

The Rhythmton Gazette

Welcome to Rhythm and Rhymes

Picnic Time!!! We promise to have the picnic rain or shine on August 23rd at Two Rivers Park starting at 5:00P.M. All of our children and families are invited to attend and we are extending the invitation to those who have just graduated on to kindergarten! Bring a side dish and your chairs and be ready to enjoy the afternoon/evening. We will have a sign up sheet in the front near our clipboards for the classrooms so be sure to indicate what you will bring and how many will be in your party so that we know how many hot dogs to have ready for the guys to cook for us!

We hope that Mother Nature will be nice to us this time so that we can all enjoy some good



food, lots of fun, and fellowship time with each other!

Have you noticed that Ms. Rachel is back? She has returned from maternity leave and is teaching one day each week until the month of September, when she will resume her two days per week schedule. Ms. Rachel will be focusing on music and Spanish on the days that she is here so be sure to watch for her stick-

ers on your child's daily sheet so that you know what they learned on those days.

We have hired a dance teacher, Ms. Kevana West, and she is loving the movement time with the little ones. She is still settling in and meeting all of the children and learning their personalities and capabilities. She will also leave notes on their daily sheets to let you all know what types of things she is teaching.

Ice cream day and water day Fridays will continue until Labor day. Perhaps we can get Mr. David to bring the ice cream truck by a few extra times in September like he did last year!

Lori know if you have any questions!

What's going on in town?

There are lots and lots of things to do around town with your little ones this month! Take a look at what we found:

*Story time and puppet shows are scheduled for this month here at Rhythm & Rhymes. The Nashville Public Library will come and present the story of Hansel and Gretel for our children on August 14th @ 10:30 at the Cottage Lane location and 9:30 at the

Lebanon Road location. The puppet truck will come to the centers the following week. They will be at the Lebanon Road location on Wednesday August 20th, and at Cottage Lane on August 21st. I will send out a reminder email with times for the puppet show so that all of our parents have the opportunity to come and see the library bring this story to life.

[*8/10 Regions Bank Free Day - Nashville Sounds](#)

Regions Bank is offering 500 free tickets to the Nashville Sounds minor league baseball game against the Round Rock Express at Greer Stadium on Sunday, August 10, at 6:35 p.m. These will be on a first come, first serve basis.

*August-September—Watch me Move animation show at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. Ages 18 and under are always free!

August 2014

Special points of interest:

- Notes from our Mayor of Rhythmton
- Notes from Conney Bird Greene
- Picnic Time!!
- Story Time and Puppet Show
- August events & area happenings

Rhythm Makers

Miss Amanda	Rm 1
Miss Brittany	Rm 2
Miss Dorothy	Rm 4
Miss Jennifer & Miss Faye	Rm 5
Ms Shakeema	Rm 6
Ms. Rachel	Music
Miss Katherine	Kitchen
Miss Angela	Infants @ Too!
Miss Jessica & Miss Latoria	Toddlers @ Too!
Miss Brittiany	PreSchool @ Too!
Miss Amber & Miss Becky	Floaters

From Our Mayor of Rhythmtown, Phyllis Craighead

Have you noticed the new marquees located at the entrances? (We still have one to go up at Too at the time of writing this newsletter.) Please take a moment to read the bulletins posted. There are reminders of special days (popsicle, water, story time), center closings, or other events and notices.

I am attempting to compile a network for services. The members of our network will be comprised of parents and staff of Rhythm & Rhymes. Lori will work her magic and attach this to our facebook page and our website. I will be making a binder that will contain all our members and their services or products and these will be posted close to the entrance at each center. I have devised a card that you will need to complete and return to your director. SOOOOOOOOOO if you have a talent, skill, product, service, or profession that you would like to promote, please complete a card. Please turn these in ASAP.

Thank you to all the parents that completed surveys. I am pleased with the overall responses. There were a few areas that were identified to as items where we can improve. After we received our results Parent Advisory Meetings were held at both centers in order to review the findings and solicit input and feedback from the parents. We have a staff meeting scheduled next week with the staff of both centers to discuss findings and changes for improvement. I would like to share the points that were brought to our attention.

Communication was probably on top of the list. This topic addressed a couple of different points. The first is regarding daily sheets and their completeness or parents wanting to know more details of what their children did each day. Lori is revising our daily sheets for all age groups. These sheets will identify the areas of study from our Applebaum curriculum. For those children potty training we will attempt to find a way to indicate success!!!... The second area of improvement focuses on communication between parents and the early and late shifts of staff. There was concern that communication was not always successfully passed from the early staff to the later staff from the parent. I have placed a white board in each classroom. You may leave a note for all teachers to see that day. An example, Phyllis' will not be here Friday or please send home water shoes on Friday for Phyllis. The staff can also put notes for parents on the board but their primary communication is their daily note. You may also send communication via email to Lori (lori@r-n-childcare.com) or Phyllis (Phyllis@r-n-childcare.com). Another means to leave communication is to write a brief note and bring with you in the morning. Please give it to the person in charge or leave it on the Director's desk. We ask that you as parents make sure that you receive your child's note daily and always check what supplies may be needed. We will also instruct our staff to give you a couple days notice when supplies are running low.

