



# Mon Jardin Newsletter

20630 N Milwaukee Ave., Deerfield, IL 60015  
[www.MonJardinCo.com](http://www.MonJardinCo.com)

7:00am-6:30pm Monday-Friday

## From the Director's Desk

This month, Mon Jardin had a comprehensive inspection from DCFS (Illinois Department of Children & Family Services) licensing inspector. In her visit, she was amazed with the diversity of our community and with the work from all of us in making Mon Jardin a welcoming and warm place to be. She also gave us permission to open our second preschool classroom. This classroom is going to be for ages 3 to 4 year-old and will allow us to use our current mixed age classroom for kindergarten ages 5 to 6 year-old.

Among some of the remarks that the license inspector made on her visit, were that our infants room is the best in the area, not only for staff/child ratio, teacher's interaction with



Water Splash Day

the infants, cleanliness, and organization but also because children were well taken care and seemed happy during all 5 hours inspection visit. In addition that the twos and preschool classroom have an inviting atmosphere, teachers were engaged with the children and staff/children seemed

to be happy and enjoying themselves all round the center. Finally, no violations were founded.

Thank you families, children and staff for your continuing support!

Denisy de Souza

## June 2010 Newsletter



### Dates to Remember:

- June 21 & 24 - preschool water day
- June 28 Ms. Yecenia's birthday
- June 30 Twos Classroom Nature Walk
- July 5, 2010 Mon Jardin CLOSED
- July 10 Mrs. Heidi's & Miss Kim's birthday

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## Inside Headlines Infant Room Classroom

"The Animals" will be the theme of our units of study during the month of June. We are so excited about experiencing with our infants all the animals' sounds. Attached to this letter are our monthly calendar activities for June, a list of books that coincide with our theme and a list of activities to help the babies to develop language and physical develop-

ment. We will also talk about "Father's Day" and we will work on a few art projects to celebrate this special day.

We will have fun using our senses to learn by:

- Touching stuff animals.
- Observing animal's pictures.
- Listening animal sounds

Singing songs about animals  
Observing animal's moments

The children will also develop their creativity through dramatic expression by playing with the stuff animals.



## Continuing from Infant Room

In order to carry this unit, we would greatly appreciate your assistance by providing us, if possible, the following items:

- Daddy's picture
- Your baby's favorite book at home

Thank you so much in advance for your help. As always, please feel free to call or speak to us if you have any question, concerns or suggestions.

Mrs. Heidi, Mrs. Helen & Ms Yecenia



Diverse Community

## Twos Classroom

We are very excited about this month's theme... Summer! We have several fun projects relating to summer which focus on sand, water and sun. Some of the projects we will be doing are: making an "Ocean in a Bottle," making popsicles, creating a classroom mural of a beach scene, and making lemonade stand for our classroom. Please let us know if there are any food restrictions regarding popsicles, lemonade or Jell-O, as we plan on eating these this month. We are

also excited to celebrate a very special day: Father's Day. We have many activities planned for this holiday and will be making crafts to show dad how important and how loved he is. Along with these activities, we will be focusing on colors, shapes and weather. We look forward to a great month!

Miss Cynthia & Miss Kristen

### Reminders:

- \* Make sure that sun block and any other medication is given to your child's teacher or the Director as those items can be harmful to the children if not supervised.
- \* Please bring extra clothes, shoes (water shoes), towel and anything else your child might need if they get wet.
- \* PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS ARE LABELED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME
- \* Make sure your child wears close toe shoes – NO SANDALS

## Preschool Classroom

This month the topics are the following:

June 1-4: Birds

June 7-11: Safety

June 14-18: Bugs

June 21-25: Summer

June 28-30: Author Study: David Shannon

We will be incorporating many different activities that you will find located on the

calendar attached. There are a few days that are highlighted below:

**June 7-11**, the students will be talking about safety. We hope that this week's topic is not only important to learn at school but as well as their household. We hope that we can work together to stress the importance of this in your child's life.

**Friday, June 18**, the students will be having a picnic outside for Picnic Day.

Each student should bring in one food dish to share. We will print out a more detailed list closer to the date for what each parent should prepare.

### Classroom Activities:

- Making a bird nest and feeder
- 911 Collage
- Safety Puzzle
- Will objects float or sink?
- Butterfly matching
- Ant sizing

Thanks for all of your support.

