



Mini News

Montgomery County's Mini University

Dear Families:

The first two months, of our new school year, have been filled with lots of learning and activity. We really appreciate the participation of our families. We had a great turnout for our fall festival and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Infant and Toddler conferences were held and your participation was appreciated. Preschool conferences are the first week of November.

As you know, we have had one diagnosed case of H1N1 in the center. As always, we will continue to stress hand washing and correct "catching of coughs and sneezes" with the children. Cleaning and disinfecting is done throughout the day and after closing every single day.

We still ask that families not bring their child/children to school if they have a fever or other symptoms. Once again, I would remind you that Tylenol or other fever reducing medication does not cure, it only hides the symptoms. Your child is still sick, uncomfortable and exposing other children to illness.

As we obtain information about vaccination clinics or other information relevant to the health of our children, we will share it with you. Hopefully, by working together as a team for the children, we will have a healthy fall and winter. *Ms. Carolyn*

New Team Member

Mr. Aaron is back! As many of you know, with the end of the Early Learning Initiative, we laid some good team members off. Our enrollment is increasing and we were able to bring Mr. Aaron back! Please, join me in welcoming him back to the center. We look forward to his creative contributions to our music and movement programming.

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Professionals Caring About
Your Child's Education..

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Meet Our Blue Room Team

Becky Sortman, B.S.-Teacher

Welcome to a new school year in the Blue Room! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Becky Sortman and I am the Blue Room Teacher. I have a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biological Sciences and I am working on my Master's degree in the field of Education. I currently hold an Ohio State Teaching License for PreK-3rd grade and for 4th-9th grade Science. I have worked for Mini University for 6 years. I enjoy the wonderful relationships I have made with families and I am excited for the new relationships to develop. I have a husband and a 2 year old daughter to keep me busy at home and a classroom full of 3-5 years to keep me busy here! I am excited to go through another school year with all of you and I look forward to helping your child succeed!

Michelle Dirks, A.A. – Assistant Teacher

Hello, and welcome to a new school year! My name is Michelle Dirks and I am a Mini University employee. I have currently completed my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from Sinclair Community College. I have been employed here at Mini University for a year and half and look forward to many more years. I live here in the Dayton area with my two children and their father. I also have a younger sister who is a third grade teacher and lives in Nevada . We communicate often about education and family. I look forward to teaching, learning and laughing with everyone here at Mini University.

Dates to Remember

Thursday, November 4, 2009-Book Fair Begins

Wednesday, November 11, 2009-Center Closed for Veterans Day

Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2009-Center Closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 3 and Tuesday, December 8-Children's Winter Program in the Auditorium

Wednesday, December 23, 2009 will be our last day open until after the new year. We will be closed **Thursday, December 24th** and reopen on **Monday, January 4, 2010!**

The ABC Song

I remember, as a young parent, when my child learned the “ABC Song”. I was so excited that he had learned his ABC’s, because, after all, at the end of the song it says, “now I know my ABC’s.” But, as I became more knowledgeable about early literacy, I realized that my son knew a song and he really did not know his ABC’s. Learning about the alphabet is so much more than being able to sing a song!

The Dayton Metro Library is fortunate to have Ms. Kathleen Moore as the Early Literacy Specialist. On the library website, she has an early literacy blog that is updated regularly with useful information for parents and teachers. We are reminded that, “Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they actually read or write.” They begin by learning alphabet letters that are relevant and important to them.

For example, children often learn the first letter of their name before they learn any other letter. That letter has a great deal of meaning and importance to them. I would guess that many children also learn the letter M (for McDonald’s) early in their literacy journey! There are so many opportunities for us to help children learn about letters.

For instance, children enjoy labeling items that they choose. Cut large letters out of magazines as a fun activity to do together. Point out letters and words that are of special interest to your child. Try simple activities such as reading logos of favorite foods and stores, identifying street signs and writing grocery lists together. Reading to your child is also important. Point out words and letters as you look through books. Of course, we all love the ABC song, but if you sing it with your child, play with magnetic letters on the refrigerator while you sing the alphabet song.



Dayton Holiday Events

The Grande Illumination and Dayton's Children's Parade Spectacular in Lights 2009!

Friday, November 27, 2009 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm

- *Carnival Rides at the Street Fair on Third St.*
- *Live entertainment at Courthouse Square Stage*
 - *Horse-drawn wagon rides*
 - *Lighting of the tree at 7:45 pm*
 - *Tike Shop opens!*

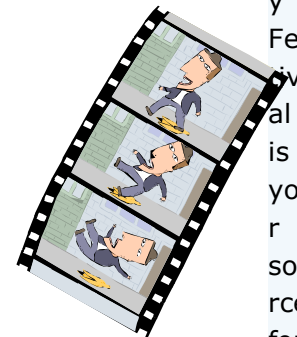


Family Movie Series at the Neon

- *December 5 Muppet Christmas Carol*
 - *December 12 Home Alone*
- *December 19 Little Women*

Schuster Center

- *Tike Shop open November 27, 2009 thru December 23, 2009.*
- *Wonderland Windows on display throughout the season!*



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November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Happy Birthday Autumn J.	3	4	5	6 Happy Birthday Yibniyah	7
8 Happy Birthday Az'Reail	9	10 Happy Birthday Timothy	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Happy Birthday Cahke' & David
22	23	24	25	26	27 Happy Birthday Jackson	28
29	30 Happy Birthday Kye					



Staff Birthday

11—Ms. Terri (Infant 2 Assistant)
30— Ms. Melanie (Red Room Assistant)

Staff Anniversary

5—Ms. Tawana (Rainbow Room Assistant) 8 years