of natural stones, to take photographs of my family and beautiful places, and also to chat with people on social media. I really love flowers! I always drag my family to whatever flower farms are in the blooming season. Flowers recharge my mind... I love Oregon. I think we are living in very unique place, which harmoniously combines incredible nature, a beautiful city and tolerant people that are aware of their impact on the future of our planet. And I don't mind the rain. (Especially in Winter, when I remember that in my home town it's -35F).

I think what describes people the best is their dreams. Here is mine: I dream that one day our world will not have borders between the countries and we will be done with those insane wars. I am so happy to think that every day our kids spend in CCC brings this dream closer to reality. See you all in the classroom!



Science Corner

By Casey Betcher

Before you can teach a child about science, you first have to learn to be a scientist. Learning to question, theorize, experiment and build on ideas, in simplest term is science. If children are born trying to make meaning of the world around them, they are born questioning.

Last month we began to explore the material of flubber. In the classes we mixed up batches of flubber using 3 ingredients: glue, water, and borax. Measuring out the cups of glue and teaspoons of borax are great math skills. But by far, the most fascinating part is watching the chemical reaction of all these liquids combined. As you pour them together, little bubbles appear on the surface and combine to make an ooey goeey solid!

When we explore this material, we have many questions: how does it feel against our skin; how does it move when we roll, throw, pull on it, or swing it; can scissors cut the material or change its shape; how will markers react with the material; or what happens when we hang it from baskets on the ceiling?

Each time we encounter flubber, we are constructing a stronger understanding of its different properties. And it is so much FUN!

Try mixing a batch at home with this great recipe:

CCC Flubber Recipe



Ingredients:
Elmer's Glue
Water
20 Mule Team Borax



Bowl A: Mix together 1 1/2 cups of water with 2 cups of glue. You can add food coloring now or later color the flubber with magic markers.

Bowl B: Mix together 1 1/3 cups of warm water with 2 tsp. of borax.

Pour bowl B (for borax) into bowl A. Do not stir. The mixture will begin to congeal immediately. You may pull it away from the sides and turn it over, but remember not to stir. In a minute your flubber will be ready to remove from the bowl to the table. There will be some water left over in the bowl. Store the flubber in an airtight container for days of fun! ☼

Play Pals

By Brit Eagan

Tuesdays & Thursdays are especially exciting here, because that's when our 2 & 3 year olds come together to play, explore, and learn. We can hardly believe their first month of school has already flown by, and are constantly in awe of their rapid development.

Each day we explore new materials, re-visit fun songs and stories at circle time, and spend lots of time building our friendships outdoors. We cannot wait to spend another month strengthening this amazing, little community!



Five Little Pumpkins

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate

This first one said,
"Oh my it's getting late".

The second one said,
"There's witches in the air".

The third one said,
"I don't care".

The forth one said,
"Let's run and run and run!"

The fifth one said,
"Isn't Halloween fun!"

Then "Whooo" went the wind
And OUT went the lights,
and away rolled the pumpkins
on Halloween Night! ☼



Mini Meal Inspiration

By Teacher Brit

When tasked with purchasing and planning healthy food that kids will not only enjoy, but be able to participate in, one might find themselves stumped (even those of us who cook all the time!). To provide a little inspiration I've compiled a short list of ideas to get you started. Please reach out to your teacher if you ever need help/support! **Pro Tip:** Many of these "main courses" would benefit from a side of fruit, veggies, or protein to round them out.

1) Rainbow Fruit Kabobs

Bring in strawberries, pineapple, kiwis, clementines & purple grapes along with not-too-sharp skewers!



2) Savory Kabobs

Provide olives, cheese squares, bell peppers (the more colors the better!), tofu & carrots with a side of ranch dressing. The dressing would be fun to make together as well, as kids especially love scooping and dumping dry ingredients into wet ones.

3) Vegetable Tortellini or Miso Alphabet Soup

These soup recipes, along with countless others can be found on the Super Healthy Kids website at: <https://www.superhealthykids.com>



4) Vegetable Quesadillas

Gather small flour tortillas, your choice of cheese, & an assortment of veggies (I suggest bell peppers, mushrooms, & olives) along with your favorite salsa. If you're feeling ambitious you could also provide ingredients to make the salsa or guacamole from scratch. Encourage kids to load up their tortillas with delicious fillings & then pan-fry or bake them to melted perfection.



Get Creative! By participating in (and often leading) the cooking process, children are much more invested and likely to enjoy the meals we create together. Don't hesitate to introduce new ideas! Be enthusiastic about the foods you love, and be intentional about choosing meals that kids can not only help with but take ownership of. There is nothing to lose and much to gain from coming together around food.

Thank You!



Thanks to all the hard workers who cleaned up the CCC grounds at the two work parties! We had a great turn out and lots of energy.

A special shout out to – Jeff Long, Carlo Gordon, Sean Murphy, Ashley Lynn, Alex Belliotto, Melissa Holt, Tsu-Lin Sun, Sean Graham, Nathan Jonas, Xiuming Wang, Darby Alba, Tsung-Ting Kao, Robert Walker, and the CCC Teachers!

They cleaned and stained the play structures and decks, turned wood chips & raked the sandbox, prepped the yard for winter with weeding & pruning, cleaned out the gutters, changed filters, planted mini trees, redid the covered play area, trimmed the front trees,



cleaned the shed and garage, and the classrooms! WOW, that's a lot of hard work! ☀

Looking for...

