

The Children's Center

February 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to February! We're excited to keep you in the loop on everything happening at The Children's Center. We're busy updating classrooms and introducing new spaces and friendly faces. Stay connected with us through ProCare and be sure your contact information is current.



Dates to Remember:

Friday, February 6 - 100th Day of School: Dress as a 100-year-old person

Thursday, February 12 - Snack due for Valentine's Day Party

Friday, February 13 - Valentine's Day Party

Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day: School Closed

New Faces ...

We're excited to share that we're expanding the Children's Center and will soon be opening a new room for our 2-year-olds. Many of our little friends are transitioning into new classrooms, and with these changes comes the need for additional staff. We're currently looking for new team members who will be a great fit for our Center family.

In February, we'll be welcoming a new teacher to our Center (will be begin in the 3-year-old room with Ms. Crystal). Be sure to give a warm hello to Ms. Caprise when she arrives.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch.





Valentine's Day Party

Valentine's Day is approaching, and we are having a party!

We're having our Valentine's Day party on Friday, February 13, 2026. Sign up to bring a snack on the list posted in the classroom by Friday, February 6. Valentine's cards are optional, but if you'd like to personalize yours, classmate names will be available on the signup sheet.

All party snacks, enough for every child in your child's class, are due by Thursday, February 12. Please avoid bringing any peanut products due to an allergy.

For more details about your class party, check in with your child's teacher (Ms. Amanda, Ms. Kia, Ms. Crystal, or Ms. Tonya) or refer to your classroom's individual newsletter.

Lunches are still needed on the day of the party.

**HAPPY
100
DAYS OF
SCHOOL!**



100th Day of School

We have made it! This school year consists of approximately 100 days, excluding holidays and snow days, and we are thriving! To celebrate our 100th day of school, we will have fun activities, including a dress-up party. Please come to school on Friday, February 6, dressed as a 100-year-old person.

Need some ideas? What have some children done in the past? Some have come in hair rollers, wigs, or hats. Some have decked out their pants with suspenders and mismatched socks. Sweaters, glasses, and maybe even a cane or two. Be creative. It does not matter what you do as long as you have fun doing it.

We look forward to seeing what you come up with.

Please review the reminders for the following policies and make any necessary adjustments.

Scheduling ...

Mornings?

The Children's Center has a **9:30 Am cutoff policy**. While we understand that morning issues may come up, this cutoff helps maintain a structured schedule in our classrooms. At 9:30 Am, we take morning attendance, set the staff-to-child ratio for the day, and serve snacks. This is also when each classroom begins its morning learning activities, and late arrivals can cause distractions.

Children won't be accepted into the Center after 9:30 Am to minimize distractions, unless they have a doctor's appointment that the teacher was informed in advance and they arrive with a doctor's note.

Evenings?

The Children's Center **closes at 5:30 Pm** sharp, so be sure to plan your evening to arrive no later than that time for pickup.

If you're going to arrive after the evening cutoff, let the Center know your estimated arrival time. A late fee applies: \$25 after the first 5 minutes, plus \$1 for every additional minute. This fee is paid in cash, is not part of your tuition, and should be settled at pickup or before your child returns the next day. It goes to the staff member who stayed with your child past regular work hours.

Thank you for your understanding as we work toward creating a more structured approach to our students' daily learning and schedules.



Mealtimes ...

The Center offers a morning snack at 10 AM and an afternoon snack at 3 PM. If your child is a picky eater, you're welcome to pack an extra snack in their lunchbox for those times. Please also send a refillable water bottle for daily use.

Don't forget to keep an eye on your weekly meal plans.

Breakfast?

If you are providing your child with breakfast and would like us to serve it, please note that breakfast ends at 9 a.m. To give your child enough time to eat, arrive before this time. The cut-off is in place because we don't want to rush children during meals, and our day starts at 9:30 a.m. with circle time, followed by a 10 a.m. snack. Children who arrive after the breakfast cut-off can enjoy their breakfast during the 10 a.m. snack period.

Lunch?

The Center has a no-heating policy, so if you need your lunch to stay warm, please use a thermos to keep it at a safe temperature. We won't be reheating food anymore. For items that need to stay cold, be sure to include an ice pack in your lunch box.

Weekly Bins ...

Please ensure your child comes to school ready for the week ahead. In case of an emergency, the classroom may contact you if your child needs anything extra, but buckets should be fully stocked on Monday mornings with a week's worth of supplies in every room. If your child is not potty-trained or in the potty-training stages, make sure they have enough diapers or pull-ups, along with wipes or flushable wipes, for the entire week. Each child's bin should include a fitted crib sheet, blanket, optional pillow, and plenty of clothing. At the end of each week, remember to clean out the bin and restock it with items for the following week.



No Outside Toys ...



We are not responsible for any broken or lost toys brought into the Center. Please keep all outside toys in the car or at home to prevent classroom disruptions. Any visible toys will be taken and put away until departure. This rule helps avoid conflicts that can arise and disturb the classroom environment.

Note: Outside toys are only allowed during show-and-share days, as scheduled by the teacher.

Preventing the Spread of Illness ...



How is your child feeling?

Children should stay home from school if they're sick. At the Children's Center, we work hard to create a safe and healthy environment for everyone, but we need your support. If your child isn't feeling well or is showing symptoms of illness, including but not limited to:

Fever

Severe Pains including Headache, Body aches including ear, throat or teeth, and Stomachache

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Persistent cough

Constant sneeze

Runny unclear nose

Lethargy

Rash

or any contagious disease or infections, they should be kept home. When in doubt, reach out to your child's doctor and keep us informed about their progress. Children can return once they have a doctor's note.

What happens when your child is sick at school?

You'll be contacted through the ProCare emergency text message system. If there's no response within 5 minutes, you'll get a follow-up phone call for immediate pickup. Children should be picked up within an hour of being called. If a child isn't feeling their best and a parent can't be reached, the Center will contact an emergency contact to arrange pickup.

Please ensure your contact information is up to date and your emergency contacts are current and available for pickups if necessary.

It's snowing?

Winter is here and snow days may come. In case of inclement weather, The Children's Center follows the Federal government (OPM) and/or PG County School System's closures and delays. The Children's Center, however, reserves the right to implement closure or delay if the needs of affected communities are not met and staff/children cannot arrive or depart safely. What to do on a snow day? Call the Center's phone and listen to voicemail before 5:00 am.



Communication ...



We communicate through ProCare, so be sure to have the app downloaded and updated on your devices and add your cellphone number to ensure we can connect with families effectively. We can't be responsible for any messages you miss due to not using ProCare.

For any questions or concerns, contact your child's teacher during working hours through Procure or by calling 301-856-1680. Please avoid calling between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, as this is nap time and when staff are on their lunch breaks.

Infant/ Toddler Room - Ms. Amanda (7:00 Am - 4:00 Pm)

2-year-old Room - Ms. Kia (7:00 Am - 5:30 Pm)

3-year-old Room - Ms. Crystal (9:00 Am - 5:00 Pm)

4-year-old Room - Ms. Tonya (8:30 Am - 5:30 Pm)

In case of an emergency or if you cannot reach your child's teacher, feel free to contact Ms. Kia, director, via ProCare, phone call, or email at thechildrensctr@yahoo.com.

If any other information comes up during the month, I'll send messages through ProCare.

