

HELC NEWS

HELC Collects Toys for Children's Sugar Plum Shop

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Each year, HELC families and staff contribute to an organization by donating items to our annual Toy Drive. This will be the second year the Parent Representative Group has chosen Children's Sugar Plum Shop as our organization.

The Sugar Plum Shop, presented by Regions Bank, is Children's of Alabama's program for patients and their families who must spend the holidays at the hospital. This in-hospital toy store is built and operated by hospital staff, corporate partners and community volunteers who invite parents of currently hos-

pitalized patients to "shop"—free of charge—for gifts for their patient child and siblings.

The Sugar Plum Shop accepts new, unwrapped toys and there is a need for infant (a lot of babies in the NICU!) and teen gifts. Additional information and a wish list can be found on the website:

www.childrensal.org/SugarPlumShop

The toy drive will take place from **Wednesday, December 7th through Friday, December 16th**. Families can bring donations to the tables as they walk into the Chicka Room.

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ELC Website
www.harriselc.org



HELC Administrative Staff

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HELC Office Hours

7:00 A.M.—6 P.M.

Thank you for your participation!

Financial Reminders

December is a very busy month for everyone, so we want to remind you of a few things before the holiday season begins.

Accounts for the month of December will need to be **"paid in full" by December 15th**. This will allow us to have all necessary payments posted to Auburn before the Christmas break. Thus, allowing for the close out of the year, and your tax statements to be prepared and mailed to you by January 30, 2017. Also, if you have moved since the start of school, please verify your

address at the front desk as statements will be mailed to the address on file. **Statements will NOT be picked up at HELC.**

With this in mind, please verify your payment amount before issuing checks. If you use direct pay from your bank/credit union, be sure to change your mail out date for December to guarantee payments are received on time.

Please let Lesa Harris, Fiscal Manager, know if you have any questions regarding tuition or fees. Thank you!

HELC will close on Thursday, December 22, at 6 p.m. and re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7 a.m.



Winter Coats and Car Seats

As temperatures start to dip we bundle our children up to prepare them for the elements, but even with good intentions, a bulky coat and a car seat is a dangerous combination.



We all want to keep our children warm while traveling in the car, but there are ways to safely transport children in the cold weather while still keeping them warm.

As a general rule, winter coats should not be worn underneath the harness of a car seat. A bulky coat under a child seat harness can result in the harness being too loose to be effective in a crash. Here is a simple way to check if your child's coat is too big and bulky to wear under their harness:

- Put the coat on your child, sit them in the child seat and fasten the harness. Tighten the harness until you can no longer pinch any of the harness webbing with your thumb and forefinger.
- Without loosening the harness, remove your child from the child seat.
- Take the coat off, and put your child back in the child seat and buckle the harness straps, which are still adjusted as they were when he was wearing the coat.
- If you can now pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger, then the coat is too bulky to be worn under the harness.

*If you find that the coat can not be safely worn under the harness, here are a couple things you can do to keep your child safe and warm in his/her child seat:

- After securing your child in his/her child seat, turn the coat around and put it on backwards with their arms through the arm holes and the back of the coat acting like a blanket
- Lay a blanket over your child to keep him/her warm.

One of the most common misuse conditions seen in child seats is that the harness is too loose and wearing a big winter coat under the harness is just one of the potential causes.

It is very important that the harness is tight enough that you can't pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger. Extra slack in the harness can be very dangerous; it can lead to too much excursion or even ejection during a crash.

- These tips should help keep your precious little ones safe and warm this winter.

www.consumerreports.org

Illness Reminder

Please remember that if your child is sent home with a fever of 100.4 or higher, they may not return to school until they are fever free **without** medication for 24 hours. If your child is not well enough to attend, but you need to return to work, consider taking them to Hugs and Kisses (located downtown). Additional information regarding Hugs and Kisses is located in the Front Office. Thank you!

IMPORTANT DATES

Toy Drive—December 7-16, 2016

Parent Seminar— December 9, 2016

Orff Music Program— December 21 at 9 A.M.



HELCC **will close for the** Christmas Holiday —Thursday, December 23, 2016 at 6 P.M. and will reopen on January 3, 2017 at 7 A.M.