

# QUALITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2025

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.

## Department Spotlight

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce you to our Resource Development Department! This team oversees the registered Family Child Care providers (FCC) in Mercer County.

The RD staff at Child Care Connection assist individuals interested in becoming registered Family Child Care providers. These are small child care businesses, run out of an individual's home, to care for no more than five children at a time. The RD Department provides thorough orientation, makes sure all the necessary paperwork and training are completed, and follows up with inspections to ensure State requirements are met. They also conduct monthly meetings for providers featuring guest speakers, resources, and professional development opportunities. RD staff are available for questions or concerns, Monday through Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

Give them a call at 609-989-7938.

## Days of Celebration

### June



7-8 Eid al-Adha  
14 Flag Day  
15 Father's Day  
19 Juneteenth  
20 Summer Solstice

### July

4 Independence Day



\*\*Keep in mind this list is non-exhaustive and is not intended to purposefully exclude any religious holidays or festivals\*\*

## Resources

Redcross.org has information on how to obtain CPR & First Aid training, as well as babysitting & lifeguarding certification. You can also access emergency preparedness tools for kids, families, and schools. Find this and more by visiting <https://www.redcross.org/local/new-jersey.html>

**And just in time for summer fun...**

**Help Your Family Be Safe in and Around Water.**

This FREE app includes games and videos for kids, plus a swim lesson progress tracker. The app also provides the latest in water safety guidance to help ensure your family stays safe in, on, and around water.

Text: "SWIM" to 90999



# Turn Any Walk into a Nature Walk



As the weather gets warmer, we want to spend more time outside with our children. One simple activity, taking a walk, can lead to amazing discovery. Every walk is an opportunity to learn about the natural world and as a bonus---it's free!

Explore your neighborhood, yard, playground, patio, or the nature you see outside a window. Ask, "What's different about what you see today?" each time you walk outside together. Model using your senses by saying, "I'm seeing the big clouds," "I'm touching the wet grass," "I'm hearing the jets of an airplane" or "I'm smelling the fallen pine tree needles."

Carry along an inexpensive magnifying glass so children can get up close and personal with nature, or use a magnifying app on a smartphone. Use it to look closely at drops of rain hanging from a leaf. In sunny weather, make shadows with your body. Sidewalk chalk is fun to draw the shapes of the clouds you may see up in the sky. Track the path of the sun as it appears to move: Where is it in the morning? Where is it at bedtime?

Also, use the magnifying glass to take a closer look at small wildlife such as non-poisonous spiders, roly-polies, worms, and any non-stinging insect that is slow or will hold still! Ask your child to show you how the worm or ant moves, and join in as they wiggle or crawl.

Extend the experience with a trip to the local library (also free!) for access to books that will help children learn more about animals, plants, and whatever else they observe. Children love to see a variety of caterpillars, birds, mammals, and flowers in books. Internet sites and apps are also great resources for identifying animals and more.



## S'mores Pizza



S'mores Pizza is an easy way to make a delicious, melted campfire dessert in under 15 minutes with minimal mess. It's always fun to cook over an open fire, especially when it's a pizza turned into a sweet treat!

1. **Build The Fire:** Build the campfire and allow it to burn down to bed of coals. Place a grate over the coal bed. No fire pit? Use a grill, or even a solar oven!
2. **Prepare The Pizza:** Place a tortilla on top of aluminum foil and spread on Nutella or chocolate spread of choice, sprinkle with graham crackers, cover with broken Hershey bars, and top with mini marshmallows. Repeat for the remaining tortillas.
3. **Pro Tip:** Make sure to leave a small amount of tortilla edge un-coated.
4. **Cook Over Coals:** Place the foil-topped dessert pizzas on the grate over the bed of coals and then "tent" it with the larger piece of foil. Turn the pizzas after 4-6 minutes to help cook evenly.
5. **Slice And Serve:** Once the chocolate and marshmallows are gooey and melted, remove the dessert pizzas. Slice and serve while hot and melty. Enjoy!

## In Our Communities...



June 27-July 6  
Mercer County Park, West Windsor

Independence Day Fireworks  
& Concert

Tuesday, July 1  
Veterans Park (rain date:  
Wednesday, July 2)  
2206 Kuser Road  
Hamilton, NJ 08690  
6:00pm-9:30pm



## Puzzle Corner

### Summer Word Search

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



AUGUST  
BARBECUE  
BEACH  
FAMILY  
FLIP FLOPS  
FUN  
HOT  
ICE CREAM

ICE POP  
JULY  
JUNE  
OCEAN  
PICNIC  
POOL  
RELAX  
SHORTS

SPRINKLER  
SUMMER  
SUNGLASSES  
SUNSCREEN  
SUNSHINE  
SWIMSUIT  
VACATION



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Questions  
or  
comments?

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