Clarification on UPK in EarlyLearn NYC

The New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) has released a concept paper for EarlyLearn NYC: A New Direction For the City’s Early Childhood Education System. In an effort to provide high quality early childhood programs, this initiative will raise educational standards, increase family involvement and teacher professional development. A Request for Proposal will be issued in late June/early July, 2010.

Providers who are interested in providing early care and education services, including UPK, through an ACS contract, should apply to the EarlyLearn NYC Request for Proposals. The RFP will be posted on the ACS web-site for download. The New York City Department of Education will continue to issue a RFP for UPK services for those providers who are not contracted with ACS to provide early care and education services.

Parent Option Letters Due May 21st

The Kindergarten List Noticing process has been sent to all CBO’s. Please ensure that the Parent Option Letters are distributed to families and returned to the child’s teacher no later than May 21, 2010. The Parent Option Letters help identify where students will be attending Kindergarten in the 2010-22 school year. Translated parent option letters are available at:


Please note that the translated version is for reference only and parents should complete the English version.

Parent Option Letters and White Cards will need to be bundled by class and delivered to your Early Childhood Borough Office between June 1st and June 14th, 2010.

SPRING CBO SURVEY!

In an effort to promote quality programs and student development, the Office of Early Childhood Education has been working on improving channels of communication between all key stakeholders throughout the school year. As mentioned in last month’s newsletter, we will be collecting data that will allow the Office of Early Childhood Education to make informed decisions to meet the needs of our Providers through a Spring Survey.

The survey is ready to go! Please complete the survey by June 30th, 2010 by accessing the link below:


Collecting and analyzing data is an important component in the supporting, planning and implementing of quality programs. It is crucial that the surveys be filled completely and accurately. The information you submit is anonymous and will help us support your needs and work toward building high quality programs throughout the city!
HEADS UP!

NEW INTEGRATED SYSTEM!

FOR DOE CONTRACTED VENDORS ONLY - Say good-bye to those excel sheets! The Office of Early Childhood Education has been working on a new system to help improve data entry, consistency, and communication. For the 2010-11 school year, all information (budget forms, security rosters, contact information) will be entered in a new system – The Pre-K Integrated Data System (Pre-KIDS).

Training will be provided to UPK Providers on how to navigate and enter data into the system. To ensure a smooth training and transition, if you do not already have a vendor portal login please register for a user name and password on the vendor portal at:

https://vendorportal.nycenet.edu/vendorportal/login.aspx

The 23rd Annual Bank Street Infancy Institute

Infants, Toddlers and Families: Supporting Their Growth
June 15 - 17, Tuesday - Thursday, 2010

Keynote Speaker:
Tuesday Presentation: Tovah Klein, Ph.D.
Anger, Separation, and Fear: How Toddlers Use Play to Express Feelings
Wednesday Keynote Address: J. Lawrence Aber, Ph.D.

Early Learning and Development for All Children: Can We Get There From Here?

A 3-day Institute for Caregivers, Teachers, Home Visitors, Trainers, Child Life Specialists, Special Educators, Early Interventionists, Family Child Care Providers, Librarians, and Program Directors.

Thirty-one workshops and two all-day workshops on various topics: infant development, routines and transitions, early literacy programs, toddler behavior, materials and activities, motor and language development, sensory integration, bilingual babies, attachment and separation, visits to childcare centers and library programs.

Two all-day workshops on Thursday.

Institute Fee: $300.00, after May 26th, $325.00
Fee eligible for reimbursement under the New York State EIP Program. Graduate credit may be earned at additional charge.

For more information: Conference Administrator: Helen Muscato, phone: 732.329.0033 or email helenmuscato@verizon.net or infancyinstitute@bankstreet.edu

Conference Coordinator: Nancy McKeever with Nancy Balaban

REMININDERS!

