



# Quality Team

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 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

Hi! My name is Alison Chevrier. My role at Child Care Connection is to facilitate the work of the Mercer County Early Childhood Shared Services Alliance.

In an Early Childhood Shared Services Alliance, necessities such as marketing, training, and recruiting can be shared among several child care centers. This can reduce operational costs and the time administrators typically spend on such responsibilities. Therefore, leadership focus can be geared more towards educational & pedagogical aspects of their program, while also increasing financial stability. This leads to greater business sustainability and overall quality of care for children and families.

I'm excited to connect and soon offer membership to more centers across Mercer County! You can contact me for more information at [alisonchevrier@ccc-nj.org](mailto:alisonchevrier@ccc-nj.org).

### Days of Celebration

#### April

- 22 Earth Day

#### May

- 5 Cinco De Mayo
- 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 10 Provider Appreciation Day
- 12 Mother's Day
- 27 Memorial Day

#### June

- 14 Flag Day
- 16 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 Summer Solstice



### Resources

Parents and early childhood educators have important roles in building children's brains, which develop most rapidly from ages birth to five. [Vroom.org](https://www.vroom.org) has free tips and tools for learning how to turn "everyday moments" into "brain-building moments." Some of the resources for programs and families include videos, a newsletter, printable tip sheets and flyers, and a daily text with a *Vroom* tip.

Resources: <https://www.vroom.org/tools-and-resources>

Additional information for ECE professionals:  
<https://www.vroom.org/for-professionals>



## In Our Communities...



April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12 - Healthy Kids Running Series. 3pm Foundations Academies, Trenton, 3PM. \$5 per child ages 2-14, registration required.  
<https://www.givesignup.org/Race/Register/?raceld=159159>

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Preschool Storytime, Hopewell Train Station, Railroad Place, Hopewell. 10:30-11am FREE! Assorted stories and songs.

June 8 - Mercer County Cultural Festival and Food Trucks, Mercer County Park, West Windsor. 11-7pm FREE, live performances of music and dance.

June 15 - Empanada Food Truck Fest, Market Fair, Princeton. 12-7pm Food, Music, family friendly activities and more! \$8, ages 5 and under free.



## Water Safety



With summer right around the corner, now is the best time to start thinking about water play! We all love water play, but for kids, there are many more benefits than just being a fun activity. Believe it or not, playing in water develops skills in the areas of communication, social/emotional, cognitive, motor, AND sensory exploration!

However, water can easily become dangerous. Drowning can happen quietly and quickly (often in seconds) and can occur any time there is access to water – *even buckets*. In fact, children can drown in as little as 2 inches of water.

Don't fear! There is plenty you can do when playing in and around water to ensure the safety of your children and the other individuals around you. Empty water from buckets and other containers immediately after use. Also, do not rely on flotation devices to prevent drowning. The best lifeguard a child can have is YOU. This leads us to the most important tip: be sure to supervise **closely** and **constantly**. Limit distractions, such as phones, books, or work, and be present in the moment with the children rather than in conversations with others.



Together, we can have fun AND be safe while beating the heat!

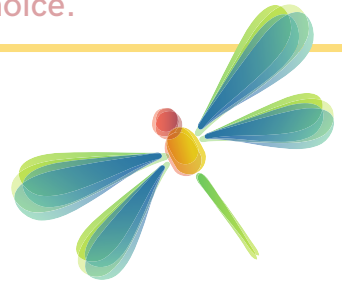
# Ice Excavation Activity

This is a science activity that also supports fine motor skills, cognitive development, language development, and sensory exploration.

You will need:

- Water
- Ice tray or muffin tin
- Small plastic animals or dinosaurs (or other items of your choice)
- Spray bottles with warm water, cups, bowl of water, plastic utensils such as spoons and tongs
- Plastic bin

Place animal or dinosaur in each compartment of the ice tray, making sure that part of the figure sticks out so the child can grasp it. Add water and freeze. Remove ice cubes from tray and place in bin. Encourage child to find ways to melt the ice and remove the figures, using the spray bottles, cups with water, and various tools of choice.



## Puzzle Corner



Spring



N G V S L C T J E D F P Z O R L B  
 E T O I P H R A S B I J E D M V G  
 L Z R M T A O C N I A R G T Y Q N  
 I P E J S N Y K F W H S L A I F I  
 A Y B E G M D E P T E Q E W C K R  
 D S O K R E N T Y L W H J B U I P  
 M U P H T B I L D E N O C Z A F S  
 K N T C D A W D G P L D B G P L M  
 F S E I R Z U N O S A E S N U B L  
 W H Z N A P R S M Y T L F M I W S  
 P I F C L E A N I N G E B H K A V  
 T N U I B M V R Z O F R C A W H R  
 M E D P H C R A M B E K L N S T G  
 X L F J Y A S N G L S H O W E R S  
 H B R E A K O P L V C Z U F Y D K  
 C F T X M U B A S I L W D H G N E  
 W I H P E D L J R Y Q B S A O X R

APRIL	BASEBALL	BREAK
BREEZE	CLEANING	CLOUDS
JACKET	KITE	MARCH
MAY	PICNIC	PUDDLES
RAINBOW	RAINCOAT	SEASON
SHOWERS	SPRING	SUNSHINE
THAW	UMBRELLA	WINDY



Tree Valley Academy

QUESTIONS  
OR  
COMMENTS?

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