



Kol Ami Kids

Federation Early Learning Services

The best of everything, from the beginning

January/February 2012

www.FelsKids.org

Tishrei 5772 / Cheshvan/Kislev 5772

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! It was wonderful to see everyone back at school this week. As we settle back into our routines, here are a few reminders.

- Please check your child's extra clothing to make sure it is suitable for wintertime and that it properly fits your child.
- Remember to label all outdoor clothing and anything your child brings to school.
- Please make sure your child's medical form is current.
- Please continue to collect raffle prizes!!!!!!
- Save the date of February 24 for our wonderful dinner and auction.



Thank You
Sheri Cutler

CLOSINGS

January 1, 2012
Happy New Year

January 2, 2012
New Year
Observance
School Closed

January 16, 2012
Martin Luther
King Day
School closed

February 20, 2012
President's Day
School Closed



Winter Weather Warnings

Kol Ami's Snow Closing Number Is **3176**

WHAT DETERMINES WHEN FEDERATION EARLY LEARNING SERVICES CLOSES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

THE AGENCY REMAINS OPEN WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT PARENTS NEED TO GO TO WORK AND DEPEND ON US FOR CHILD CARE. WE THEREFORE, MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO OPEN, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the meteorologists and sometimes storms do not follow the path predicted. It is disconcerting to all of us when this occurs. It is also challenging to make these determinations at 5:00 am as information about road conditions is not readily available

The following guidelines for closing or opening late were developed, taking into consideration the safety of children, families and staff. In most cases when the public schools are closed **and** the forecast anticipates hazardous road conditions, a heavy snowfall and major power outages, the agency will be closed. This information is publicized as follows:

- * Posted on the homepage of **FelsKids.org**
- * Posted on CBS (KYW), ABC and NBC websites and TV stations
- * Announced on KYW radio
- * Announced on each center's telephone answering machine (sometimes we encounter technical difficulties - not as reliable)
- * Sent to your cell phone *if you registered for this service with the TV stations*

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When will Sophie Speak?

by Shannon Rosenman, OTR/L

Dear FELS' Parents,

Parents and teachers frequently ask me if a child is speaking well for his or her age. According to the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA), most toddlers who aren't talking 'well' aren't really delayed. They may not be talking as much as you expect, but that can still be normal.

Consider that most toddlers' speech develop as indicated:

- 7 - 15 months begin to say "Mama" and "Dada"
- 11- 22 months say 4-6 words
- 18 - 27 months say 50+ words
- 36 months - use over a hundred words/phrases so someone, who does not know them, can usually understand them.

Young children understand many more words than they can say. Hearing affects a child's speech development. Pay attention to ear problems and infections, especially when they keep occurring. An audiologist is the medical professional who can best evaluate your child's hearing.

The ability to use words and phrases to express wants and needs affects development, especially social and emotional development. Children get frustrated more frequently when they can't put their wishes and needs into words. For example, Aiden cannot ask for a turn with the fire truck, so he grabs it. Celia who is unable to say "My turn!" tries to bite Aiden's hand. Lilly wants milk, but cannot say the word clearly. Her babysitter misunderstands and gives her juice. Lilly throws the cup, crying angrily. Tantrums, biting and other troublesome behaviors often start to diminish when your child gets better at making his or her words understood.

To help your young toddler develop his or her skills ASHA suggests the following strategies:

Reinforce your baby's communication attempts by looking at him or her, speaking, and imitating his or her vocalizations.

Teach animal sounds (e.g., "A cow says moo").

Teach your baby to imitate actions, such as peekaboo, clap hands. These games teach skills needed for conversation.

Talk while you are doing things, "Mama is sweeping the floor!"
Talk about where you are going, "Judy is going to Grandma's house."
Practice counting. Count toes and fingers.

When a second language is introduced, some children may not talk much for several months. This is normal and will go away.

Many factors affect a child's ability to speak. If you are concerned about your child's speech development, talk to his/her teacher and pediatrician. If you are still troubled, call Early Intervention services in your county. They will come to your home or your child's school, evaluate his or her skills and reassure you. If needed, they can help. All services provided through Early Intervention are totally free of charge!

For more information: <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/>

Shannon Rosenman brings 35 years of experience as a licensed Occupational Therapist to her role as the Director of Child Development for Federation Early Learning Centers. We are fortunate to have her expertise to help teachers and center directors adapt their classroom activities so each child's individual needs can be addressed.

WINTER WEATHER WARNINGS

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When hazardous road conditions exist, but the forecast indicates that an increase in temperature will eliminate the hazard, we may delay opening up to 2 1/2 hours (9:00 am) for all locations except Buerger and Kol Ami, which would open by 9 am.

Another critical factor in determining whether we can open is the ability to staff the program adequately, since many of our teachers do not live in the vicinity of the center. Many depend on public transportation and, as you know, SEPTA has been cancelling bus routes with greater frequency.

In rare situations, we may need to alter a decision to open late and close for the day. This occurs when temperatures suddenly increase or decrease or when heat, electricity or water is not operable in the building. We urge you to continue checking the notification systems cited above that we have in place.

We thank you for your understanding and patience.

Spread the Word!

Parents, please spread your Federation Early Learning Services pride!!!

We need your help and support. We know your time is valuable and your schedules are full, but there is a fast way that you can spread the word about our center!

Parents who are shopping for a high quality child care center trust the opinions of parents just like them. Please take a moment and go to any of the websites below to share your experiences. Help us reach out to new parents, so we can keep expanding our FELS family.

Thank you so much for your help!