

Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn

October Newsletter



Volume 1

Number 1

October 6, 2004

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Separation Anxiety

Separation Anxiety is common in early childhood settings—especially for those children who are entering a social situation for the first time. The children and classrooms are



pretty much settled in their morning routines now. But, we will always have new children starting at our center and with that the chance of separation anxiety. Sometimes Monday mornings are difficult for the children because they have had so many home days! Sadness is sometimes contagious—even if your child seems to be settled. Children are easily redirected by staff and get involved in activity before you even reach the parking lot. We understand how hard it is to separate from your child... We've seen many tearful parents pass by the front desk—sometimes because they feel their little babies are growing up. We hope the following tips come in handy and help ease the separation issues.

Have your own morning routine with your child. Take time to settle your child before you leave—pushing them off and offering "You'll be fine" is not too reassuring... Instead, acknowledge your child's feelings, communicate softly, offer gentle touches and wait for your child's response.

We encourage you to leave as soon as possible. A longer stay just prolongs the separation and can add to the anxiety. Your child can not begin to cope with you leaving...until you actually leave!

Children will become more confident as they realize that they CAN function without their parents in the classroom.

After you give your kiss goodbye—there should be no turning back! Otherwise, the children receive mixed signals.

We suggest that you tell your child that you are leaving and will return "after snack". Offering a return time helps them to anticipate your return. Sneaking out may be easier—but the child may feel abandoned and distrustful because their parent "disappeared".

If you are having a difficult time leaving and the child is hanging onto you, ask the teacher if they could "take" the child—if we haven't asked already.

October Babies

Let's all wish our October Babies a very Happy Birthday!

Manatees I

10/6 Anthony R.

10/22 Miss Tara

If you would like to bring in a snack for your child's birthday, it must be purchased from a store. Unfortunately, due to Health Code Restrictions, we cannot allow home baked items. Please check with your child's teachers for any diet restrictions within their room.

Childcare Rollover Passed

House Lawmakers have passed a bill, allowing families to roll over to the next year, up to \$500 in unused child care savings held in flexible spending accounts. This allows employees to set aside a pre-tax portion of their salaries to pay for child care and health care expenses.

Current laws require those employees to forfeit unused money that's left in the accounts at the end of the year.

Money in the accounts can be used to pay for care for children under age 13 and disabled spouses, parents or other dependent adults.

con't.

Separation Anxiety (con't)

Everyone has moments of insecurity throughout the day...the library has great books on this sensitive subject. Here are a few titles...

- "Beginning School" by Irene Smalls
- "Will I Have A Friend" by Miriam Cohen
- "School" by Emily Arnold McCully
- "Franklin Goes To School" by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark
- "Pooh's First Day of School" by Kathleen W. Zoehfeld
- "School's Cool Lickety Split" by Harold Williams
- "The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn

Other Suggestions:

- Mom can give their child a lipstick kiss on the arm—which will be a reminder of mom's kiss goodbye!
- Bring in pictures from home of family members—so if they do miss their loved ones during the day, they can look at the pictures.
- Mom can leave a scarf or dad can leave a shirt for a quick sniff when needed. Mom's perfume or dad's scent is certainly comforting to a child.
- Spare keys are a great distraction. Mommy/Daddy can't go home without the keys...so the child knows that you will be back to pick them up! Same thing with borrowing items, Mommy's hair clip, dad's flash light...be creative!
- Feel free to wait up front and "peak" over the walls before you leave, or call us when they get into the car or arrive at work.

We have plenty more tricks up our sleeves...and we are here to work with you! If something has worked for you in the past, please share it with us and we'll pass it along!

Parent Referral Bonus

Don't forget about our Parent Referral Bonus! If you refer a friend who enrolls their child at the Center for Full Time Care, you will receive a FREE WEEK! Thank you to all who have already referred new clients!

Huntington Fall Festival!

Come visit us at the Huntington Fall Festival at Hecksher Park and make a craft!

Saturday, 10/9, from 10 - 6

Sunday 10/10, from 10 - 6

A Date to Remember

Come to school dressed in costume on Friday, October 29th - no masks PLEASE!

Curriculum Corner

In October, we will be learning about Fall Harvest and Farm Animals!

Sea Stars (6 Weeks to 12 Months)

We just started to explore finger painting but we're not sure if we like it, yet! We had more fun painting with brushes! We made pumpkins with red and yellow paint and when it mixed together, we made orange!

Sea Horses (13-18 Months)

We are learning all about animals that live on the farm. We love singing Old McDonald and imitating animal sounds. Our favorite is the Horse...Miss Karen taught us what horses really do and say...and it's not just "Neigh". Just ask them and they'll be happy to show you! We're really looking forward to playing with our rubber ducks in the water table!

Clown Fish I (18-24 Months)

We're looking forward to painting with pumpkin tops! Real pumpkin tops—we'll be using the stem as a handle! We have deep orange paint with black sand specks ready to go! We had a chance to cut open a pumpkin and feel the seeds. But we didn't really like how it felt!

Harp Seals I (2 Year Olds)

We put heavy cream in a container and added yellow food coloring. We were shaking it and shaking it and after a long time...it turned completely yellow and turned to butter! We tasted it, but didn't like it too much!

Manatees I/Dolphins I (3 and 4 Year Olds)

We are transforming boxes into a barn! We are learning all about farm animals and even learned how to say some names in Spanish: Horse (el caballo), Chicken (el pollo), Cow (la vaca) and Sheep (la oveja). We really enjoyed feather painting with fall colors!

