

## Did you Know? Policies, Procedures, Regulations:

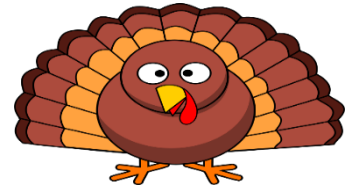
- ✓ **Cornerstone children and staff practice a fire evacuation drill on a monthly basis?** We are required by the Trumbull Fire Marshal and Connecticut Department of Public Health Office of Early Childhood regulations to prepare for emergencies such as tornado/hurricane warnings, or a local or building-specific emergency such as fire or gas leak.
- ✓ **Should we be required to leave the premises,** Cornerstone children and staff will be transported by local authorities to Long Hill United Methodist Church on 6358 Main Street. The Director will bring each child's and staff member's emergency card with her. Once the children are settled, she will make every attempt to reach you or your emergency contact person to notify them of our location and procedure for pick up.
- ✓ **All efforts are made to post notice of any change in routine such as** evacuation, weather emergency, delayed opening or closing will be posted on the following media outlets:
  - **www.cornerstonekids.com** a message will appear at the top of our home screen
  - **ctweather.com** under the heading learning centers (we can post specific information on this site)
  - **WTNH Channel 8 News & WTNH.com**
  - **WFSB Channel 3 News & WFSB.com**
  - **Facebook:** Cornerstone Children's Center! *Be sure to "like" us BEFORE a storm!*
  - **Radio stations:** WICC 600 AM & STAR 99.9 FM will refer you to the ctweather.com website, but sometimes will state our info on air
  - **Call the center** 203-261-0499 and listen to the message we post on our answering machine. This can only be done if the center has power. To open we must have power.
- ✓ **We post on multiple information outlets in case one or more fail to work. Please check multiple outlets.**
- ✓ **Our ability to reach you depends ENTIRELY on the Emergency Contact Information provided by you!** Update your child's emergency card as needed and at least annually in the office. If you have not done so recently, come look it over, initial and update **A.S.A.P!**
- ✓ **Health Exclusion**
  - Any child who has been evaluated for an illness, contagious disease or to treat an injury must have a doctor's note stating why they were seen, prognosis, when they can return and any restrictions or limitations.
  - Returning children must be free of contagious illness or communicable disease, free from exposure to a contagious illness or communicable disease, able to resume vigorous activity without harm and engage in all aspects of regular daily life including eating and outdoor play.
  - **Children exhibiting one or more of the following symptoms should NOT be brought to the Center, or must be removed within 30 minutes of a call to parent/guardian:**
    - cough, upper respiratory distress or COVID-like symptoms
    - temperature elevated to 100 degrees Fahrenheit\*
    - nasal discharge (other than clear)
    - vomiting\*

- diarrhea\*
  - reddened eyes
  - listlessness
  - undue irritability or inability to be made comfortable
  - an unexplained rash
- ✓ Readmission will be permitted 48 hours after the last episode without the use of symptom reducing medication.
  - ✓ **Children who are being tested or have an immediate family being tested for a contagious illness or disease must remain out of the Center** until confirmation of a negative test result. If the child is tested, a copy of the child's negative result must be presented at drop and will become part of the child's file.
  - ✓ **Children well enough to be at the Center** are well enough to participate in all activities.
  - ✓ **Children are REQUIRED to have an ANNUAL flu vaccine by year end!** Please bring in documentation that your child has received this annual vaccine ASAP! Any child who does not receive this vaccine by 12/31/2020 will not be able to attend the Center as of 1/1/2021

✓

 **November 1<sup>st</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Cornerstone's annual food drive** 

Helping others is a valuable life lesson for children to learn so please involve your child in Cornerstone's **annual "Stuff the Turkey" food drive (11/1-19)**. **Arlo and Elouise's dad**, has kindly offered to take our donations to the CT Food Bank. **Thank you in advance for helping others.**



**Cornerstone is CLOSED**  
*Thursday 11/26 & Friday 11/27 for the  
 Thanksgiving holiday!*

**We value outdoor time! OUTDOOR PLAY takes place ALL year!**

The children need to connect to nature, explore the seasons, get fresh air, work their large muscles and burn off energy! Our oldest Nursery children, Toddlers, Preschoolers and Pre-K children must have warm outerwear EVERY day...for all kinds of weather. Our youngest nursery children need to have appropriate outerwear in the event we need to leave the building ex: fire drill, evacuation.



**IT IS TIME FOR HEAVY JACKETS and to CHECK YOUR CHILD'S CUBBIE for WEATHER AND SIZE APPROPRIATE CLOTHING!**



Each child should have *labeled with initials*:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 warm winter jacket                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 hats     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs of waterproof gloves         |                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spare warm clothes, underwear, socks | <input type="checkbox"/> snow boots |



# WELCOME

Happy October &  
November Birthdays to...