Older IPADS (for documentation)

Working digital cameras

Overhead Projectors

Paper – End roles, Architect Sheets, OR?

Saucepans and Pots in good condition

Baking Sheets

Baking Pans

Pie Pans

Cool containers and diggers for the Sandbox

Harvest Moon Lantern Walk



By Teacher Brit

One of our beloved, annual traditions at CCC is the Harvest Moon Lantern Walk. This year, on September 24th, families gathered at Root Bridge Park to celebrate the special occasion with songs, a walk through the woods, and a beautiful lantern-lit viewing of the full Harvest moon. Sometimes referred to as the "Full Corn Moon," because of its timely arrival at the start of great corn harvests around the world, this spectacle makes an appearance to mark the changing of seasons. During September, students talked a great deal about Summer memories, as well as what lay ahead: Fall! We learned special songs (like "Moon, Moon, Moon") and practiced timeless classics ("This Little Light of Mine" & "Twinkle, Twinkle") as we approached the much-anticipated family event.



The Wind

By Robert Louis Stevenson



I saw you toss the kites on high
And blow the birds about the sky;
And all around I heard you pass,
Like ladies' skirts across the grass--
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

I saw the different things you did,
But always you yourself you hid.
I felt you push, I heard you call,
I could not see yourself at all--
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

O you that are so strong and cold,
O blower, are you young or old?
Are you a beast of field and tree,
Or just a stronger child than me?
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
O wind, that sings so loud a song! ☀

Facilitating Problem Solving, Continued from page 3

Avoid criticizing ideas. If the child offers an idea you do not like, help him evaluate the idea in the next step.

Review the problem frequently. It is easy for kids to wander from the problem; remind them what the problem is. For example, "Yes, that is a problem too. Right now we are looking for ways to When we are done we can consider that."

Focus on the children's ideas. Resist the temptation to add your ideas unless you are asked. If you offer lots of good ideas, children will depend on your skill rather than developing their own.

Focus on content, not grammar. Do not correct children's grammar directly. When you summarize you can restate the suggestion correctly.

Evaluate the Ideas

Look at the consequences. Encourage children to consider the question, "What might happen if you ...?" or "How will Mary feel if you ...?"

Is this a win-win alternative? Will this idea work for all the people involved?

If no idea is acceptable, consider how the ideas could be changed to make them acceptable.

Ask for a Decision and Help Children Plan

List the alternatives, ask the children for a decision, help them plan how to implement the idea, and decide on a time to evaluate your plan.

List the alternatives. Remember to include them all: the ones you like and don't like.

Plan implementation. What do the children need to do first? Will the children need someone's permission or cooperation?

Plan time to evaluate. Decide on a time to review your plan and see if it is successful. If the solution is not working, choose another idea or return to identify the problem. If it is successful —

Congratulate the children on finding a solution and remind them if it does not work out there are other ideas.

These simple steps will help you successfully guide children through the difficult task of problem solving. Maybe we as adults could learn from them! ☀

Creativity Club

What is the Creativity Club?

CCC's Creativity Club is a fun enrichment program that meets when the school is not in session. CCC teachers run the club and plan cool thematic activities; arts activities, science experiments, cooking projects, music and stories.

One of the BEST parts of the club is spending time with friends from other classes as well as CCC alumni. Your child can even bring a friend that does not attend CCC. Just make sure they have filled out a club membership application in advance.

Interested in Joining?

The Calendar indicates which days the club will be in session. It costs \$8.00 per hour, (minimum of 3 hours). The club runs from 8:30 until 4:30, with activities happening before and after lunch. To sign up you can email CCC, or sign up in the house on the Club bulletin Board. The club will be opened on Oct. 12, and during conference week.

Children must be over 3 years old and potty trained.
Students are asked to pack a healthy lunch. We will provide snacks.

Picture Day!

Save the following dates!

Tuesday – 11/13

Sunshine Kids and Play Pals

Wednesday – 11/14

Rainbow Rascals and K-3 Elementary

We have worked with Lake Oswego Photography for many years and are always very satisfied with their ability to capture such great pictures! Photo envelopes will be sent home ahead of time for you to turn in. Sitting Pretty!



Halloween Celebrations



CCC recognizes that Halloween is a fun event for children and many look forward to dressing up in costumes. However, we try to keep the scary and violent costumes and accessories out of CCC's community. Check with your teacher to find out the details for your class celebration. Keep in mind that if your child chooses to dress up in a costume, it must not be scary – many preschool children believe that a costume is real. Also, toy weapons, and masks are not allowed. If your family does not celebrate Halloween, please let your teacher know and we can make adjustments.

An Autumn Greeting:

*"Come", said the Wind to the leaves one day.
"Come over the meadow and we will play.
Put on your dresses of red and gold.
For summer is gone and the days grow cold."*

— Unknown

Fall Stories

Are you looking for some good family stories this fall? Our CCC teachers have a few recommendations for you:

How Big is the World? by Britta Teckentrup

The Very Busy Spider, by Eric Carl

Stellaluna, by Janell Cannon

Nuts to You! By Lois Ehlert

The Apple Pie Tree, by Zoe Hall

Looking for some great Halloween Holiday Books? Some of our favorites include:

The Little Old Lady Who was not Afraid of Anything,
by Linda Williams

Big Pumpkin, by Erica Silverman

The Pumpkin Blanket, by Deborah Turney Sagwyn

These books are sure to keep your family entertained and get those creative minds churning! ☀