



Upcoming Dates and Events

Annual Recognition Luncheon:

May 7, 2014 at 12:30pm at Lusa Bakery & Café, located at 1120 N Lamar Boulevard will be a time to recognize directors for their accomplishments. Please respond this week to Evelyn Smith of our Early Care and Education Committee with your answers to her 4 questions about quality.

The Health Fair:

Will be held later this summer. More information to come.

MS Early Learning Guidelines

Our MS Early Learning guidelines for Creative Expression suggest that young children “produce original art” and “describe their own artwork”. To foster children’s development in these areas, try these suggestions:

Provide plain water and paint-brushes. Encourage children to “paint” on sidewalks or other paved surfaces. Ask them: “Tell me about what you have painted.” Also have children predict what might happen to their “paintings” over the next several minutes. As the paintings disappear, you might introduce the word “evaporate.”

Let children use sidewalk chalk to color on paved surfaces. Prompt children to point out and describe the colors they used, any straight or curved lines, and other features of what they draw.

Children can also finger paint with shaving cream on a table top or on construction paper. Have them wear smocks, then enjoy the smell and feel of working with their fingers in small amounts of shaving cream to make pictures or designs. Let them tell about what they make and what they liked about the experience.

— Jean Shaw

Excel By 5 ECCE
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A Newsletter to Keep Our Partners Connected!

May 2014

A Visit with...Amy Moore of “My Little Ones” Daycare

Amy Moore, Director of “My Little Ones”, as will be quickly inferred, gives “people person” and “family oriented” a whole new perspective and depth. Mrs. Moore has been “keepin’ kids” since her first babysitting job at 14. She knew when she had her first child that she wanted very much to be an at home mother, but she also wanted to have an income. Opening “Amy’s Little Ones” in her own home allowed her to do both.

The Center began with two children and by her own admission she “knew nothing about licensure.” When her number rose to 10, she became aware that she had to become licensed. With licensure came forms to complete—lots of forms! Out of practicality, the name was shortened to “My Little Ones”, and indeed when she has them, she thinks of the children as her very own. The Center has been in operation 18 years and has two employees who also benefit from Mrs. Moore’s strong devotion to family. In July and August, employees have fewer hours thus allowing them the privilege of being home with their children. Currently, she has 19 enrolled, but attendance is staggered so that she has no more than 15 at any one time. A proponent of Excel By 5, she believes the standards and suggestions proposed by the initiative move children toward school readiness which in turn prepares them for the future. It is reassuring for Mrs. Moore to attend training because she said, “Much of what we hear about in training we’re already doing.” Mamy, as many of her 2’s and 3’s who are developing language affectionately call her, has no favorite aspects of being Director because as she said, “I don’t consider myself the director.” Mamy enjoys every aspect of what she does: teaching, cooking, wipin’ noses, changing diapers, etc. She considers herself on equal footing with her employees: “We’re like family at ‘My Little Ones.’ I really like the social aspects. Parents call me day, night, and after hours. I’m very close to them! Since we’re smaller, instead of writing notes for parents, I talk to each parent because I can. We’re very close-knit: Parents see the same person when they drop their children off and when they pick them up—me.” At the time the interview took place, the Easter egg hunt was the next big event: “We just throw them out there!” When asked “the kids or the eggs”, she laughingly replied, “Both!” The afternoon snack and treat bags sent home were also Easter themed. For Mother’s Day, the children will do handprints on tiles. The book mobile is also coming soon. In July, whenever the vegetables come in, a field trip to Woodson Ridge Farm is planned. When the children return to the Center, they will then eat a vegetable they have seen at the farm.

In her leisure time, Mrs. Moore likes to spend time with her three children who are now 18, 15, and 12. The family enjoys eating out and visiting a grandmother who is in a nursing facility in Tupelo. And, of course, shopping with her mother and daughter is a treat.. Many employees look longingly toward their retirement years when they can be free to do some things they were unable to do because of time restraints during the work years. Others, like Mrs. Moore, wish they never had to retire from their “jobs.” She never intends to When her children leave the nest, she has no bucket list. Mamy wants nothing more than to be “sittin’ in a rockin’ chair rockin’ a grandbaby!”



—Dot Hale
Excel By 5 ECCE Committee