



Toddler Times



Calendar

May 8

Parent Support w Jude
@Boatyard Grill, outside,
weather permitting

June Social tbd

(Seeking parent coordinator)

May 27 Memorial Day

Calendar Changes

OPEN

June 19 Juneteenth

CLOSED

July 3 Midsummer Break

August 30 Labor Day, per ICSD Draft 24/25 calendar

May				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

June				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

July				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

August				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

May 2024

Incredibly, this week marks the midpoint between Spring and Summer. The hedges are filling in before our eyes. We definitely see the difference daily and when you look across the lake, the hills have a green quality to them.

At WHE, we're hearing and seeing so many birds and learning their calls. We hope to continue our luck as hosting birds around our yard. Just this week we saw a downy looking pileated woodpecker hatchling pecking its way along a tree! Griffin, Sybil and I also had the amazing experience of seeing a worm disappearing into the ground and ultimately squeezing out worm poop! We laughed and laughed and laughed. And I have told this story more than once already!

This newsletter plays with color themes based on common, local birds, and their eggs. The image of the bird on each of this month's newsletter pages is a screen capture from an online video, and the image is linked to the video so you can learn more about each bird. Meanwhile, it's time to get planting! In May our garden will grow... In addition to a few other things, we will plant seeds and plants from the CACFP program. Let us know if you would like to grab a snippet of chives or thyme already, *anytime*.

Current Updates

This month we welcome the first substitute that we've hired since we re-opened! Ros Stone is a neighbor of ours who can help out with our current needs for a sub and hopefully in the longer term as well. Ros is the mom of almost 9-year-old twins. She lives down the street and has most recently been working as a nanny. We caught her at a good time! Ros will be here training a couple days this week and will cover for KC May 6-10. Please check in daily with Jude.

2024-2025

When ICSD publishes their draft calendar for next year, we begin ours as well. This newsletter contains documents for the 2024-2025 year including:

- WHE Calendar
- WHE 2024-25 Tuition & Enrollment Policies





**Pileated
Woodpecker**

MIND in the Making
The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs

ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

Making the Link Between Positive Parenting and the Seven Essential Life Skills for Children. How does parenting and child development intersect? The way we parent can nurture the very skills that children need—not just for success in the short-term—but across their entire lives.

Positive Parenting and the Seven Essential Life Skills for Children!

When Parents...

Children Develop Essential Life Skills...

Provide age-appropriate guidelines and limits for child behavior.

Recognize and regulate their own feelings and behaviors before they respond to their children.

Work to understand or imagine the child's point of view.

Respond with sensitivity to their children's cues.

Delight in moments of connection with their children.

Act as a role model by seeking help, support or additional information about parenting when needed.

Balance both parental needs and child needs. Recognize and celebrate their child's strengths, abilities and capacity to learn and develop.

Recognize that parenting is process of learning, and, at times, it can be stressful. Missteps are a natural part of child-rearing.

Focus and Self Control

Perspective Taking

Effective Communication

Making Connections

Critical Thinking

Taking on Challenges

Self-Directed, Engaged Learning

Toddler Creed

If I want it,
it's mine.

If I give it to you and
change my mind later,
it's mine.

If I can take it away
from you, it's mine.

If I had it a little while ago,
it's mine.

If it's mine
it will never belong
to anyone else
no matter what.

If we are building
something together,
all the pieces are mine.

If it looks like mine,
IT'S MINE!

Author: Unknown

Positive parenting is about making child-rearing choices that reflect your beliefs and values as a parent, considering your child's age, stage of development, and temperament. It means being sensitive to children's individual needs and supporting them with empathy and respect.

[Learn more here](#)

The Iron Triangle of Early Childhood Finance

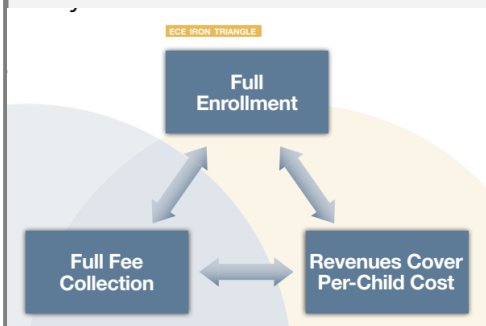


Child care finance. It sounds simple—in some ways it is.

When we re-opened West Hill Educare in November of 2022, we were fortunate to be 1 of 3 programs in Tompkins County to receive a child care desert grant from the state of New York. We have had to do a number of additional things to meet the terms of the grant—notably child assessments and working with New York’s quality assurance program for early childhood, [Quality Stars](#). This month marks our final payment from the grant. Another deliverable for the grant, was creating a sustainability plan, which showed that we could survive without it.

