

Indi Kids Newsletter Summer 2017



Think Babies Campaign

Science is very clear that children's brains grow faster between the ages of 0 and 3 than at any other point in our lives. Their brains form more than one million new neural connections every second. These early connections have a life long impact on how babies learn and grow. It's time to invest in the future and give all our babies the best chance to succeed in life. Think Babies has identified 4 key areas of investment:

- Time for Parents to bond with their babies
- Nurturing healthy development from the start
- Quality, affordable child care
- Comprehensive support for low-income families

The Think Babies Campaign is helping to bring national attention to what babies and families need to thrive. To learn more about the Think Babies campaign and sign up for updates visit their website at thinkbabies.org.

Strong Commitment to Early Learning Programs

The Pennsylvania House and Senate passed the 2017-2018 state budget last week. The governor and legislature prioritized state funding for pre-k, child care and home visiting. Both Senator White and Representative Reed voted for this budget. We encourage you to reach out and thank them for their support of early learning. We also encourage you to continue to let your representatives both in PA and in Washington D.C. know that quality, affordable child care is important to you. We are grateful for the progress but we also know there is more to be done both on a state and national level.



The payments that child care providers receive for families' child care assistance are still too low to support good-quality care. For many families who do not qualify for child care assistance, the cost of high quality, affordable child care is out of reach and other families spend a significant portion of their income on child care. Most centers are already not even charging the true cost of care knowing that it would be impossible for families to afford. Not charging the true cost of care keeps wages for child care workers low. The national average wage for a child care teacher is \$10.72 per hour.* The low wages make it difficult to attract and keep well qualified teachers. Teachers must not only have a love for children but also an excellent understanding of child development, early childhood curriculum, observation and assessment. Degreed and certified teachers can often not afford to stay in early learning even if that's where their heart is.

There is no magic wand to fix the issues for families and child care providers. However, we urge you to let your representatives know how important these issue are to you and how important it is to have high quality, affordable child care. Let them know that you are thankful for their support and want them to keep working to bring attention and solutions to these issues. They need to hear from you and to hear your personal stories. You are your child's best advocate, please let your voice be heard for your child and all children.

* National Women's Law Center Fact Sheet Dec. 2106

Indi Kids

University
Early Care and Education
Center and Pre- K Counts

School-Age
Before and After School
and Summer Program

Homer-Center
Pre-K Counts

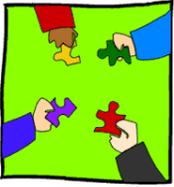


Family Bulletin Board



- ◆ New tuition rates went into effect on July 1st. The new rates are posted by the main office window as a reminder when writing checks. If you have not turned in your new fee agreement form yet, please do so as soon as possible.
- ◆ New drop-off and pick-up parking tags are available at the main office.
- ◆ Just a reminder that we have a two week notice for withdrawal. If your child's last day is on or before the 15th of the month, you will be responsible for 1/2 the month's tuition. If your child's last day is after the 15th of the month, you will be responsible for the full month's tuition.
- ◆ Just a reminder to close and latch the playground gates behind you when you arrive at the center and when you leave the center.
- ◆ If you have lost your door security card, please let us know right away so that we can deactivate it. If you do not have a door card, stop by the office to request one.
- ◆ Lifesteps will be at our center in September to provide free child check screenings. More information to come.
- ◆ Reminder—you can find product recalls posted on our bulletin board by the steps in the lower hall way or you can sign up for email notices on product recalls at www.cpsc.gov. Having a yard sale? Be sure to check the product recall sites before having your sale to avoid selling re-called items.

Working Together: Community Partnerships



We have formed many wonderful partnerships here at IUP. The one that is probably most noticeable to our parents is our partnership with the Child Development and Family Relations Department. The CDFR students spend time observing at our center and they also spend time in both an infant/toddler class and a preschool class. We are always happy to have our student teachers here!

In addition to the CDFR Department, several other departments gain experience from our center. The student nurses spend time in our infant and toddler rooms. Early Childhood majors and students from a developmental psychology class spend time observing each semester. We have also had some wonderful interns from the Department of Communication Disorders, Special Education, and Disability Services.

