



Antlers Place

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 5 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's Desk

Hello Antler's Families...

I'll start this off with the saying "out with the old and in with the new." We are now Early Connections Learning Center @ Antler's Place. And as most of you know our building is under going an extensive renovation. We hope that you bear with us as we get a face lift. Just please be careful of the clutter when entering and exiting the building! We hope the process will be near completion by mid June. Thanks for your help and patience!!

With that said Antlers is not letting up, boy do we have a busy month ahead. We are planning a Fiesta Family Night for Thursday,

May 20th. Look for more details to follow throughout the month. The Colorado Springs Fire Department will be visiting our center on May 13th and the Humane Society will be here May 20th. We will also be doing our annual Little Caesars Pizza Kit fundraiser, this will begin May 17th. Please mark your calendars for these events. You are what make our events successful and we hope to see you there.

Last but not least, just a friendly reminder that the weather is up and down so please make sure your child has a jacket in their cubby for those colder days.

Thanks,

Melissa

UPCOMING EVENTS



*Conferences May 10-21

*Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25 & 27 Teacher Planning 8-3:00 (Substitutes)

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

*Wednesday, May 19 Teacher Training 8:15-12:15 (Substitutes)

*Thursday, May 27 Parent Action Committee (PAC) Dinner 5:30, Meeting 6:00

*Monday, May 31 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.

Pandas

Hello Panda Families;

Yea the weather is getting nicer! Last month the children were dancing their silly's out and got familiar with different colors.

Since the children showed such an interest in colors, we decided to choose another story that has to do with colors and animals. We will start out the month of May with the story "*Elmer*" and then "*Brown Bear Brown Bear*".

The Panda's will make a colorful fruit salad with their friends

and go on a color hunt at the park. We will let you know the date and time in advance.

Please remember to wash your hands when you are dropping off and picking up your child in the classroom. It will help keep the germs out!

A fun activity you can try at home is pretend to be an animal and make it into a guessing game.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak with us!

Thank you-

Ms Sandra & Ms Alecia

Turtles

Hello Turtle Families;

We hope you enjoyed our picnic! Thank you for joining us as we journeyed thru the story "*The Friendly Book*". The children liked matching stars, wearing 'ski's', making a telescope and using puppets to talk about their feelings.

Our next journey will take us thru the stories "*Mouse Paint*" and "*Today is Monday*". The children will be mixing colors, matching mice and exploring with various art supplies. We

will be learning the days of the week and trying various foods from the other story. Join us for an ice cream party on Friday, May 28th at 4:00pm. We hope to see you there! If you are unable to join us we will be sending home a color matching game for you to play with your child.

You can also try eating some of the foods at home that are in our story. This would be a great way to introduce some new foods to your child!

We are sad to say good-bye to Caleb, Ben and Trevor who are moving to the preschool rooms. Welcome to TJ who is moving up from the Panda Room. We are excited to have you!

Thank you-

Ms Sarah, Ms Betty
& Ms AnnMarie

Monkeys

Hello Monkey Families;

Spring is here, and it's time to play and have fun the whole month of May!

This month we will read "*Goody Boy Fergus*" and "*Move Over Rover*". We will discuss dogs, weather and listening.

Please make sure your child has a jacket everyday as the weather changes often. We are asking parents not to send their children to school in flip flops or sandals. The rocks get caught

under their feet and hurt. Then your child has no fun when they are outside.

When going to the park or on a walk with your child have a scavenger hunt! See if you can find a fire hydrant, a bird, a pine cone, flowers, different types of trees or a cat or dog. Think of the many different item you might see outside and make a list before you go, then check them off as you see them.

As always if you have any questions or concerns fell free to stop in or give us a call.

Thank you-

Ms Jenny, Ms Kelly
& Ms Melinda



Frogs

Hello Frog Families;

Thanks to all the Frog parents for participating in the "Rainbow Fish" take home activity for the month of April.

Our Storybook Journey for the month of May will take us to the story "Caps for Sale" by Estphyr Slobodkina. We will be having a hat party the last Friday of the month so start searching for a hat for you and

your child to wear! We will also be learning about Africa and the culture there.

We will be scheduling parent conferences the first two weeks of May. We want to thank you in advance for taking the time to meet with us.

Nice warm weather is here but, please remember to send your child with a light jacket in case of cooler weather. We will con-

tinue our story time at the library until the end of the month.

Our learning tip for this month is to look for street signs with your child and learn the shapes and what the signs mean.

If you have any concerns please contact us. We are here to help!

Ms Ana & Ms Brittony



Tigers

Dear Tiger Families;

Wow, it's Spring!

This month our Storybook Journey will be "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie", "If You Give a Moose a Muffin", and "If You Give a Pig a Pancake". We'll be talking about mice, cookies, milk, paper, and crayons. We'll be making mouse masks, drawing pictures of our families, doing a milk science project, and making muffins and pancakes.

Please remember to check out your D-11 family connections behind your child's sign-in and

out sheet. This is a great way to tie in activities at home with what we are learning in the class.

Please remember that your Tiger needs an extra change of clothes due to us filling the water table daily.

It is that time again for Parent/Teacher conferences. Please watch for a sign up sheet.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak with us.

Thank you-

Ms Shauna & Ms Deidra



"Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

Cheetahs

Dear Cheetah Families;

Welcome Cheetah families to the month of May. Did you know that on the 10th of May it's "Clean Your Room Day"?

In this super month we will journey into gardens with "Counting into the Garden". Some of the activities include starting our own garden and how many dogs will fit into a bowl. If you have any pictures of your pets

please feel free to bring them in and share them with us. You can extend this learning opportunity by taking a walk around your neighborhood and spotting different types of flowers.

For our next journey we will explore friendship. Some activities that will be going on in the classroom include; friend bingo, guessing which friend is missing, and how to treat our friends.

You can help us teach our Cheetah's that our differences are what make us unique and special.

Thank you-

Ms Jennifer, Ms Candy & Ms Corey



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 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. However, 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