

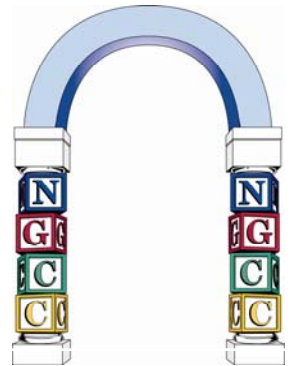


NEW DISCOVERIES!

Our new school year is underway and it's already full of excitement and learning!

Pictured at left is Joshua in the Toddler program in Andover meeting **Becca the Butterfly** in his new classroom! It's magical moments like this that make our teachers happy as the children experience our mascots and curriculum in joyous ways!

Next Generation Children's Centers *Parent* Communication Connection



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BEGINNINGS - DONNA KELLEHER

Our 18th school year is well underway and I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families as well as returning ones! We are so fortunate this year to have a great start with our Staff Development day giving our teachers essential training and preparation time to get the new school year off fully prepared. The window paintings, colorful bulletin boards and fresh classroom arrangements are wonderfully inviting for the children and families as they experience their new classrooms!

With the new school year I have also implemented a change of structure with our management team: Noelle McCullough is now working in our Human Resources department as the Director of Recruitment and Staffing Relations under our VP of Human Resources Audrey Feinberg. Noelle is now our point-person in finding new teachers, running new employee orientation as well as assisting Directors with staffing questions. As a result of this change, Lori Snyder, our VP of Operations, is overseeing all 10 locations. All of our school Directors report to Lori and she assists them with any EEC or parent questions. As always, I encourage parents to keep the lines of communication open with their Director(s) with questions you may have or changes in family situations. Communication with your *teachers* is also **key** in helping us work with you to make their days at Next Generation a positive experience. Be sure to check in with them in the morning, during naps time or evenings to stay in touch.

I have been so fortunate over the past 18 years to have found the right combination of care, education and services that addresses today's family's needs that has allowed NGCC to grow. It is also because of **you**, our families, that we have a strong set of schools for all of the children in our care. A very large percentage of our business is from happy parents recommending us to others looking for care. That's why I created our **Points for Parents** referral program:

For each **new family** you refer to any of our 10 NGCC schools, we will take **1% off of your tuition**, starting the week the new family begins and every month after that *for as long as your family is with us*. This offer can be combined with existing discounts, such as our sibling discount, and is **cumulative**. This referral program is unique in the child care industry and I encourage you to take advantage of it for your family!

Thank you once again for being with Next Generation and I hope this school year brings great happiness to your family!

DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE CHANGES

In our last Parent Communication Connection, Donna touched on a few of the changes that have been implemented by our licensing body, but we wanted to do a re-cap for our new families along with a new change:

- **Teachers** will be **signing children in and out now**. Because of the new tracking process we are following for children per EEC, Parents will not have to do this at drop-off and pick-up. One less thing to do in the morning!
- For parents bringing in baby food that is usually frozen—we ask that it be thawed the evening before so it can be stored in a refrigerator before heating to serve. Thawing the evening before will reduce the prep time for our infant rooms.
- Reduction of medication in the schools—Many of our parents have left Tylenol, Advil, Cold Medications or Benadryl with us “just in case” and our schools are now storing an alarming amount of medications. While we are sending individual notes home to families about what we have on-hand and taking unneeded medications home, please feel free to stop by the front desk to take home items you feel are not needed. We are going to keep medications on hand for children under age one and for those with medical conditions as noted in their Individual Health Care Plans.

If you have any questions about the items listed above, please feel free to speak with your Director.

Curriculum Corner – Keeping Home and School Connected

DEVELOPMENT OF FINE MOTOR SKILLS—CYNTHIA PARKER M. ED.

The development of fine motor skills is a process that begins in infancy and becomes more and more refined as a child grows older. Each milestone reached is directly related to the success of the next milestone. In fact the development of fine motor skills is directly related to large motor skills. Motor skills begin with the development of the torso then arms and finally the hands. One is dependent on the previous.

Infants: Tummy time is especially important for babies. Building up their torso and arm muscles will help them as they are ready to reach out and explore objects around them. Make sure that your baby has plenty of play time on the floor. Place toys within reach to entice your baby to work those muscles!

Toddlers: Although still primitive in many of the tasks that they can accomplish, Toddlers are becoming very interactive with their environments and ability to manipulate toys and materials. Provide your toddler with toys that have chunky pieces that are easy to grasp and maneuver. Peg boards, puzzles with knobs and medium sized cars and trucks allow toddlers to grab on and interact!

Preschoolers: By age 3, preschoolers are becoming quite independent thanks to their fine motor skills. They are able to dress and undress, manipulate snaps on clothes and use forks and spoons well. They are also becoming interested in exploring with more writing tools. Provide your preschooler with access to small pencils (like those at the golf course) and paper. However, even more importantly, continue to assure your preschooler is building their hand muscles with materials such as play dough, string beads and Legos.

Looking for more information on the development stages of fine motor skills and activities you can do at home? Go to: <http://www.earlyinterventionsupport.com/development/finemotor/default.aspx>

Next month we will feature more information for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten age groups.