

# Northwest News

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## NAEYC Accreditation Received!!!

Northwest Center Child Development is one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation, under the new system from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, we went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten NAEYC program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

## Upcoming Classroom

We’re beginning to plan for fall transitions. By September, most children will move up, into new classrooms. In order to make this a smooth transition and help find the best placements for all children, we’re collecting feedback from teachers, parents and children. When making placement decisions, we consider a child’s needs and personality, as well as classroom environments, teacher personalities, friendships and schedules. If you have thoughts on what your child needs, please let us know so that we can take that feedback into consideration. You can talk to your child’s teacher, let Kristin or Kellie know your thoughts, or schedule a conference. If you would like to make a change to your schedule in the fall, that is also important information to know, as Sept. is our most flexible time for making changes to part time schedules.

In August, when placements have been made, you will receive a welcome packet with details about your child’s new classroom and teachers, as well as a classroom roster. Playgroups will continue over the summer and as the transition approaches, each child will spend time in their new classroom and with their peers.

**We will be CLOSED September 1-3** for the Labor day holiday, followed by our staff retreat, and a day for teachers to prepare their classrooms. Children will move to their new classrooms **September 4th.**

Transitions can be an exciting time for children, but can often be stressful as well. You can help your child adjust by assuring them that they will still see their teachers and friends during playgroups, events, and in the hallways. We are a community here and we work hard to be sure we all stay connected. Now is also a great time to update your information for the family directory. We’ll update in August so families can connect.

*Our mission is to provide an inclusive environment where all families receive individualized programs of education, advocacy, therapy and family support that nurtures the development of children both with and without disabilities.*

## Save the Date!

Our first ever fundraiser will be held **August 23rd** to benefit family enrichment programs. There will be a craft fair, silent auction, music and activities!

We’re looking for parents to help with our planning committee. Get involved by joining, or contact us with ideas or donations!

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## New Faces

To support classrooms during summer vacations, we’ve hired 6 new floaters. **Katie, Meg, Jane, Jeanine, Betsy, Robyn** will be working in all classrooms. Their biographies will be posted soon in the hallway near the teacher board.

We’ve also hired 3 new special educators to support classrooms and work with individuals in our school and our community. **Erin, Shannon C., and Sharlene’s** bios can be found on the staff board as well as the intervention page on our website. You can also find **Shannon W’s** bio there, she’s our new speech therapist!

Please welcome new team members and introduce yourselves.

## Parent Teacher Conferences

We feel strongly that partnering with parents is the most important way to nurture a child. That's why we're changing the way we do parent teacher conferences this year, in an effort to make them more meaningful and respectful of a family's time.

Instead of holding conferences for the whole school in a short period, we'll now be holding conferences based on your child's birth date, on a bi-annual basis.

Because this is a change, most children are due for a conference soon. We'll start with July birthdays, **but you can always request a conference at any time.** If you have concerns now or would like to talk about your child's goals and progress, please call us to schedule a conference. Otherwise, we'll contact parents on an ongoing basis to schedule throughout the year.

By assessing children individually on an ongoing basis, we hope to better individualize our programs for each child and have more meaningful conversations all year long.

## Intervention Team News

The intervention team continues to experience an increase in the number of children we serve. The department has recently expanded with three new special educators as well as a new speech therapist. This has allowed the team to better support classrooms in addition to serving individual children. The team is thrilled to welcome the new members. This summer we plan to work on an outreach project to reach out to other professionals who see children who may benefit from early intervention at an earlier age.

We hosted the quarterly early intervention Special Interest Group (SIG) where all the local agencies providing early intervention are invited to get together to discuss intervention techniques, strategies and models. It was well attended by staff from several other early intervention centers.

We've also welcomed our first early intervention staff baby! Becky Smith, our occupational therapist and an intervention manager gave birth to Levi on April 7th. Becky has returned to work part time and Levi is having a great time in our infant room.



Cool toy!

### Flubber!

This is a great sensory toy that is slimy and gooey just like kids love.

#### In one bowl mix together:

- 1.5 cups warm water
- 2 cups white school glue
- Food coloring (adding glitter is nice too)

#### In another bowl mix together:

- 1 1/3 cups of warm water
- 2tsp Borax detergent (Borax can be found in most grocery stores in the detergent aisle. Its a powder.)
- Pour Borax mixture into the other bowl and mix. Discard leftover liquid..

**WARNING: May stick to clothing or carpets.**

## Did You know?

Landmark Theaters have "cry rooms" where you can watch the movie from a Plexiglas box and your child can make noise without disturbing others.

## Upcoming Program Events

7/14- 5pm Closure Staff Meeting

7/15- Parent Support Group 6:30pm

8/12- Parent Support Group 6:30pm

8/13-5pm Closure Staff Meeting

8/14 Aide Appreciation Day

8/23- FUNdraiser Details TBA

8/28- Pre-K graduation 4-6pm

9/1-CLOSED Labor Day holiday

9/2- CLOSED Staff retreat

9/3-CLOSED Teacher work day

9/4- Classroom transitions

9/9- Parent support Group 6:30pm

9/16- 5pm closure staff meeting

9/18-Back to School Night 5-6:30pm

9/25- Golden Hearts Luncheon

### Other events-coming soon!

\*Nutrition training for parents

\*Kindergarten transition night

\*Sensory Garden Celebration

## We're Going Shoe-Free!

To increase air quality and reduce the amount of pollutants, dirt and allergens in our classrooms, we're going shoe free in all of our classrooms in July.

Children will remove shoes in the classroom or wear slip on shoes that are for inside only.

Parents can wear booties over their shoes or wear socks when dropping off and picking up.

Thanks for your cooperation!

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