Joining our Nurturing Nursery...

Parker, Quinn & Skyler

Exploring with our Tactile Toddlers...

Jack, Lily, Taylor & Giuliana

Charley, Logan & Quinn-1 year!

Riley - 3 years!

Zayden & Elouise - 4 years!

Owen - 5 years!



**Happy Staff Anniversary! Alexa – 1 year!**  
**Congratulations! ♥ Thank You!**



## Halloween & Costume Day Celebrations

We celebrate **Orange Day** for Halloween (Friday 10/30) AND **Costume Day** on Monday 11/2! Why is Costume Day *after* Halloween? So your child's costume is intact, in good shape and ready to go for the main event...Halloween! With nothing broken or forgotten at Cornerstone AND we get to celebrate Halloween for TWO days in two different ways! Please remember to leave all **CANDY** and **WEAPONS** and/or other possibly dangerous accessories at HOME!

## **October / November Highlights:**

10/30- **Orange Day!** (All) Dress in **orange**

11/2 - **Costume Day!** (All) KEEP ALL candy, weapons or dangerous accessories at home!

11/1 - 19- **Food Drive!** (All)

11/3 - **Election Day!** Vote for Snack! (PSK)

11/13 - **Brown Day!** Wear **brown clothing!** (All)

11/20 - **Happy Feet Soccer!** (PSK)

11/26 & 11/27 - **Closed for Thanksgiving!**



**In October, our Toddlers enjoyed exploring the start of Fall!** Our theme, Leaves are Falling, focused on the changes we saw to the world around us! We explored leaves on the ground, bold colors appearing all around us, the texture of pumpkins, gourds and leaves. The colors purple, orange and green magically appeared as we blended mixed primary colors! We added number 2 to our counting repertoire, we will dress in the color **Orange** on **Orange Day** in celebration of Halloween, as well as, dancing and acting out Halloween songs and finger plays while identifying our body parts.

### **Toddler's November theme: Animal Kingdom!**

We will start off the month wearing our Halloween costumes on Costume Day!!!! Then shift into our literary focus as we explore a variety of animals! We will establish the cardinality of numbers 1, 2 & 3 to objects, and stack everything we can find as high as we can! Remember to dress in **BROWN** on **BROWN Day** on 11/13!

**PS & Pre-K had a blast exploring and observing all that the start of our Awesome Autumn theme!** We charted changes in our environment such as less daylight & temperature; blending primary colors revealed secondary colors, made the connection between numbers (3 & 4) and objects, identified many, many shapes, explored the sounds & shapes of letters G & A, and will celebrate (Halloween) as **Orange Day!**

### **Preschool's November theme: I'm Growing!**

We will focus on the "My Plate" curriculum and explore food groups, healthy foods, balancing the right foods on our plates to have a healthy meal and the importance of exercise and rest. We will discuss daylight savings time and explain that it will be darker earlier (and that you are not late picking up)! Collecting and classifying objects found outdoors ties in nicely with discovering the cardinality of #'s 5 & 6. We will examine 3 dimensional shapes and how they function in our block center; On Election Day we will "vote" for afternoon snack! Letters D & S and their sounds will be sought in the world around us and please remember to dress in **BROWN** on **BROWN Day!**



### **Kids say the cutest things!**

**To keep transitions fun, Ms. Avery asked the children to "march" to the playground! Annabelle, placed her hands across her chest and responded "It will be my honor to."**

**If you plan** to keep your child home for any time from now thru January please write it down in the communication log just outside the office door! Thank you!

### ***What's Coming Up!***

- **The gift of giving...A Cornerstone holiday tradition!**

For the past **21 years**, Cornerstone families, staff and friends have made Christmas wishes come true for area children. P.C.R.C. (Parent Child Resource Center) provides us with names and wishes of families they serve who are in need. We will post this list in our foyer for our families, staff and friends of Cornerstone to review in the hope you will be able to make a gift come true for these children and their parent(s). Simply write your family name under a wish and bring it wrapped to the office. Gift cards should be handed directly to Administration.



***Cornerstone will be CLOSED  
Wednesday 12/24 & 25  
In observance of Christmas!***

# To GIVE and what NOT to give...

**The gift-giving season is upon us** and we once again **bombarded** with advertisements for the “perfect” games and toys for children. It’s hard to know what to do. We at Cornerstone support the goals of **T.R.U.C.E.** (Teachers **R**esisting **U**nhealthy **C**hildren’s **E**ntertainment).

**Play** is essential to children’s healthy development and learning. Children use play to actively construct knowledge, meet social/emotional needs, and acquire life skills. The content of their play comes from their own experiences. Changes in today’s childhood are undermining play. Because of the pervasive influence of the electronic media — such as TV, movies, videos, DVDs, computers, tablets — children spend more time sitting in front of a screen and less time playing creatively with each other.

