



Quality Team

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

In our newsletters, the Quality Team is pleased to provide activities and ideas in the spirit of celebrating young learners and their families. We hope you will take some time to get to know us and reach out with any questions about the services we provide to Mercer County child care providers and the families they serve.

Staff Spotlight

My name is Jamie Ferguson, and I am the Quality Improvement Specialist and Early Childhood Trainer at Child Care Connection. As a QIS, my role is to provide staff in early care and education programs (both center-based and family child care) with targeted technical assistance and coaching as part of the Grow NJ Kids continuous improvement cycle. As one of our Early Childhood Trainers, I provide professional development training to early childhood educators, including First Aid/CPR certifications.

You can reach me at jamieferguson@ccc-nj.org if you would like to receive more information on our events and resources. I look forward to assisting you!

Things to Celebrate

- February is:
 - Black History Month
 - National Children's Dental Health Month
 - American Heart Month
- March is Women's History Month
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 19 - Presidents' Day
- March 10 - Daylight Savings (set your clocks forward 1 hour!)
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 19 - 1st day of spring

Read Across America

March 2-6 2024

The National Education Association (NEA) created *Read Across America Day* to encourage children to read. It is now a year-round program, with special celebrations in March, which is also National Reading Month!

Traditionally, *Read Across America* has focused on the publications of Dr. Seuss. However, in recent years the focus has shifted to become more inclusive. NEA.org has an extensive list of books that celebrate Black history, trailblazing women, disabled characters, and much more. You can explore the various categories [here](https://www.nea.org/Read-Across-America), or check out some of these suggestions to share with your young learners.

[The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk](#) by Kabir Sehgal

[The Ugly Vegetables](#) by Grace Lin

[Something, Someday](#) by Amanda Gorman

[Last Stop on Market Street](#) by Matt de la Pena

[All Are Welcome](#) by Alexandra Penfold

Community Events

The Princeton Public Library Presents...
Saturday Storytime!

Every Saturday from 10:30-11am
&
Chinese New Year Celebration
Saturday, February 17th 2-4pm

Free Community Egg Hunt!
Including games, music, and snacks!
Saturday, March 16th
12-1:30pm

2391 Lawrenceville Rd, Lawrence Twp, NJ 08648

Skating at Palmer Square in Princeton!
Every Thursday – Friday, 4–7pm
Every Saturday – Sunday, 12–3pm & 4–7pm
\$10 cash PER PERSON/ \$12 +fees with credit card
Skate rental available.

Brunch with the Easter Bunny!
Saturday, March 16th
10am-1pm

Killarney's Publick House
Registration required!

To register, email alyssakph@gmail.com

Elsa is coming from Arendelle!
Monday, February 12th
5-8pm

Killarney's Publick House
Reservation is Required

To reserve a meet and greet, please email alyssakph@gmail.com



Family Activities

Coffee Filter Snowflakes

This is a craft and science experiment in one! The snowflakes are not only fun to make, but they turn out beautiful!

You Will Need:

1 coffee filter

Washable markers

Water

Eye dropper or small measuring spoon



Directions: Use the markers to draw shapes, patterns, or whatever you like on the filter. The less white space, the better! Drip water onto the filter with the eye dropper or spoon (it should be wet but not soaking). Once dry, fold the filter in half four times, which will give you a snowflake with eight points. Finally, cut out pieces of the filter to make a unique design!

Aunt Petunia's Cookies

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons flour 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 tsp baking soda 1 egg pinch salt 1 cup chocolate chips
1/2 cup softened butter 1 tsp vanilla extract 1/2 cup sugar

1. Combine the flour, baking soda, and salt. Set aside
2. In a bowl, mash together the butter, vanilla, sugar, and brown sugar until smooth and fluffy. Add the egg. Gradually add the flour mixture, and mix until just blended. Stir in the chocolate chips, adding 1 tsp of water if necessary to help mix.
3. Grease 2 cookie sheets. Using your hands, make 1-inch balls of dough and place on cookie sheet. Flatten out dough with hands. Bake for 12 minutes.

Resources

The CDC "*Learn the Signs. Act Early.*" website has lots of helpful information and resources for programs and parents to track children's developmental milestones. You also can download or order free materials, such as checklists, booklets, children's books, and even a CDC milestone tracker app (which is also free).

General information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

Free materials:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html>

Information for Families:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/parents/index.html>

Information for Programs:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/Information-for-Early-Childhood-Educators.html>

**QUESTIONS
OR
COMMENTS?**

**CONTACT US AT:
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TRAINING@CCC-
NJ.ORG**