

Child Care Chatter

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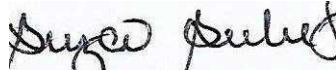
October 2022

Dear Friends and Families,

I usually do not speak up much about social and/or political issues because usually these things can divide us. However, Pennsylvania's children are in trouble. Across the state a half million children face the same troubling circumstances. Poor health care and nutrition and little to no access to quality early care and education. We need to be informed and let me share why from a personal perspective.

Last Thursday I received three telephone calls from families that have an infant or unborn child on our waiting list of thirty-two children. All of them will unfortunately remain on the waiting list for probably at least one year. There is not enough care for young children in Gettysburg and Adams County. As a result of this, one young mother said she would have to decide between retirement at the age of 30 years or her husband working night shift. These are not decisions young families should have to make. No family should have to settle on the care their child is receiving.

So, when it comes time to vote, please look not only at the issues that are near and dear to you and your values but the politicians who understand state of child care. Look at those elected officials who will ensure and make the right investments of public resources so that children burdened by poverty and adversity have the best chance of reaching their full potential. Look for those who understand the success of the economy depends on adequate, accessible child care so parents can return to work and do not have to choose between leaving their careers or working night shift. For more information go to: [Start Strong PA](https://startstrongpa.org) or <https://childrenmatteractionfund.org/#about>



A special opportunity:



In spring of 2022, one of our own received the devastating news that they had pediatric cancer. September was/is Pediatric Cancer Awareness month. Ms. Amanda is an Usborne book consultant. She has organized a Cuddle Bear Book drive to honor Owen.

Your donation of \$25.00 will purchase a book and a bear for a pediatric patient at the Virginia Children's Hospital. Every child who receives treatment will receive a book and "Cuddle" bear to take home for comfort during their treatment. Please see Ms. Amanda in the infant room, Ashley, or me if you are interested in donating to give a child a little something special as they are receiving treatment.

Special Announcement – Help Wanted

We are currently searching for at least two part – time teachers, one with the flexibility to work full time if schools shut down. The hours would be 6:30 – 9:00 a.m. and/or 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. Please pass this information on to qualified persons you may know and have them contact myself or my assistant director, Ashley Drechsler.

"Almost everything I needed to learn; I learned before kindergarten...."

Open House/Meet the Teacher

Please come to join us on Wednesday, October 4th, 2022, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. We will have a covered dish dinner at 5:00 p.m. followed by classroom meet and greets and question and answer sessions. Please sign – up in your child's classroom by Friday, September 30, 2022 so we know how much food to order/make.

Important Dates to Remember:

- 10/25/2022 - St. James Lutheran Church Halloween Open House Community Event at 5:00 p.m.
- 10/27/2022 – 25th Annual Teddy Bear Parade! Please send your child's favorite teddy bear labeled with your child's name so your child can join us as we celebrate Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt's birthday.
- 10/31/2022 - Classroom Halloween Celebrations – please see your individual classroom announcements.