

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

A new school year brings with it the excitement and anticipation of what's to come. Before you know it, baby's motor skills progress from sitting up to crawling then walking. Toddlers will begin playing with intricate puzzles and manipulative toys. 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:

Brightwheel

Teachers will be using a new mobile app to stay connected to families. Brightwheel is an app that teachers will use for recording and tracking daily events and activities. Families will receive private, real-time updates about their child's day delivered directly to a mobile device. We know it is tough being away from your little one all day, especially in these early years. With brightwheel we hope you feel connected and engaged with your child's development on a whole new level. Teachers are being trained on how to use the app and families should expect to be invited to join the app by Friday, July 13th.

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 highlighting each child at least once during the week.

GELDS

You will 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 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."

Brightwheel/Daily Notes

As teachers are learning to share pictures, video and developmental information via the app, we will begin to modify how we use daily notes.

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

The early intervention team supports 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 help babies, toddlers, and preschoolers with developmental concerns, delays or disabilities. Early intervention focuses on helping eligible babies, toddlers, and preschoolers learn the necessary 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)
- self-help (eating, dressing)

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@thecliftonschool.org

Terrika Embrack: tembrack@thecliftonschool.org

Adia Benson: abenson@thecliftonschool.org

Summer Safety

At The Clifton School, it is essential 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 before going outside and while they are out. 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. Also, 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

Do Not Leave Children in Vehicles

During morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up do not leave unattended children in vehicles.

Heatstroke (hyperthermia) is the biggest danger. Heat stroke can damage the brain and other body organs. It can even lead to death. It doesn't take long for a child's body temperature to become too high very fast when left in a car because:

- The temperature inside a car can increase 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and 40 degrees in an hour. It doesn't have to feel hot outside to be dangerous inside a car. Deaths have happened when it's just above 70 degrees F (Fahrenheit) outside. Leaving the windows open slightly does not prevent the temperature from rising to a dangerous level.
- A child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's body. Children have a lot of body surface area that absorbs heat. Children's bodies have not yet developed the ability to cool down well.
- Most of the children who have died from heat stroke after being left alone in a car were 3 and under, but it has happened to kids as old as 14.

The Clifton School PTA is seeking new members to join the PTA Board. The Clifton School PTA board is a special group of parent/family volunteers who work in collaboration with the administrative team on behalf of families to enhance the overall preschool experience. This year, with funds raised by the PTA we were able to purchase new outside water play equipment and tablets for each classroom to operate the brightwheels app. The Clifton School PTA board is a fantastic group, and they need your help. Please join! If you would like to learn more about how you can serve on the board, send an email message to cliftonschoolpta@gmail.com.

School Events and Happenings:

Infant Massage Training For Parents and Families:

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.

Tuesday, July 10, 2018 (Clairmont Site)

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

Wednesday, July 11, 2017(Clifton Site)

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

Scholastic Book Fair: July 9-13, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM at both sites. We are in need of volunteers for the book fair. If you can volunteer 4 - 5 PM 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.

Summer Activities

Both sites have planned fun summer activities for the children to enjoy during July.

In addition to our traditional lesson plan activities look forward to your children participating in bike day, cooking activities, the tumble bus, sand art, and bubble magic. Please feel free to contact our curriculum coordinators with questions or suggestions about school activities.

Clairmont: Ukwori Ukuku: Uukuku@thecliftonschool.org.

Clifton: Tacora Johnson: Tjohnson@thecliftonschool.org

Reminder

The Clifton School will be closed for the holiday: July 4th. We hope you enjoy this time with friends and family.

Thank you for trusting us with your children. It is a privilege we do not take for granted. Please feel free to contact us with questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have.