Sincerely,  
Katie and Kim



June 2010

Mon Jardin Newsletter

# From MJ Nurse's Desk

June 2010

## Keeping the Kids at Care Safe and Healthy



Renee Bevis, RN

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### Thoughts on SAFE Playgrounds

Were you aware that most injuries that happen at child care occur on the playground, or that most of those occur within the first five minutes of outdoor time? Now that the weather has finally warmed up and we all want to be outside as much as possible, it's time to go over a few play ground safety reminders.

**Supervision** – Teachers who are out supervising the children on the play area need to be alert to the kids, mobile, and ready to respond quickly. No sitting and settling into the shade or bunching up for long conversations with fellow teachers! Someone should be assigned to check the play area daily (see maintenance, below) BEFORE allowing any child onto it. Most severe playground injuries happen in first few minutes of outdoor time – one teacher should precede kids onto the play area to direct traffic and to help the youngsters manage that first overwhelming rush of enthusiasm.

**Age appropriate professional equipment** - Best practice guidelines (but not DCFS raqs) say that if you are a professional, licensed child care center, as opposed to unlicensed or home day care, any climbing structure on your play area should be of professional grade. The manufacturer's documentation on any climbing equipment will state whether it is or isn't intended for professional or commercial use. Just because it's a large, expensive piece of equipment doesn't mean it's built to withstand professional wear and tear, and home-made play equipment isn't considered professional). If a lawsuit resulted after a playground injury and it's found that your climbing structure wasn't manufactured for commercial use, you could be in serious trouble. Professional structures (from companies like Grounds for Play, Miracle, or Little Tykes Commercial) are expensive, but please don't put anything less on your play areas – it's just not worth the risk. Better to have an empty field of grass for the kids to run on than elaborate climbing equipment that isn't guaranteed to be structurally safe for the kind of use it will get at a child care center. If you already have a non-commercial structure on your property, be sure all teachers know the manufacturer's recommended weight limit and number-of-children-at-one-time limit; religiously restrict the equipment's use to those recommendations, and inspect the equipment frequently for any signs of wear.

**Fall Surfacing maintained** – Rake wood chip surfacing into place frequently to keep it loose and where it needs to be. If wood chips appear to be scooped out from under the swings or at the end of a slide, the cushioning effect is gone. Wood chips need to be non-compacted and at least 12" deep at all times and in all areas. If they're decomposing and look like dirt a couple of inches under the top layer of chips, they're no longer effective fall surfacing. If you're lucky enough to have poured-in-place rubber surfacing, check it regularly for worn areas.

**Equipment must be well maintained**, with *nothing* broken or missing, even on smaller, plastic items – if a plastic toy or scooter gets a crack, it should be removed from the play area. All areas within the fence and the fencing itself should be inspected daily; any trash, bottles, animal feces, and fence openings greater than 3 ½ inches and less than 9 inches in size (which could pose a danger of head entrapment) should be removed or corrected. Sandboxes should be covered when not being used to discourage use as stray-animal litter boxes. DCFS regs allow sandboxes larger than 100 square feet to remain uncovered, but if **not** covered, DCFS says that the center must have a procedure for daily raking of the sand surface and clean up of any fecal matter present.

**If you'd like to know more about becoming a great playground safety supervisor**, every two weeks the National Program for Playground Safety offers a one-hour, self-paced, online program entitled "Playground Supervision Training for Child Care Providers". Cost is \$10 (plus \$15 if you want CEUs). This is a great group to learn from! Find out more about this program and the other opportunities offered by the National Program for Playground Safety at: [http://www.playgroundsafety.org/training/online/childcare/course\\_supervision.htm](http://www.playgroundsafety.org/training/online/childcare/course_supervision.htm)

### Bits & Pieces

#### How administrators can help to discourage the rumor mill -

Emily Anthes, writing in **Psychology Today** (June 2010; [www.PsychologyToday.com](http://www.PsychologyToday.com)) recommends a proactive response when whispers and gossip are circulating -

*"Don't try to create a 'gossip-free workplace' — there will never be such a place. What you should do is talk as directly as you can with your employees about plans and changes under way.... Here's where we are, here's what you've heard, here's what we're still trying to figure out. That behavior is gossip medicine."*



