

The MISSION of the Acorn School for Early Childhood Development is to provide high quality, accessible, early care and education programs and to advocate for higher standards in the field of early childhood education.

Letter from the Executive Director

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe we are mid-way through the first quarter of 2009!

We are really excited at Acorn for 2009! We had a wonderful "new year" party at the Zeid's home, we just completed the 2008 financial audit with our best year in the school's 15-year history, and 3 of our teachers recently completed an accelerated program allowing them to be group leader qualified and infant nursery supervisor qualified. This is in line with our mission of raising the standards in the field of Early Childhood Education. In addition, Acorn has received two large grants for Professional Development and Parent Education this year. We intend to offer courses for parents including Tantrums and Power Struggles and CPR/First Aid for Infants and Children.

We are also working with every Acorn teacher on personal professional development tracks that we will fund and allow time for completion. We aim to be the best in quality staff, as well as offer the best in Parent Partnerships in 2009! We need your participation and input to make that happen.

So, here's to a healthy 2009! Let's all look for opportunities to share the message of Acorn and how we can all strive to raise the bar for providing the best in quality childcare and educational services for children.

Sincerely, Matt Eldred

Important Upcoming Dates

March

- 4th - PIP Meeting
- 8th - Daylight Savings Time
- 17th - St. Patrick's Day 🍀
- 20th - First Day of Spring 🌸
- 23rd-27th - NO SCHOOL
- Spring Break**
- 31st - Acorn Board Meeting

April

- 12th - Easter 🐰
- 22nd - PARENT TRAINING
**Tempering Tantrums and
Preempting Power Struggles**
- 25th - Spring Clean Up /
I Volunteer! Day
- 30th - Teacher Appreciation
Banquet 🍽️

May

- 4th-8th - Teacher
Appreciation Week
- 7th - PIP Meeting
- 8th-11th - JBF Sale 📺
- 10th - Mother's Day 🌸
- 25th - NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day

Teacher Appreciation

The teachers at The Acorn School are dedicated to providing the highest quality of care to the children and families we serve. As a parent, there are several ways in which we can show our appreciation for all the hard work they do.

- **Feature Teacher** – The Feature Teacher article in our bi-monthly, school-wide newsletter provides the parents an opportunity to recognize their child's teacher. Parents are invited to highlight the finest qualities of their teacher, to let the Acorn community know why our teachers are special.
- **Provider Appreciation** – The Boulder County Association for Education of Young Children (BCAAYC) holds an annual Provider Appreciation Banquet for the Early Childhood Providers in Boulder County. Parents are asked to recognize their child(ren)'s caregivers by completing a Provider Appreciation Form. These forms will be displayed at the banquet. The Acorn School will pay for the cost of the banquet for all teachers that receive appreciations. Appreciation Forms will be in your children's folders soon!
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** – The first full week of May is nationally recognized as Teacher Appreciation Week. Room Parents will be organizing appreciations for all of our teachers. Stay tuned for more information and ways to be involved for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Thank you Acorn Teachers for all the love and support you provide our children each day!



Acorn's Feature Teacher *Jessica Eisner-Terrill*

"She never gets flustered, is very patient, really affectionate, loves to snuggle, kids can go to her for a big hug when they get hurt, she's very creative, and seems to always be playing with the kids. She always has a big hug for Ollie in the morning and sings "Rock a Bye Baby" to him at nap time. When it's time to go to school he always ask for Jess. As a parent it makes me feel really good that there is someone there he loves!"

-Amy Baxter, Ollie's Mom

"It is always nice to know that Jessica is there. Henry has so much fun with her and she always knows how to make him happy. She always has a smile on her face and I think that that makes a big difference to both the kids and the parents. Jessica is a great asset to The Acorn School, and it makes us happy to know that she is part of Henry's day."

-Michelle Pendergrass, Henry's Mom

"She almost ALWAYS has a child in her arms when I see her. I think it's a testament to her loving and nurturing ways that children love to be held by her, and she likes to hold them. I know that if my children are ever having a low day and need snuggling that Jessica will be there for them and it makes me happy. :)"

-Courtney Joyce, Delaney's Mom

Creative Curriculum in the Beetlebugs Classroom



The Beetlebugs are just finishing up working on Kindness. We talked about and practiced taking turns, sharing, and doing nice things for others. In the next month we will be working on a Construction/Transportation theme, and we are all looking forward to going on a bus field trip to a construction site. We are also going to be working on numbers and counting in the coming months. We have a new calendar in our classroom that we talk about everyday at circle time, and our friends are becoming expert weather reporters.

Kat has been attending Creative Curriculum classes lately and has learned about many new ways to implement the Creative Curriculum in the classroom. You have probably noticed some rearranging. We are working on providing more defined stations (such as art, science and discovery, and blocks). Another new idea is working on bringing the outside world

inside. One way of doing this is to use objects from nature as art tools, such as feathers and leaves as paint brushes. Kat has also really enjoyed the opportunity to visit other classrooms during these classes, and is gathering ideas to implement in the Beetlebug classroom over the summer.

The Beetlebugs are also very excited to have Rebecca as a new teacher in their class, and to have Cortney back with them!!



Message from the Child Health Liaison



Does your family or child need affordable health insurance? There are two programs offered in Colorado; the first being Family Medicaid. To qualify, individuals or families must have a child, be pregnant, or be 18 years of age or older, live in Colorado, meet the Medicaid income limits, and be a U.S. citizen. Most Medicaid services are free, but there is a small co-pay for some services. You can apply at local health centers and health departments. To find a site near you, call (303)866-3513 in the Denver metro area or 1-800-221-3943,

or visit www.chcpf.state.co.us.

The other program offered specifically for children is Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) which is low-cost health and dental insurance for Colorado children. It's for families that make too much money to join Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance. Children may qualify if they are 18 or younger, live in Colorado, don't qualify for Medicaid, don't have other health insurance, their families meet the CHP+ income limits, and are U.S. citizens. Depending on your family size and income, you may need to pay an enrollment fee once each year, and co-pays. Some families pay nothing while others may pay up to \$35 per year and \$2 or \$5 co-pays for some medical and dental services. Children in CHP+ get their health services in an HMO. For more information on locations call 1-800-359-1991 or visit www.CHPplus.org.

For more information or to apply you can contact our local center, Boulder County Community Services, 3482 N Broadway St, Boulder, CO 80304, (303)441-1589. We also have brochures for these programs in the office.

-Jennifer Carpenter,
Child Health Liaison

Playground Update

I am happy to announce that we will be working on the next phase of the Playground Improvement Project! Over Spring Break (March 23-27th)

there will be major construction going on which will include a new sliding glass door in the infant room, giving them direct access to the playground. In order to do this we will also be moving sinks and changing tables in the infant room and in Preschool II. In addition, we will be grading a portion of the Infant/Toddler playground and replacing it with a new poured rubber surface. This will allow for younger children to access the playground more easily, take the drainage away from the house, and give us a larger surface to put age-appropriate climbing equipment. This is all very exciting and is made possible by grants from the Temple Hoyne Buell and Rose Foundations. We still need an additional \$10,000 to complete this project, so if you would like to contribute or know of companies that may be looking to do a matching donation, please come see me. Look for more changes to the playgrounds in the coming months!



-Matt Eldred

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