Food is area that usually gets a few comments. One parent requested that nutritional information be shared with families. Lori and I are in the process of compiling a binder containing nutritional information on the food we serve. This binder will be kept in the office. It is available for you to review at any time. We prepare our meals in the kitchen at Cottage Lane. Our food is not prepackaged. Meals are transported to Too every day. We participate in the Federal Food program and must meet their nutritional guidelines. Pasta, rice, and pizza dishes are made from scratch. We serve fresh fruits and vegetables for snack. Our vegetables and breakfast and lunch fruits are canned. The government dictates the type and amount of milk that is to be given to each child by age. We serve 4 oz of whole milk for children between one and two years of age. Two year olds get 4 oz of skim milk. Three years and up get 6 oz of skim milk. Milk is served with breakfast and lunch. Storage, access, and preparation time prohibit these from being fresh. Our meats are quality meat products that have been precooked and frozen. Over the years, we have made many changes to our menu. We feel that we do a better than average job in this area. Of course, start from the source is best but not practical in our setting. We do provide a breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. We do provide seconds. Please encourage your child to ask for an additional serving should they want more.

Staff training is the third area that I would like to address. We require our staff to obtain at least 18 hours of continuing education each year. There are classes outside our facility, staff meetings with educational material, trainers come to our facility, staff receives CPR & First Aide, and online courses. We encourage our staff to attend TECTA training. This is a 30 hours training provided by the State of Tennessee. It is recognized by state assessment as part of the star quality program. We attempt to hire staff that has experience in childcare. This does not always happen, but they exhibit the desire to serve children. To those staff, we make sure they get as much training as possible. We never know all there is to know. New resources open doors to new ideas. Should you hear of a course that you feel would benefit our staff, let us hear from you.

I hope you recognize how important we value your input. Please do not wait for surveys to share your thoughts.... But be sure to at least share them then.

Where has this summer gone? A new school year is upon us. I want to wish all of the kids going to Big Boy and Big Girl school the very best. We will miss each of you. Please keep in touch.

We love you and will miss you,

Ms. Phyllis



Social Interaction

Birth-12 months— When infants see a familiar adult they often will make sounds or kick their feet to get the attention of that adult. This occurs mostly with immediate family.



13-24 months— These young children begin to recognize unfamiliar adults outside of the immediate family. They begin to show awareness by hiding or crying when unfamiliar adults come near. They will seek approval from the familiar adults around them.



3-5 years— PreSchool age children will begin experiencing and understanding different culture in their surroundings. Some of them are beginning school at this age. They will begin to understand how people and things change over time. They become aware of the different cultures and the fact that all people are not the same.

Children at this age also recognize that children and adults alike have responsibilities at home, at school, and at work.



Meet the Staff!

My, my how things change! We have had a few staff changes and have added some new faces to our Rhythm & Rhymes family and want all of you to know who they are and a little bit about them. This month, I will list the staff at both centers and give you a little insight as to where they are. In the following months, I will feature 2 staff members, 1 from each location and tell you a little about who they are and how they came to be a part of our family.

We all know that Phyllis Craighead is our owner, Mayor, CEO, CFO, and House Mom. She spends her time at both locations and is the On-site Director at the Lebanon Road location.

The Cottage Lane staff consists of:

Lori Finchum—Director
Amanda Pinkerton—Infant Teacher (also known as our “baby whisperer”)
Katherine Suarez— Kitchen/floater (she’s the kid’s favorite since she brings the “eat-eat”)
Faye Murphy— Room 2/Toddlers age 2-3
Dorothy Gunter— Room 4/ PreK students
Jennifer Lawrence— Room 5/ young toddlers age 1-2
Brittany Myers—Room 5/Floater (she is our newest “old” family member. She left and had to come back!)
Shakeema Allen— Room 6/ preschool children ages 3-4
Amber Melman— Part time floater and closing staff. (She helps to make sure all of our teachers get to take a break!)

The Lebanon Road staff consists of:

Phyllis Craighead— Director
Valerie Woodhouse—Assistant Director/floater
Angela Carter—Infant Room teacher
Jessica Briggs—Toddler Room teacher/ages
Latoria White— Toddlers/ 1-2 year olds
Brittiany Reynolds— Preschool Children
Becky Finchum— Part time floater and closing staff



Ernie: Where are all of our friends going? And why is everyone looking so sad and saying goodbye? All of our friends are always so happy, something has to be going on!

Bert: Well, I heard Ms. Phyllis and Ms. Lori talking about some kind of BIG BOY and BIG GIRL school and I think that’s where our friends are going.

Ernie: But our friends aren’t big! Why would their parents take them there? They’re gonna be so scared! No wonder everyone looks so sad around here!

Bert: Listen, I just heard our friend Jevan’s mom talking to Ms. Lori. She said that Jevan is going to a school to learn things that big boys and big girls are

supposed to know. Ms. Lori said something about him being old now and time for him to learn more than he has already. I think that’s where our other friends must be going.

Ernie: Well, I sure hope they are nice to them there. We are gonna miss our friends, Bert. Maybe they’ll come back to visit.



*Where the arts and learning
ROCK!*

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