**A word to the wise on diapering –**

Don't forget that cleaning up the diaper surface after diapering **ALWAYS** includes sanitizing after each diaper – **not** just after every 4 or 5 changes. Best practice says that you will dispose of the used barrier (changing table paper), then clean with soap and water, then sanitize. No sanitizer works instantly; bleach solution is the quickest and requires at least 2 minutes of wet contact time – about the time it takes to thoroughly wash your hands, record the diaper change and prepare for the next change. All other sanitizers (quats) must stay wet on the surface for at least twice as long as bleach. There is no such thing as “too busy” to sanitize between diaper changes – sanitizing after each diapering is a **minimum** DCFS requirement, not a choice. If you don't kill the germs, the germs are still there for all other babies to pick up.

**Mon Jardin Recommends You Following News on the Net:**

First Course of Veggies Boosts Preschoolers' Total Veg Intake:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100505152451.htm>

Parental Involvement Key to Preventing Childhood Bullying:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100503074239.htm>

Too Much TV Viewing at Age Two Spells Trouble Later:

<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/news/20100503/tv-watching-at-age-2-spells-trouble-later>

Recall of McNeil Children's Tylenol, Motrin, Benadryl, Zyrtec:

<http://children.webmd.com/news/20100502/recall-of-kids-tylenol-motrin-zyrtec-benadryl>

Reports on the Lasting Effects of Early Childhood Experiences:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100503161332.htm>

Cases of Abusive Head Trauma Skyrocket – Recession to Blame?

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100501013403.htm>

Chicken Nuggets Loaded with Salt & Fat:

<http://children.webmd.com/news/20100504/chicken-nuggets-loaded-with-fat-salt>

Pesticide-ADHD Link Found:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/721892>

Talking Seriously with Children is Good for their Language Proficiency:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100512172529.htm>

Stress Hormones Predict Trouble for Children Left in Abusive Homes:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_98425.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_98425.html)

Link Between Quality Child Care and Behavior/Academic Achievement Persists:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/may2010/nichd-14.htm>

Fatal Choking A Real Risk Among Toddlers:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_97778.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_97778.html)

Moms' Smoking Tied to Kids' Lasting Sleep Woes:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_98555.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_98555.html)

Rotavirus Vaccine Helps Kids Avoid Severe Gastro Illness:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_98800.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_98800.html)

Guard Kids' Eyes Against Long-term Sun Damage:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_98840.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_98840.html)





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Guard Kids' Eyes Against Long-term Sun Damage:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_98840.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_98840.html)

Breastfeeding Linked to Lower Risk of Post-Vaccination Fever:

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Pediatrics/Parenting/20123>

No Benefit in Delaying Infant Vaccinations:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_99124.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_99124.html)

"Button Batteries" Killing, Disabling Children:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_99125.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_99125.html)

Can Bacteria Make You Smarter (& Calmer)? *Note last paragraph of this article re kids' outdoor activities:*

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100524143416.htm>

Parents' Physical Activity Influences Children:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100525094910.htm>

Eliminating Wheat, Milk from Diet Doesn't Help Autistic Kids:



### Martial Arts Classes

The first section of the Martial Arts classes is going to start on July 7 at 11:00am. The class will meet on Wednesdays and Fridays for one hour each for the next 12 weeks. There is still space available in this section. If you would like to enroll your child, please see the Director for more information.



### MJ FISH TANK

During the summer months, we are housing this colorful fish tank that belongs to one of MJ employee's husband. He is a science teacher for CPS. During the school year, he keeps it in his classroom. Unfortunately, the fish tank will be returned late August to his school. Meanwhile, we hope that you enjoy our colorful little friends.

### Meet Our Staff



Miss Kim Chalekian

Hello parents/guardians!

I am your child's new Pre-school teacher. I am originally from Prospect Heights and just recently moved to Arlington Heights this past month. I have a wonderful family of four. My brother attends Western Illinois and is pursuing a degree in Construction Management. My mother and father work very hard to support our family and raise my brother and I. We also have a dog!

For the past five years I have been in Dubuque, Iowa attending Loras College. At Loras College I was a member of the Women's Volleyball team for two years and the Women's Softball team for four years. I graduated in Dec. of '09 with a B.A. - In Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. I have been in childcare for the past five years and have an absolute passion for children. I am very excited to be working with your children!