

HELC NEWS

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 10

JULY 2018

This School Year Is Coming to an End

This school year has been busy with learning and activities and every child has grown in many ways. We look forward to a new year starting in several weeks. If your child will be returning to HELC next year, you will receive a letter via SchoolCast with reminders and details about fees and paperwork. You will be made aware of several dates for meetings and closures throughout the year.

If you know a family who will be new to the HELC in August, you may assure them they will be sent the same letter. You may help by explaining some of the procedures or requirements of the Center with which you are familiar.

Included in the letter for the information of continuing and new families, the weeks in August for Orientation and Transition are outlined. A brief summary is below.

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HELC Office Hours

7 A.M.—6 P.M.

Orientation Meetings

Parents of presently and newly enrolled children are advised to attend the orientation meeting for their child's age group. The session begins with all parents together to obtain paperwork and hear introductory remarks. Then parents have the opportunity to meet with their child's new classroom teachers to become acquainted with them and their plans for the new year. Meetings will be in the Chicka Room in this order:

August 13	Infants	1:30-2:30
August 14	2 Year Olds	12:30-1:30
August 15	3/4 Year Olds	12:30-1:30
August 16	4/5 Year Olds	12:30-2:30
August 17	Toddlers	1:30-2:30

Transition Week

August 20-23 children will spend time in their new classrooms for a portion of the day. **Children will leave on Thursday, August 23rd, at 12:00 NOON and will also be out on the 24th to allow time for Staff Development.**

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 27

ATTENTION PARENTS

Please check your email for important information regarding the 2018-2019 School Year.

You will need to visit our website to complete and submit an updated Preadmission Form.

This is required for all families!

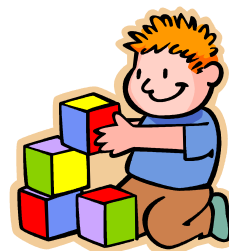
<http://www.harriselc.org/admission-forms.php>

Preparing for the 2018-2019 School Year

It's almost time! Teachers are helping the children to prepare for leaving a familiar classroom and transition to what will be their new classroom. HELC staff want to do everything possible to make the transition to new age groups and classrooms exciting and positive. Below is a list of several things that are done to reduce stress as children start a new year.

1. **Classroom placements** are posted on the blue wall in the Chicka Room early in August. Parents are able to learn who the teachers will be for the new year, take their child to meet the teachers and to see the classroom.
2. **Parent Orientation** meetings are planned for parents to hear general developmental milestones to expect in the next year, have the opportunity to meet the teachers and to hear their overview for the year.
3. Children have a **Transition Week**. During this week, they visit their new classes each morning to become familiar with the teachers, classroom, and new routines.

All these activities help make the move from year to year easier for children and families. Working in cooperation, these days can be a good start to a great year!



Factors for Classroom Placements

There are a number of factors that are kept in mind at HELC when placing children in their classes for a new school year. You will see a difference in needs for placement depending on ages of the children.

For 2 years old and younger, age is the predominate deciding factor for putting classes together. During the non-verbal years, children gain and grow from being with developmental age mates. Children are placed with peers a few months older or younger than they are.

With the 3 and 4 year age groups, we group children in classes in which all the children will enter kindergarten at the same time. At these ages, placement considerations include personalities as well as individual needs and developmental levels. Pupil teacher ratio is a factor for placement in every age group as we strive to keep our ratio at the standards set by our accreditation through NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children).

Mud, Marvelous, Mud!

A wonderful time was had by every age group, even our infants and toddlers, as they experienced Mud Day HELC style. International Mud Day is an annual child-friendly outdoor exploration that gives children the opportunity to do what many of us enjoyed as a child, getting out and feeling the squish of mud between our toes and making “mud pies”. Research is showing that the increase in childhood allergies and other illnesses can be attributed to children being kept in a sanitized world. Exposure to dirt and germs can work to prime a child’s immune system to prevent allergies. So yes, at least on a limited level, it is okay and actually healthy for children to get dirty/muddy. Other health benefits to being exposed to the microscopic bacteria called *Mycobacterium Vaccae* besides the stimulation of the immune system is an increase in the level of serotonin in the brain, an endorphin that soothes, calms, and helps us to relax. It is only once a year but you can be assured that the children enjoyed their day of getting “down and dirty” at the 2018 HELC Mud Day!