



Child Care Connection



Quality Team Newsletter

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 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.



Staff Spotlight



My name is Sheree Patterson and I am the Family Engagement Specialist (FES) at Child Care Connection. As a family engagement specialist, my role is to serve as a bridge between families, child care providers, and community resources through hosting family engagement events such as **Books, Balls & Blocks** and **Parent Cafés** that provide fun, interactive ways for families to learn and connect. Also, as FES, I support child development by offering tools and screenings to help parents understand developmental milestones and connect families to resources to ensure they have access to the services and supports they need. I can be reached at shereepatterson@ccc-nj.org.

Helpful Resources

Make safe sleeping habits a priority! In 2024, Governor Phil Murphy declared October as **SIDS Awareness Month**. The SIDS Center of New Jersey provides a wide range of information and resources to help reduce the risk of SIDS.

[Click here for more information, post cards, and a free app!](#)



Halloween is a fun time for the whole family! Children thoroughly enjoy using their imaginations and exploring the world around them. Halloween night also comes with more risks than almost any other night of the year.

[Click here to discover ways to keep Halloween safe and fun for the whole family!](#)



October is Fire Safety Month!



Fire safety for young children should include clear prevention rules, such as keeping matches and lighters away from them and teaching them to avoid heat sources like stoves and heaters. Children should learn how to recognize the sound of a smoke alarm, create and practice a simple classroom/building escape plan with a designated meeting spot, and know the “Stop, Drop and Roll” technique for clothing fires. Keep fire safety lessons short but interactive. Remember to make them age-appropriate to ensure the children can absorb and retain the information. Consider having your local fire company come out to visit the classrooms and teach children about fire safety and what they will see if a fireman were to ever need to enter their home for a fire so they will not be afraid of them. Teaching children and families fire safety rules keeps everyone safe!

Ideas for in the classroom:

Dramatic Play: Turn it into a firehouse; add hoses, firemen outfits, and hats.

Math/Toys: Cups to count items in for 9 and 1, community-helper puzzles.

Library: Books about firemen and fire safety.

Science: Add sink or float items to the water table, provide sorting chart.

Blocks: Have children build firehouses, provide fire trucks, tape some fire flames on blocks.

Art: Red Play-doh with mats, count the flames on the building.

Activity



Nature Sensory Bins:



Fill a sensory bin with leaves, acorns, pinecones, and other natural objects for exploration, and add them to the science area in your classroom.

Provide children with tools like: magnifying glasses, tweezers, and sorting charts to allow them to explore their findings. Use descriptive words when working with the children, such as: hard/soft, bumpy/smooth, big/small, to help expand their vocabulary.



Holidays/Special Celebrations

October

1-15: National Hispanic Heritage Month
(continued from September)

1-2: Yom Kippur

13: Indigenous Peoples' Day

13: Columbus Day

20-21: Diwali

20-24: Celebrate Babies Week

31: Halloween



November

2: Daylight Saving Time Ends

4: Election Day

11: Veterans Day

27: Thanksgiving



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

Community Events

FAMILY
CONCERT
Curated for ages 6-12

MEET THE MUSIC



Musical Fairy Tales

Sat, October 18, 2025 | 1PM
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
Bruce Adolphs, Host

What can music say—can a violin order a pizza?
Join us for a fantastical journey as enchanting fairy tales from
around the world are brought to life through music!



TICKETS:
\$6 KIDS
\$11 ADULTS

puc.princeton.edu
609.258.9220



COMMUNITY FEST
THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING & THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Saturday, October 18 • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on
TCNJ's campus (rain or shine)
tcnj.edu/commfest

ENJOY A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT AT THE
WEST WINDSOR HISTORY MUSEUM:

FALL FESTIVAL

OCT 5, 1-4PM AT THE HISTORIC SCHENCK FARMSTEAD
50 SOUTHFIELD RD (LOOK FOR THE RED BARN)

PUMPKIN PICKING | PETTING ZOO
MUSEUM TOURS | KIDS' ACTIVITIES
AND MUCH MORE!

MORE INFO & REGISTER: WESTWINDSORHISTORY.COM/FALL

Mercer County
ITALIAN AMERICAN
Festival

RIDES
FOOD
VENDORS
ENTERTAINMENT
FIREWORKS
FREE PARKING

OCTOBER 4-5 MERCER COUNTY PARK

13th Annual Mercer County Turkey Trot



Sponsored By
ROUNDVIEW CAPITAL

Thanksgiving Morning - 8:30am
www.mercercountyturkeytrot.com

TRUNK OR TREAT



FOOD
HAY RIDE
CONTESTS
CANDY & MORE
Rain Date Oct 23rd

RSVP REQUIRED
10.22.25 | 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
MERCER COUNTY PARK, MARINA LOT
334 S POST RD, WEST WINDSOR

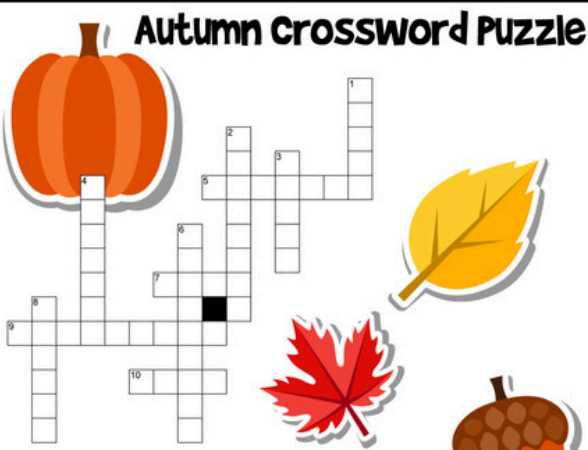


SCAN
OR CODE
FOR MORE
INFO.

MERCER COUNTY
County Executive Dan Benson
The Board of County Commissioners

Puzzle Corner

Autumn Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

5. An orange vegetable used to carve Jack O' Lanterns.
7. A garden tool used to capture fallen leaves from the yard.
9. The ninth month of the year, when autumn begins.
10. A vegetable that grows inside a green husk with yellow kernels inside.

DOWN

1. The seed produced by oak trees.
2. A small, usually brown mammal with a long, fuzzy tail that lives in trees.
3. A type of fruit that can be red or green and is baked in pies.
4. The gathering of crops at the end of the growing season.
6. A dummy used to scare away birds and other animals from eating a farm's crops.
8. The flat, usually green parts of a plant that grow from a stem or branch.

Questions
or
comments?

Contact us at:
609-989-7940

or

training@ccc-nj.org