- White Card and Parent Option Letter drop off between June 1 – June 14, 2010
- Pre-K Summer Books and Teacher’s Books will be delivered in June
- Please continue accepting 2010-11 Pre-K Application
- For DOE Contracted Vendors - End of Year Fiscal Reports due July 14th, 2010
- For DOE Contracted Vendors - FY10 funds must be spent by June 30th
HEALTH CORNER

Regulation 47.49 (a) says that indoor and outdoor rooms, play areas, and other spaces, including cellars, basements, and adjoining yards and courts, and all furnishings and equipment shall be kept clean of food and debris and maintained in good condition.

CDC TIPS FOR A CLEAN CHILD CARE ENVIRONMENT

- Clean every day to prevent build up of dirt and germs. Make that a routine; regular cleaning improves indoor air quality.
- Use floor mats at the entry area to reduce the soil load to be cleaned.
- Reducing clutter makes cleaning easier.
- Repair damaged surfaces to reduce the build up of germs.
- Teach appropriate hand-washing techniques.
- Use appropriate cleaning equipment such as vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters and mops with microfibers.

ACTIVITY

- As a class, have children make their own Keeping Clean book, using pictures they cut out of magazines. Share the book with the class.
- Discuss with children all items such as dishes and clothes that must be kept clean at home. Why do we need to keep these items clean? What do we use to clean them?

RESOURCES ABOUT GERMS

- Germs are not for Sharing by Elizabeth Verdick
- Germs make me Sick by Melvin Berger
- Germs! Germs! Germs! by Steve Bjorkman
- Sid the Science Kid: The Trouble with Germs by Jennifer Frantz
- What are Germs? by Alvin Silverstein
- Wash Your Hands by Tony Ross

WEBSITES

- Kidshealth.org/classroom/prekto2/personal/hygiene/germs.pdf
- www.lysol.com
- Kids.lovetoknow.org
- www.everythingpreschool.com
- www.atozteacherstuff.com
- www.lessonplanet.com

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cleaning involves scrubbing, washing and rinsing to remove all visible soil and debris.
- The cleaning solution should be made up of detergent and water.
- Sanitizing is covering the cleaned area with a sanitizing solution.
- The sanitizing solution should be made up of bleach and water.
- The sanitizing solution must be left on the surface for 2 minutes before it is wiped dry.
- The sanitizing solution should be labeled ‘B’ and kept out of the reach of children.
- The sanitizing solution should be kept out of direct sunlight to preserve the effectiveness of the chlorine.
- Disinfecting is covering an already cleaned area with a disinfecting agent that is non-toxic for children.
- The disinfecting solution must be left on the surface for a minimum of 2 minutes or left to air dry.
“Program Spotlight – BRONXWORKS”

During the month of April, joyful and culturally rich people of West Bengal celebrate Naba Barsha by performing set customs and traditions. Naba Barsha is the celebration of the Bengali New Year. For Bengalis this celebration is filled with joy, enthusiasm, and hope. It is celebrated through songs, dance, games and reciting poems. Traditional outfits such as the white and red sari are worn by women while the men clothe themselves in dhoti kurta. The day is spent in feasting with friends and family.

Our children at Bronxworks know all about the Bengali celebrations. They were introduced to the Bengali culture through books, games, arts, food sampling and even their own Bengali celebration. Parents were invited to come and join in on the fun.
Professional Learning Library

Einstein Never Used Flash Cards
By Kathy Hirsh Pasek and Roberta Michnick Golinkoff

– Reviewed by Jessica Orleans

_Einstein Never Used Flash Cards_ by Kathy Hirsh Pasek and Roberta Michnick Golinkoff is a must-read for parents and educators. This book offers a wealth of information and advice from two extremely respected scholars.

In early childhood classrooms play should be purposeful, imaginative, and rich in content. Pasek and Golinkoff stress that children learn best through simple play time, not traditionally academic-oriented classrooms that focus on direct instruction. Play helps children build their social, emotional, problem solving, and language skills while also preparing them for future academic success.

For additional information on the importance of play in early childhood education please review the Crisis in Kindergarten report by Edward Miller and Joan Almon at:


NYCDOE Official School Closings

May 31st – Memorial Day