

Policy Update

The Massachusetts Department of Education is taking some exciting new steps in the area of Latino Education. In December, the Department of Early Education and Care put out a survey to review the draft policies and guidelines for early education and care programs who serve children whose home language are other than, or in addition to, English. (These are available for review on the EEC website.) The policies focus on creating an open line of communication between parents and educators on cultural practices, development of language (home language and English). The policies also address the importance a bilingual early education and care program has on a child's preparedness and success in school. Child Development and Education, Inc. responded to the survey on behalf of our educators and we look forward to working with EEC when the policies are finalized.

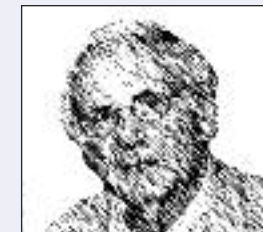


the Statehouse on Latino Educational Outcomes in Massachusetts. This briefing illustrated the disparities in educational outcomes for Latino K-12 students in comparison to students statewide. While Massachusetts continually ranks number one in education achievement nationwide, there are huge gaps in dropout and graduation rates, MCAS scores and achievement levels of Latino students and other English language learners and the rest of the student population statewide. This is a major concern for the Department of Education and community at large. CDE is optimistic that these issues will begin to receive the attention they deserve, and that the Joint Committee for Education, including the new Co-Chair, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, will begin to address the needs of these learners.

In January, researchers from the Gaston Institute of UMass Boston gave a presentation at

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=edumodulechunk&L=4&LO=Home&L1=Government&L2=Departments+and+Boards&L3=Department+of+Early+Education+%26+Care&sid=EOedu&b=terminalcontent&f=EEC_news_updates_20101203_language&csid=EOedu

A Note From CDE



Dear Friends and Family of Child Development,

Happy New Year! I hope 2011 is off to a happy and healthy start for you and your families. We are working hard to make this year a successful one at Child Development.

We have revamped the way we run transportation and we hope you will find it to be a more efficient, reliable and comfortable experience. We have also opened up a new office in Pittsfield, Massachusetts to expand our services in the Berkshires. We are very happy to have our new regional manager, Mary Bradbury, on board to help us develop partnerships with the children and families of that region. Finally, we are working to fill our teen parent program slots in every region. If you know someone who is interested in our teen parent program please contact your coordinator today!

As always, we hope the ideas and information in this newsletter are helpful; we want you to be informed parents and educators. We hope the activities are engaging and provide you some fun on these cold winter days! Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Bill Restuccia

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Quotable Quotes:

"You can learn many things from children; how much patience you have, for instance." - Franklin P. Jones

Question & Answer

Q I hear that the flu is going around. My little girl puts everything in their mouth and I'm so afraid she will catch something from child care! What can I do to prevent her from getting sick? I don't want to have to take her out of child care!

A You are correct! Flu season lasts from October to May, but outbreaks are most prevalent during January and February. There are a few easy things you can do to help prevent your child from getting the flu or from spreading it to other family members or children at child care.

4. Stay home if you're sick. If your child is sick, with the flu, or even a bad cold, please don't send them to child care. If you send her to school, she could infect the other children or provider. Children should be free of illness symptoms, fever, sore throat, upset stomach, for 24 hours before returning to school.

http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/flu2010/flu_guidance_childcare_programs.pdf for more information!

Q "My children love to play outdoors but when the weather gets cold I am afraid that they will get sick. Can you tell me when is "too cold" to play outdoors?"

A Children and parents can get restless being cooped up indoors all winter. It is always good to get outside and get some fresh air even when it is chilly outside. It is important to remember that children benefit from outdoor play. Unless the temperature or wind-chill is dangerous, children do not get sick from playing outside during the winter months. Here is a helpful chart to know when it is ok to play outdoors and when it is better to play indoors:

To play outside or inside?	
8° or higher – comfortable to play outside	14° or below – stay inside
15°-31° without wind chill – use caution outside	18°-31° with wind chill – stay inside

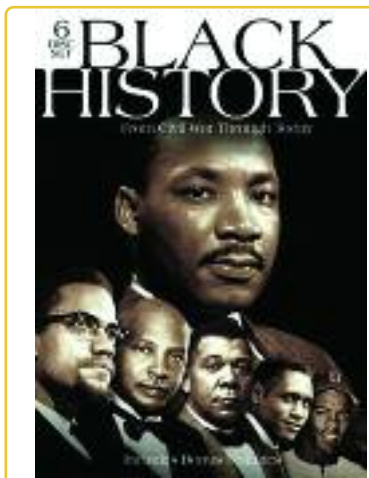
Remember: When playing outside in the snow, make sure that children are wearing the proper snow attire including: hats, mittens, boots, snow pants and warm, water-proof jackets.

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1. Get vaccinated. Ask your pediatrician about getting a flu shot for your child and yourself.
2. Wash! Wash hands, wash toys, wash blankets. Wash everyday items that your child uses regularly and make sure to keep a clean environment at home. Just as you don't want your child to bring home any germs from child care, you don't want her bringing any there.
3. Dress properly. Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather to ensure they don't get sick. This means, hats, mittens, boots, warm, dry clothing (pack extra clothes during snowy weather, especially socks!) and of course a warm, insulated winter jacket. It is important to be aware of children's comfort level too. Sometimes bulky, winter clothing can be uncomfortable and hot, so keep an eye on them and be aware if they are fussy.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Black History Month: This month we learn about African-Americans who were heroes or important in the history of our country. Visit your local library to find books about famous African-Americans, or visit this website for additional activities and resources: <http://www.first-school.ws/theme/educational-resources/black-history-month.htm>



21st – President’s Day: We celebrate all the presidents who have served our country on this day. There have been 44 presidents of the United States. Any man or woman can grow up to be president. Maybe someday you will be the President of the United States of America! Can you name our current president?



