



Katie's Kids  
Learning  
Center at Ft.  
Jesse

## Family Newsletter

Welcome to the first addition of our family newsletter from Katie's Kids !!

Thank you for sharing your children and families with us! It has been a very exciting and fun first few weeks! I have enjoyed getting to know all of the new kiddies as well as the moms and dads. The children are making friends fast and really getting into the swing of things. Everyone was able to get outside and explore the new playground which was a huge highlight! The babies enjoy their daily walks in the 4 seat stroller and depending on the time of day, one or two usually come back zonked out!

There are many tidbits, updates and reminders to share with you this month so I will keep things short. Just know how happy we are to have your families join our Katie's Kids Family and look forward to a

Make sure you have our phone numbers handy -

Phone: **268-9400**

Fax: **268-0888**



Mo & Andrea at our Open House/Carnival (8/8/09)

Katie's Kids Learning  
Center at Ft. Jesse  
2003 Jacobssen Dr.  
Normal, 61761

At Katie's Kids Learning Center, we believe parents are the most important people in a child's life. We will build partnerships with parents because we want to make a meaningful, positive and potentially lasting difference in a child's life.

We see the most important element of this relationship to be quality daily interactions between all of the KKLC teaching staff and parents at arrival and departure times.

We want parental input on issues affecting the families at KKLC. Our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) will be formed soon and we would like to invite all parents to join. The PAC will assist in the planning of Family Fun Nights, Potlucks, Literacy Nights, Fundraising events and other Center-wide activities. Our goal is to have representatives from every classroom. In addition, representatives from the KKLC Admin staff will be serving on the committee. The meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month from 5-6pm. Look for more information soon!!

### Why did we paint the rooms those colors?

**Infants'** experience revolves around human flesh, so colors like pinks, browns, salmons, and peaches reflect the color of the skin.

**Toddler's** vacillate between independence and returning to the secure nest, so relacing and soothing colors, such as greens, blue-greens or those with slightly more spark or calmness such as mellow-yellows and purples are best for this age.

**Preschooler's** are inquisitive and eager to learn and to do, so colors such as yellows, oranges and purples are best for their constant drive to know more.

### School Break Days

Oct. 12 – Columbus Day

Dec. 21-Jan. 4 – Christmas Break

Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb. 15 President's Day

Mar. 22-26<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break

Signing up is easy...Just call or stop by and let us know your child will attend. Pre-registration is required so we can staff accordingly.

Cost for school age care is

\$40 per day.



# Classroom Tidbits...

## Infants Room 1

We are so excited that we made it through the first few weeks! During this time, we have had the chance to get to know you and your child. We have started building the foundation to, what we hope to be, a wonderful relationship with you and your family.

Along with the excitement of opening the new center and getting to know you and your child, we have been busy planning and implementing various activities and experiences with your child. As teachers, we like to plan at least one daily activity for the children to participate in. For example, this past week we brought in pinwheels for the children to look at and respond to.

Currently, we are making each child's footprints that will be hung outside the classroom on the bulletin board along with their picture and name. Coming up later in the month, we are planning on making a black and white picture collage of all the children in the class.

We are so glad you choose to become a part of Katie's Kids! Have a wonderful September!!

Ms. Laine, Ms. Marissa & Ms. Tami

## Toddler/2's Room 4

Hello Toddler/2 Families!! The past few weeks have been great getting to know your children! They have enjoyed making new friends and are getting use to the classroom as well. We have been doing a lot of fun art projects and have been talking about colors. The next couple of weeks we will be learning about numbers and letters. Once everyone seems adjusted to the new surroundings and we find a common interest amongst the children, we will begin our first project. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Ms. Kristen, Ms. Jessica, and Ms. Kara

## Preschool Room 5

Room 5 at KKLC 2 is off to a great start! We have enjoyed getting to know some new friends and families and reacquainting ourselves with some of our KKLC 1 friends too. We are very excited that we have more children joining us in the next several days.

For now, we are enjoying time getting to know each other and our new school. We have had fun using the water feature, the playground, and exploring our new neighborhood. Over the next couple of weeks, we will continue to learn about each other and our families. As more friends join us, we will begin to discover where our interests lie to begin the ground work for our first project.

Making friends and learning new things is so much fun for both the children and teachers in room 5!

Ms. Tammy, Ms. Alicia, and Ms. Diane

## Just a few reminders...

- KKLC at the Fort Jesse 's phone number is 309.268.9400
- Don't hesitate to call and check in throughout the day.
- Please make sure to sign your child in and out each day.
- Be sure to check out our website at [www.katieskids.net](http://www.katieskids.net). There will be classroom pictures on there soon!!
- Meals To Go are available at KKLC 1 on Thursday nights. Feel free to call and place an order. KKLC 2's Meals To Go will be starting soon.

## Book Fair

Our First Scholastic Book fair will take place the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>.

This is a great fundraiser to help support your child's classroom. Be sure to check it out!!



## ***A Little about our Administrators...***

Jody Watkins, Director - Here is just a little about myself. I have lived in Bloomington/Normal all of my life. I have 2 children who are the light of my life; my son, Jordan, is 12 years old and my daughter, Chelsie, is 8. My whole family is very big into sports, both watching and playing! If I am not watching a sporting event, you will probably find me out shopping somewhere, it is my favorite past time. At home, I enjoy reading and doing puzzles (crossword, Sudoku, etc.). My early childhood career started 15 years ago when I began as an assistant teacher in a 2 year old classroom with the YWCA. Thirteen out of my fifteen years of experience have been in an administrative role where I have had experience with all ages, even overseeing Before and After School programs for a few years. I am so excited to be with Katie's Kids Learning Center, I truly feel this is home for me professionally and I look forward to getting to know each of your families in the next several months.

Andrea Carter, Assistant Director - I have been working in early childhood for the past eight years. I graduated from ISU in 2001 with my bachelor's degree in Social Work and continued in the Early Childhood Education field at Heartland. I truly love the new adventures of working with young children and the discoveries they endure. In my personal time, I am an avid sports fan, most importantly of the Green Bay Packers. I look forward to getting to know all the families here at Katie's Kids.

Tammy Jensen, Administrative Director - I have a 5 year old son named Ty, who just started Kindergarten. I grew up in Pontiac, and just moved back here last October to be closer to my family. I lived outside of Dallas, Texas for the last 11 years (GO COWBOYS!!) and I worked for a hospital based Child Development Center where I was a part of their administrative team. I also have a wide range of classroom experience ranging from infants to school-age. I feel very fortunate to be working here at Katie's Kids, and I am looking forward to building lasting relationships with the children and families.

