

June 2018



Play Centers at Jacksonville Elementary School

3400 Hillendale Heights Road

Phoenix, Maryland 21131

410.666.3055 ~ www.playcenters.org

Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. / 3:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



This organization and its materials are not affiliated with, sponsored by, or endorsed by Baltimore County Public Schools, the Superintendent, or this Baltimore County public school or office.

FROM DIANE MELLOTT, COO/CEO

Happy June to all of our Play Centers, Inc. families!

The end of the school year is right around the corner and we are all beginning to think about summer plans and outdoor fun with family and friends.

Over the summer we will continue our work on various quality initiatives, including Staff Credentialing, Maryland EXCELS, School Age Care Environment Rating Scale, and a variety of other quality assessment and improvement tools promoted by the Maryland State Department of Education for licensed school-age child care programs.

In addition, we will be busy reviewing, updating, and creatively enhancing program components in response to child, parent, and staff feedback. Feedback from our families and children is a critical component of our quality assessment and improvement process. Please take a moment to complete our *Parent Survey*, and to assist your child in completing our *Participant Survey*. In response to parent feedback, both the *Parent Survey* and the *Participant Survey* are available through Survey Monkey, via a link. In late May, an email containing that link was sent to all families for whom we have an email address. If you did not receive the email, please ask your Center Director or our Main Office for a *School-Age Email Request Form*, so that we can ensure that your current email contact information is added to / updated on our email list. Please note that both the *Parent Survey* and the *Participant Survey* may be printed via our website home page by clicking "Surveys", located under [More Information](#). Parent and Participant Feedback is always welcome, valued, and appreciated! Thank you for your support of this effort!

We wish each of you a safe and happy summer, filled with many opportunities for exploration, learning, and, above all, FUN! Enjoy!

2018 SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

June 1 - June 15

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

June 18 - July 31

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

Beginning August 1

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Closed July 4, in observance of Independence Day

FROM THE DIRECTOR

CAROL GOSNELL

We will be hosting an end of the year celebration!
More information on this event will be provided soon!

THEMES

Beach Days

All About Ice Cream

Fun in the Sun

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

🎂 Mason L. 6/30 🎂 Henry M. 6/18

🎂 Dublin H. 6/16 🎂 Connor W. 6/2

🎂 Nick P. 6/21 🎂 Sasha P. 6/25

🎂 Camryn R. 6/7 🎂 Jack S. 6/29

🎂 Shea H. 6/16 🎂 CJ R. 6/22

🎂 Addison R. 6/28

FROM ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (AR)

Questions about your account? Please contact
Sharon Gunther, AR Coordinator, at 410.296.4880, ext. 106.
Questions about Subsidy? Please contact
Kari Thomas, Subsidy Specialist, at 410.296.4880, ext. 111.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Thursday, June 14

Half Day of School - Early Dismissal
Play Centers will be open until
6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 15

Half Day of School - Early Dismissal
After School Programs
WILL NOT OPERATE!
Enjoy your summer!

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♻️ PARENTS' CORNER ♻️

74 Creative Ways to Stop Summer Brain Drain

(An Excerpt by: MindShift)



READING AND WRITING

Keeping up with reading and writing skills over the summer is key to maintaining learning throughout the year — so pay special attention to these creative learning activities.

1. **Read aloud each day:** Even if it's poolside, listen to your child read aloud every day.
2. **Buddy up:** Pick out books for your kids to read together with their friends for fun and a shared experience.
3. **Email friends and family:** Have kids write to friends and family over email to keep in touch while also keeping up with their writing practice.
4. **Read everywhere:** Read street signs, billboards, and anything else you can find while you're on the go this summer.

PLACES TO GO

Going out and getting active is a great way to have fun and learn this summer.

1. **Camping:** Camping offers an excellent opportunity for discussing nature and the world around you.
2. **Go on tours:** Whether it's a chocolate factory or a glassblowing studio, take advantage of tours so kids can learn how everyday items are made.
3. **Visit a zoo:** Spend a day at the zoo and watch your kids' eyes light up when they spy their favorite creatures. Take a trip to your local zoo, or pick one of the top zoos for kids.

AT HOME

Try these ideas on summer days when you're sticking around the house.

1. **Count money when playing Monopoly:** A family game time with Monopoly can turn into a math lesson when kids act as the banker.
2. **Play in the rain:** Mother Nature will inevitably rain on a few of your summer days. Make the most of it by having a dance party - outside!
3. **Plant a garden:** Teach kids about nutrition and growth with a summer garden.

WEBSITES

Use these websites to have fun learning this summer.

1. **Kids Off the Couch:** Get a weekly newsletter with great ideas for getting kids out and learning for the summer and throughout the year.
2. **Thinkfinity:** Thinkfinity has fun games and learning activities for year round learning.
3. **Smithsonian Kids Collecting:** Kids can start a collection over the summer with the Smithsonian's program.

ACTIVITIES

These are just a handful of the fun learning activities you can try this summer.

1. **Public library incentive programs:** Public libraries often have interactive programs for students over the summer.
2. **Build a robot:** Find cool and kid-friendly robot projects to take on over the summer.
3. **Make grocery store visits educational:** Think about the grocery store as a great place to practice math skills.
4. **Map out your trip:** Involve your children in vacation planning by helping them create a map for your trip.

To read the full article go to:

<https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2012/07/04/74-creative-ways-to-stop-summer-brain-drain/>