**Toys**, the tools of children’s play, **influence that play**. Toys of value enhance children’s natural ability to engage in imaginative, meaningful play by allowing them to try out their own ideas and solve their own problems. Many of today’s toys are highly structured and often linked to popular media images and programs. These toys channel children into imitative play, robbing them of opportunities to use their own imaginations, creativity, and problem solving skills. Parents are constantly faced with decisions about what toys to buy and what toys to avoid. High-powered marketing and the influence of popular culture interfere with thoughtful decision-making at the toy store.

**This guide** (available at [www.truceteachers.org](http://www.truceteachers.org)) is intended to help adults promote children’s creative and constructive play by making informed choices about toys.

**Toys have enhanced play value when they...**can be used in many ways \*Allow children to determine the play \* Appeal to children at more than one age or level of development \* Are not linked to video games, TV, or movies \* Can be used with other toys for new and more complex play \* Will stand the test of time and continue to be part of play as children develop new interests and skills \* Promote respectful, non-stereotyped, non-violent interactions among children \* Help children develop skills important for further learning and a sense of mastery.

## Choose toys that PROMOTE...

**Dramatic play.** Helps children work out their own ideas about their experiences. Provides a powerful way of learning new skills and a sense of mastery. Examples: blocks, toy vehicles, dress-up clothes (vests, hats, fabric squares), small stuffed and plastic animals, dolls, puppets, props to recreate real life (post office, restaurant, store), materials for creating small worlds (doll houses, castles).

**Manipulative play with small play objects.** Develops small muscle control and eye-hand coordination. Teaches about relationships between objects, essential for understanding math and science. Examples: construction sets and toys with interlocking pieces (Legos, Lincoln Logs), puzzles, pegboards, miniature models, parquet blocks.

**Creative arts.** Encourages self-expression and the use of symbols, a vital skill for problem solving and literacy. Develops fine motor skills. Examples: poster and finger paints, assortment of blank paper of all sizes and colors, crayons and markers, scissors, glue, recycled materials, stamps, clay, weaving kits.

**Physical play.** Promotes healthy body awareness and coordination and helps let off steam. Opportunities for social interaction. Examples: bikes, scooters and other wheel toys, balls, bats, jump ropes, space trolleys, pogo sticks, giant chalk, swing sets, climbing structures, play tunnels.

**Game playing.** Teaches about taking turns, planning strategy, sequencing, rules, and cooperation. Examples: board games like checkers and chess, card games, jacks.

**Remember the Classics!** • table blocks • ocean, farm, and rainforest animals and insects • cars, trucks, boats, planes, and trains • natural materials (shells, leaves, acorns) • open-ended construction sets • flashlights • dolls with accurate features • clay • basic art supplies • dress-up clothes and house wares • bean bags • balls • playing cards • puzzles • medical kits

## **AVOID toys that...**

**Have limited play value.** Can only be used in one way. Encourage everyone to play the same way as determined by the toy designer. Appeal primarily to a single age or level of development. Will probably sit on a shelf after the first “fun” half hour. Will channel children into imitating scripts they see on TV or movie screens. Do special high-tech actions for the child instead of encouraging the child’s exploration and mastery. Lure children into watching the TV program or other media linked to the toy. Promote violence and stereotypes, which can lead to disrespectful and aggressive behavior.

**Make violent themes the focus of the play.** Often linked to TV programs, movies, and video games, these toys make violence seem entertaining and fun. Guide children into anti-social play that undermines the positive lessons which caring adults try to teach.

**Are linked to movies, TV shows, and video games rated for older audiences** (e.g., PG-13 and R-rated movies). Expose children to content that can be confusing and scary. Leads them to think media for older audiences is meant for them.

**Link non-nutritious food to play.** Play connected to high-sugar/high-fat foods can lead to poor nutrition, childhood obesity, and can create brand loyalty from an early age.

**Encourage gender stereotypes and premature sexuality.** Dictate that certain toys and interests are only for boys or only for girls. Emphasize highly sexualized appearance/behavior that is confusing to children. Make bodies the focus of play and equate self-worth with appearance (often extreme thinness).

**Use electronics in toys for babies.** Infants and toddlers learn best by interacting with people and objects and by seeing how they can affect their environment. These electronic (“smart”) toys control and limit play, teach babies to expect toys to entertain, keep them from creating their own “smart” actions and ideas, and exploit parents’ desire to be good parents.

**Make shopping the focus of the play.** Condition children to equate spending money and shopping with fulfillment and fun.

**Use flashy props to turn children’s books into toys.** These “toy” books undermine the acquisition of reading skills by diverting children’s attention from the story line and language. They can make traditional books seem boring when they don’t resemble toys and make children expect their books to use gimmicks to entertain.