Our children really enjoy being out and about on campus! They love going to Cogswell hall for music festivals! Some of our students were able to participate in a Book Talk for Preschoolers program through the IUP Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic. We look forward to participating in that again this fall. Our children have visited the library and the post office. They have had the benefit of using the field house for gross motor activities and soccer. They attended picnics in the Oak Grove and enjoyed walks all around campus.

We have many wonderful partnerships and enjoy the benefits of being on campus all year long. We definitely have IUP spirit and during spirit week in October, we'll show you!



Parent Involvement

We ♥ love to have parents participate in our daily activities. If you would like to share a special talent, read to the class or simply join us for lunch, please let your child's teachers know. We will be happy to have you! If you would like to help with a fundraiser or be a board member, please see Marti or Stephanie.

Where's Baby?



On average, every 10 days a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle (<http://www.safekids.org/heatstroke>). Sadly, it has happened that children have been left in cars or accidentally forgotten. It only takes 10 minutes for a car to heat up 20 degrees and become deadly. Cracking a window does NOT protect a child. Infants and young children are particularly sensitive to the effects of extreme heat and must rely on others to keep them safe. Here are a few things you can do to keep little ones safe:

- Never leave a child alone in a vehicle!
- Always make a habit of looking in the vehicle ,front and back before locking the door and walking away.
- Create reminders to ensure that no child is accidentally left behind in the vehicle. Place an item that is needed at your final destination in the back of the vehicle next to the child or place a stuffed animal in the driver's view to indicate that a child is in the car seat.
- Children playing outside can think a car looks like a good place to play. Avoid tragedy by keeping your car locked so a child can't get inside and die from heatstroke.
- Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately if you see a child alone in a vehicle. If he or she is in distress due to heat, get the child out as soon as possible and call 911.

Fun Things To Do With Your Children

- Go on a silly Walk with your child. How many silly ways can you walk? Can you take giant steps, baby steps, walk like a duck, like an elephant, pretend you have roller skates on your feet? How many more ways can you think of?
- Play the opposite game with your preschooler. You say a word and they say the opposite. Hot-cold, up-down, big-little.
- Watch the lightning bugs light up the night!
- Run through the sprinkler with your child. You know you want to!
- Play the mystery game. Put an object in a small paper bag or under a small blanket. Give your child clues as to what the object is and let them guess. Take turns giving clues and guessing.
- Play dress up with your child! Let them choose if you should dress silly, dress up for a tea party, or dress up as your favorite book character. Then scour the house for items that will serve the purpose. And—remember kids have good imaginations!

Preschool Jokes

What kind of phone does the ocean have?

A Shell-Phone!



What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?

A dino- snore!



What did the frog order at the diner?

French Flies and a diet Croak



Make Time to Play This Summer!

For young children play and learning are not separate, they are one and the same. Children practice and reinforce new skills during play. When children play they are developing cognitive skills, physical skills and social skills.

As a parent, you can and should be your child's number one advocate for the right to play!

- Make sure your child's schedule isn't so structured with organized activities that they do not have time for play.
- Provide your child with plenty of outside play time.
- Most importantly—take time to join your child in play! Play is fun and relieves stress for adults too!



Indi Kids

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Teaming with Families to Provide
High Quality Care and Education



Indi Kids

The goal of our program is to work with parents for the fullest development of their children socially, physically, and emotionally. The program environment is one that stresses interaction and exploration with adults, other children, and an assortment of experiences and materials. Since children's play is a vehicle for and an indicator of their social, emotional, and intellectual growth, child-initiated, teacher-supported play is one of the essential components of the program. Indi Kids is responsive to the individual strengths and developmental needs of each child. Teachers foster children's self-confidence, independence, curiosity, and problem solving skills. In an environment of mutual trust, caring staff members help children search for and form their own questions, ideas, and meaningful solutions. Children enjoy the pleasure of learning through direct experience.



Indi Kids will be **closed** August 11th
and September 4.

Parking tags for Drop-Off/Pick-Up Areas
expired June 30.

New tags are available at the main office.