14th – Valentine’s Day: On this day many of us celebrate love and friendship. People give each other valentine cards and sometimes special treats to show that they care about each other. Who are some people you love?

PRESIDENT COIN GAME

Did you know that there are president’s on each coin?
Penny- Abraham Lincoln (16th President, 1861-1865)
Nickel- Thomas Jefferson (3rd President, 1801-1809)
Dime- Franklin Delano Roosevelt (32nd President, 1933-1945)
Quarter- George Washington (1st President, 1789-1797)



- ♥ Go on a scavenger hunt throughout the house and see how many coins you can find.
- ♥ Count how many of each coin you found. Did you find each president?
- ♥ Ask an adult to help you count up how much change you have collected!

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

- ♥ Plan an indoor parade. Decorate boxes to pull around the room.
- ♥ String cereal on a piece of yarn to make an edible necklace. Practice counting as you string.
- ♥ Pretend you are going on a family vacation. Ask your child what to pack. Make suggestions, especially silly ones like, a lamp. Then try different locations, like the beach, the North Pole or the moon.
- ♥ Cut sandwiches into different shapes with a cookie cutter.
- ♥ Start recycling household items for children to play with: orange juice cartons make great pretend trains or trucks; old cell-phones (without batteries) are great play-phones for kids; paper towel rolls can become trees, horns, telescopes and shovels—you never know what a child’s imagination will come up with. Let them explore!



MITTEN GAME

Do you have a bunch of mittens hanging around the house? Some random, mismatched gloves in the closet? Here is a fun indoor game for those gloves and mittens!

Stuff mittens and gloves (socks work too!) with newspaper, cotton stuffing or packing peanuts. Secure the opening with a rubber band.

- ♥ Place a large laundry basket in the middle of the floor. Have children toss the mitten balls into the laundry basket.
- ♥ Choose a target on the wall in the playroom. Have the children toss the mitten balls and try to hit it.



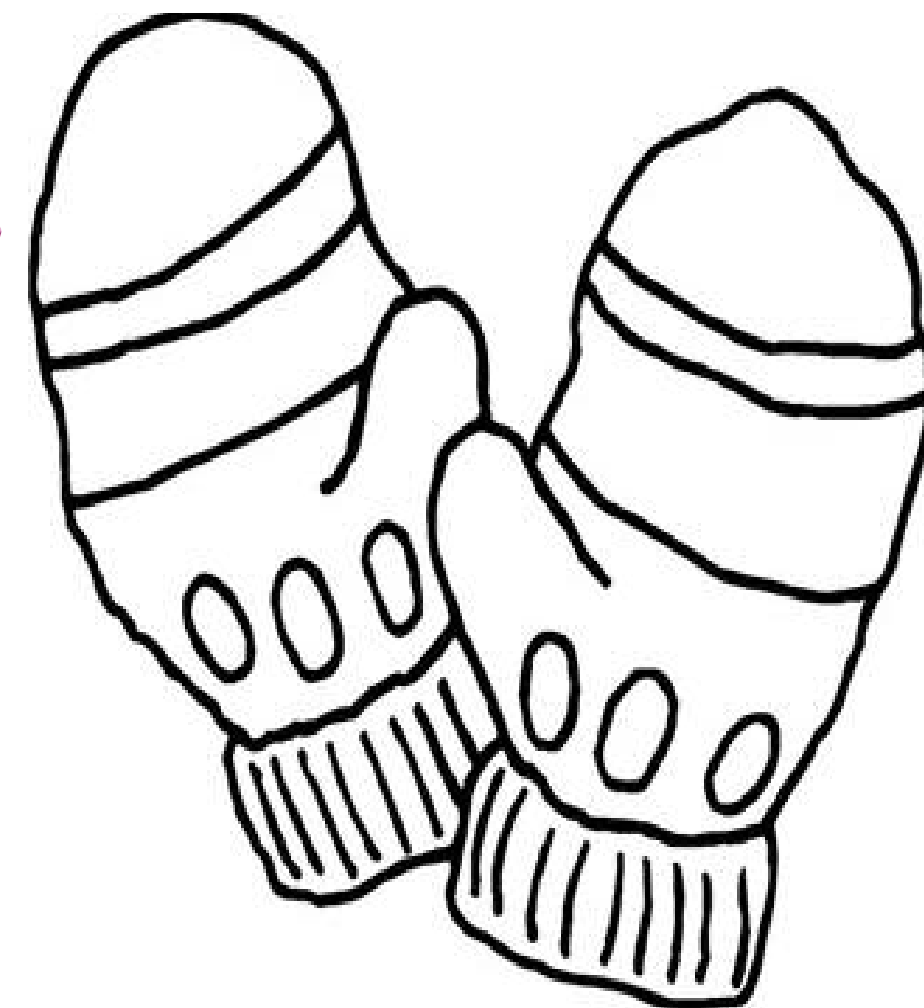
YOU ARE MY VALENTINE

- Jean Warren

Sung to the tune of:
“You Are My Sunshine”

You are my valentine,
You are my valentine.
You make me happy
When I am sad.

You are my valentine,
You are my valentine.
Because you always
Make me glad.



M is for Mitten - Practice writing M below. Color in the mitten picture too.

