

September 25, 2017

From the Director's Desk

Earlier this month, Childgarden had the pleasure of hosting a group of educators from Thailand. The team of five from Khon Kaen University included special educators, a psychologist, occupational therapist, and physical therapist. They are in St. Louis attending a professional development training for four months at St Louis University, with a focus on Early Intervention for children with special needs.

During their three mornings at Childgarden, they spent time observing curriculum and therapy services, as well as speaking with teachers, therapists, and administrators. They are committed to understanding our mission of inclusion and are looking forward to bringing our philosophy to Thailand.



When the group returns to Thailand, they will have the responsibility to initiate a new Master's of Education program in EISSN: Early Intervention for Students with Special Education. In addition, they will assist with setting standards for early intervention, birth - six.

It is a great pleasure and honor to be included in their learning and discovery process, and we will welcome the team again later this week.

- Debbie

St. Louis Arc Family Workshop Series

The St. Louis Arc Family Workshop Series has returned for the fall. The first workshop offered at Childgarden will be at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24. This time was carefully chosen so parents could attend while their children were still in the care of the teachers.

Child Development is a Bumpy Road
Tuesday, October 24 at 4:30 p.m.



Parents are invited to come and share the topics most prominently on their minds. Bring it up and hear from others with similar situations. This group will have the option and support to meet on an ongoing basis, if desired. This is open to families of children with and without disabilities because like our children, we are all in this together.

Facilitators:

Andrea Seper-Roper, MSW, BCBA, LBA, Belle Children's Services of St. Louis Arc

Cait Veatch, BCBA, Belle Children's Services of St. Louis Arc

Please [RSVP](#) for the workshop and [view additional workshops](#) offered this fall.

New Chairs

A very special to thank you to Charlie McGroarty, who built three wonderful Adirondack chairs for Childgarden. These chairs will make a bright addition to our playground! Sixteen years ago, a two-year-old Charlie looked out of the front window and waved good-bye to his mom on his first day at Childgarden. This past Friday he returned as a high school senior and Eagle Scout, to donate the Adirondack chairs.



Charlie's visit soon became a reunion, as his former teachers Darlene and Edna recognized his name and face. Reflections, stories, laughter, and even a few tears filled the visit. Charlie's mom reflected on what an important role Childgarden played in those early years and wanted us to share in the credit for the fine young man he has become.

Thank you Charlie!

Water Play

Summer may be officially over, but some classrooms are choosing to continue with water play based on warmer temperatures. Please check with your child's classroom for their water play plans over the next few weeks.

October 14: Autism Speaks Walk

The Autism Speaks Walk is around the corner! Some families signed up during our kick-off event and received an email recently about "Team Arc" t-shirts.

If you have not yet signed up, and are interested in joining the team on October 14, **please let Debbie know by September 26** and she will order the t-shirts. Shirts are \$12 each and come in adult and children's sizes. The entire family can participate!

Haven't signed up yet? [Join the Arc Team](#)



October 27: Fall Festival

As our summer activities wind down, we are gearing up for our Fall Festival. Please reserve the evening of Friday, October 27 for fun at Childgarden! The Fall Festival is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other Childgarden families and participate in activities for children of all ages. Bar-b-que burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs will be provided. We invite families to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

Don't forget: With the timing so close to Halloween, children are welcome to wear a costume. Keep an eye out for updates in your child's classroom.

Hurricane Relief

A few of the Childgarden teachers initiated a collection for those affected by recent hurricanes. If you would like to make a contribution of diapers, wipes, or other personal items, fell free to drop them off at Debbie's office.

