

Welcome families, to an exciting new year at The Clifton School!

The hallways have been a buzz during the last two weeks with new babies, toddlers, preschoolers and summer campers. A new school year brings with it the excitement and anticipation of what's to come. Before you know it, baby's babbles will progress to small words. Toddlers will begin playing cooperatively with peers and climbing play structures; preschoolers develop enhanced social emotional literacy and math skills. We are proud that all of these developmental milestones will take place while your child is at The Clifton School.

Please take note of the following updates:

Did you know that TCS has early intervention support staff at each site?

Kari Ford-Saxton, Early Intervention Program Manager has an office at our Clairmont location. Terrika Embrack, Early Intervention Coordinator has an office at our Clifton Road location. Kari and Terrika support teachers and families by using developmental standards to identify potential red flags of development in children. If developmental concerns are recognized they work with teachers to support children in the classroom setting. In addition they work with families by giving them strategies to use at home and connecting them to resources that help children receive the services needed to support their development.

What is early intervention?

Early intervention is a system of services that *helps babies, toddlers and preschoolers with developmental concerns, delays or disabilities*. Early intervention focuses on helping eligible babies, toddlers, and preschoolers learn the basic and brand-new skills that typically develop during the first years of life, such as:

- *physical* (reaching, rolling, crawling, and walking);
- *cognitive* (thinking, learning, solving problems);
- *communication* (talking, listening, understanding);
- *social/emotional* (playing, feeling secure and happy); and
- *self-help* (eating, dressing).

Examples of strategies used in the classroom

- Schedule adjustments
- Visual schedules

- Oral motor supports
- Sensory materials added to the environment
- Technology added to support communication
- Visual timers
- Materials added to support development
- Teacher training

Examples of early intervention services connected with outside of the school

- Assistive technology (devices a child might need)
- Audiology or hearing services
- Speech and language services
- Public system services
- Counseling and training for a family
- Medical services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services

If you have a concern or specific question regarding your child's development or need for early intervention services please contact:

Kari Saxton: kford-saxton@thecliftonschoo.org

Terrika Embrack: tembrack@thecliftonschoo.org

Daily Notes

If you are new to The Clifton School, hopefully you have been excited to receive and review the photo/narrative updates emailed daily from your child's teachers. We refer to these anecdotal updates as Daily Notes. They provide you with information on the happenings of the day. Typically the notes will

include photographs of children participating and engaged in planned or spontaneous activities. The teachers will rotate which children are featured each day with the goal of featuring each child at least once during the week. You will also notice letters and numbers that represent a particular standard on the Daily Note. These standards come from the Georgia Early Learning Development Standards (GELDS) and support our Emergent Curriculum. The GELDS promote quality learning experiences for children and address the question, "What should children from birth to age five know and be able to do?" They are a set of appropriate, attainable standards that are flexible enough to support children's individual rates of development, approaches to learning, and cultural context. To learn more about the GELDS please visit: <http://gelds.decal.ga.gov/>

Use the daily notes as an opportunity to talk with your child about their day. It is a great conversation starter. Often times when a child is asked what they did during the school day they say: "I don't remember." If you review the Daily Note with your child, you can ask about specific things, "Tell me about what you (or your friend) were doing in this picture."

Summer Safety

At The Clifton School, it is important that we practice safety at all times. We are especially focused on sun safety during the hot months. We are sure to keep children well hydrated prior to going outside and while they are outside. We are sure to protect children from outdoor elements by applying sunscreen and insect repellent as needed. We also have all playgrounds professionally treated for mosquitos monthly. In addition, we pay close attention to the smog alerts and receive messages daily from the Clean Air Campaign. We practice the following safety guidelines for outdoor activity during smog alerts:

Code Orange – outside in the morning, ½ outdoor time in the afternoon

Code Red – ½ outside time in the morning, no outside time in the afternoon

Please visit the following websites for more information on summer

safety. <http://www.cdc.gov/family/kids/summer/>

www.cleanaircampaign.org

School Events and Happenings:

Infant Massage:

Learn about Infant Massage Techniques.

In this free workshop Tara Thompson from North Atlanta Pregnancy Massage will be leading us in the necessary techniques for bonding, relaxation and stimulation of your baby's body.

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 (Clairmont Site)

5:30 – 6:30 (404-315-6340 to register) or in person at the front desk

Thursday, July 13, 2017(Clifton Site)

5:30 – 6:30 (404-636-4073 to register) or at the front desk

Scholastic Book Fair: July 10-14, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM at both sites. We are in need of parent volunteers for the book fair. If you are able to volunteer 4 - 5PM or 5-6PM on any of the book fair days Please inform Ms. Doris at Clairmont or Ms. Anita at Clifton. Thank you, we appreciate your help.

Reminder

The Clifton School is closed for the holiday: **July 4th**