In order for income and expenses to balance, child care programs must establish rates that cover the **true cost of care**, which itself can be challenging to figure out—especially for home-based providers, who have costs that are related to both the program and their home (utilities, mortgage, trash). There is time spent running the business in addition to time spent with children—all of this must be accounted for to determine the true cost of care. Parents in the United States pay the bulk of the cost of child care, and grants and subsidies are especially rare for home-based programs. Hopefully there will be more this year—the state is thinking about some retention grant funding...

The other two components that make up sound early childhood policy include **full fee collection** and **full enrollment**. Thank you for all being so consistent and timely with your payments—and for that we are grateful. The latter, full enrollment, is where we’ve been taking it easy! We have *all* benefited from this, and when the kiddos were younger, we really wanted fewer children. The grant helped to cover some costs while we were first enrolling children, subsidizing the cost of both enrolled and yet unknown children to come.



As children in our group are getting older, we are comfortable having a couple more children join us, just when we need them, to help balance our equation. This past year, we have all seen an increase in costs—inflation and tax increases that are crazy. We recognize that child care takes a big chunk out of your budget, but do have to raise fees each year in order to survive. We want to be here for you! We are glad to be able to set fees for next year at our 2023-2024 under 2 year old rate.

(See 2024-2025 tuition and enrollment policies on the next page)

Requirements for Working in Child Care in NY State

As we are about to welcome our first substitute caregiver, we thought you might be interested to know what is required of substitute caregivers. All employees (and even volunteers) that work regularly with preschool children in licensed programs in NYS are held to the same requirements!

Before working in a child care program, all potential employees must go through a background check and fingerprint clearance—there are five different sources that are checked! In addition, each person must have a medical statement and complete more common paperwork documenting their experience and references. A person can work in the program, under supervision while waiting for their prints to clear.

Child care quality has been shown to improve with caregiver training. Over their first 6 months, all employees/volunteers must complete 15 hours of training, and a total of 30 hours must be completed every two years as long as the person is employed in child care. Training topics include: child development, nutrition, program development, safety and security, business records, child abuse and maltreatment identification and prevention, shaken baby, statutes and regulations related to child care and child abuse, and adverse childhood experiences.



Ros and her kids



American Goldfinch



Tuition & Enrollment Policies 2024-2025



Monthly Tuition

(Enrollment limited to full-time 8:30am-4:30pm, M-F) **\$1,555**

Annual Materials fee \$ 250

Due at time of enrollment, billed annually in September

- Rates averaged over the year, for equal monthly payments, regardless of scheduled holidays
- 30 days' notice required to terminate contracts
- Limited early care (8-8:30am M-F) *by arrangement*
 \$15/day; \$275/month - 5 days/week

The following is required to secure enrollment

- 1) Non-refundable Last month's deposit, applied to last month of care
- 2) Non-refundable annual materials fee

WHE Provides	Families Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurturing, responsive care • Prepared environment • Healthy vegetarian meals/snacks • Parent support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest mat or blanket • Indoor shoes • Diapers, diaper cream • Families provide diapering wipes, sunscreen and general lotion if child needs specific different items than we offer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunscreen, lotion, insect spray • First aid supplies 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water-based disposable wipes 	

WHE follows the ICSD school calendar with the following adaptations:

ADDITIONAL DAYS WHE IS OPEN

- ♦ ICSD Parent/Teacher Conference days, Superintendent, and Professional Learning Community days
- ♦ 10/3/2024 ICSD Recess
- ♦ 1/29/2025 Lunar New Year

ADDITIONAL DAYS WHE IS CLOSED

- ♦ 6/20/2025 Juneteenth Extension
- ♦ 7/3 & 7/4/2025 Independence Day holidays
- ♦ 8/4-8/8/2025 – Summer break

Additional enrollment policies including payment deadlines, late fees, absences for personal illness and other reasons are included in enrollment contract.
 4.30.24



West Hill Educare
 Calendar
 2024-2025



September					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30				

Labor Day Recess 9/2

October					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31	

10/3 ICSD Recess (open)
 10/2-4 Rosh Hashanah
 10/11-12 Yom Kippur
 10/14 Indigenous People's Day
 10/16-23 Sukkot
 10/31 Diwali Festival

November					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1
	4	5	6	7	8
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29

11/5 Guy Fawkes Day
 11/11 Veterans Day
 11/27-29 Thanksgiving

December					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30	31			

12/25 Christmas
 12/25-1/2 Hannukkah
 12/26-1/1 Kwanzaa
 12/23-12/31 Winter Recess

January					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10
	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	31

1/1 New Years Day
 1/20 Martin Luther King, Jr.
 1/29 Lunar New Year (open)

February					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1
	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	26	27	28	29	

Bums Night (1/25)
 2/17-2/21 Mid-Winter Recess

March					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28
	31				

3/1-30 Ramadan

3/31 Recess Day/Eid al-Fitr

April					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	22	23	24	25	26
	29	30			

4/12-20 Passover
 4/14-4/18 Spring Recess
 4/18 Good Friday
 4/20 Easter/Orthodox Easter

May					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2
	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30

5/26 Memorial Day

June					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30				

6/1-3 Shavuot
 6/6-7 Eid al-Adha
 6/19 & 6/20 Juneteen Recess
 6/26 last day ICSD for student

July					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31	

7/3 & 7/4 Holidays

August					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1
	4	5	6	7	8
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29

8/5-8/9 Summer Break

8/29 & 9/1 Labor Day Holiday

PLEASE NOTE: WHE remains open on parent/teacher conference days, superintendent and professional learning community days.
 We will remain open 10/3 & 1/29 and will be closed 6/20 & 7/3.

rev 4/30/2024



May Curriculum

Toddler Times

May 2024

p. 6



Activities

- Playdough
- Mortar & Pestle w different seeds: cumin, fennel, cardamom
- Seed Planting; in garden and take home pots
- Gluing, painting, printing
- Color mixing
- Care of environment: pouring, sweeping
- Initial sounds, sand tray, rhyming
- Counting and number games
- Physical agility: balancing, jumping

Books

- Don't Squash that Bug!
- Here to There, Nat Geo Kids
- Meet a Bus Driver
- A Spring Stroll in the City
- Does a Bear Poo in the Woods?
- I'll Take Care of You—a big book about a bird and a seed
- Seeds—Tom Robbins
- More, by IC Springman —gives *a sense* of quantity
- If you were a Dog
- The Me I choose to Be

Primary Themes

- Birds
- Seeds
- Gardening
- What Plants Need
- Bugs
- Worms
- Measuring
- Self Identity
- What is work?
- Grace and courtesy
- Peace
- Gratitude

Songs

- Inch by Inch
- The Bean Song
- Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley
- Robin, Red Breast
- Kookaburra
- Five Green and Speckled Frogs



Contact Information West Hill Educare

Cell Phone: **831.465.4518**, texting ok
Please use this number to contact us as soon as you know if your child will be absent, as child absences may affect staffing needs.

westhilleducare@gmail.com

310 Richard Place, Ithaca, NY 14850

In case of emergency, KC can be reached at
831.331.6929

Class List (04/22/2024)



Child's Name	D.O.B.	Parents	Address	Phone	E-mail
Ansel Karim-Smith	12/19/2021	Sabrina Karim-Smith & Josh Smith	Ithaca, NY 14850	970-310-4793 470-585-5818	smk349@cornell.edu jes546@cornell.edu
Austin Gaige	12/7/2021	Maria & Brandon Gaige	3726 County Rte 6 Alpine, NY 14805	917-331-2240 607-483-9815	mvf629@gmail.com
Evangeline (Evvie) Miller-Back	8/30/2021	Christine Miller & Eli Back	Ithaca, NY 14850	202-657-9847 607-793-0226	christinelinmil@gmail.com elibraffback@gmail.com
Griffin Lewis	06/27/2021	Megan Vidler & Rob Lewis	132 Fayette St. Ithaca, NY 14850	607-280-4420 423-838-3547	megan@homegreenhome.com robertaaronlewis@gmail.com
Katarina (Kata) Peisahovitch	02/05/2022	Herianna Valenzuela & Jason Peisahovitch	Ithaca, NY 14850	Herianna 520-440-0043	heriannavalenzuela@gmail.com
Eleanora (Norie) Balog-Way	09/12/2021	Simone & Dominic Balog-Way	227 S. Albany St. Ithaca, NY 14850	303-579-3550 202-855-4202	s.balogway@gmail.com
Oliver Guidault	05/24/2021	Whitney Elrod & Edmond Guidault	4290 Sanctuary Lane Alpine, NY 14805	607-351-5434 607-223-4088	w.e.elrod@gmail.com edmond.guidault@gmail.com
Sybil Lynch	06/16/2021	Rachael & Jimmy Lynch	37 Whig St. Trumansburg, NY 14886	607-339-8837 845-270-1175	Rkoppel5@gmail.com James.lynch.23@gmail.com
Zephyr (Zeffie) McCCasey	01/15/2022	Lauretta Dolch & Indi McCCasey	500 Elm St. Ithaca, NY 14850	607-342-1213 510-770-4237	ljd62@cornell.edu indiflyer@gmail.com