

# Small Steps Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2011

## \*Reminders from Mrs. Taren

### End of the Year Childcare Credit Info

Parents, I will have all 2010 Childcare Credit information ready for pick up in my office by January 14<sup>th</sup> please speak with Mrs. Taren if you have specific information needed on your childcare credit forms. Childcare Credit Information will need to be picked up from my office and will not be sent in the mail or with anyone other than the name as it appears. Please speak with Mrs. Taren if you have any questions.

### Yearly File Updates

Please complete the information attached to the Newsletter for your child's family. All forms are needed to be turned in by Jan 14<sup>th</sup>

### Items Needed

Each Child enrolled at Small Steps should have a change of clothes, pampers and/or pull-ups if needed, book bag and weekend journal (for 2<sup>nd</sup> level only) if your child is missing ANY of these items please have them turned in by Jan 14<sup>th</sup>.

## \*Inclement Weather Updates

If the center is closed or has a delay in opening due to inclement weather please refer to one of the three following communications for more info.

### Television

Channel 10 WSLs

### Center Telephone Answering Machine

540.904.6808

### Email Updates

Please send your email to [Smallstepslearning@yahoo.com](mailto:Smallstepslearning@yahoo.com) to receive an update via email. Place in subject line "Closing and Delays"

This information will be updated as soon as possible to ensure everyone is up to date on Center openings.

## Questions???

*Should I have a Family FUN night??  
Is she acting her age??  
Why is he SO attached to his blanket??  
Have these questions answered and  
MUCH MORE!! at the  
**Parent Resource Center**  
(Located in the entry way of the center)*

## Being CAUTIOUS During Icy and Slick Weather

During icy and snowy weather; be very cautious when entering and exiting the building. Families with multiple children if you need assistance please call the center and a teacher will be out to help aide you with entering and exiting the center.

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Check us out on the WEB: [SSLAcademy.com](http://SSLAcademy.com) Launch Date Jan

### \*SSLA Teachers Higher Education

Small Steps is happy and thrilled to announce that 5 teachers at Small Steps will be highering their education at Virginia Western Community College this spring focusing on Early Childhood Education.

With balancing coursework, home-life and employment these teachers surely will have their hands full!! At Small Steps we hope to ease them with this venture by providing a substitute (Ms. Mercedes) when teachers are absent for class.

To keep all communication with parents and teachers on one accord, the Small Steps teachers will have periodic conferences and/or parent educational with them one on one and speak with the parents on any concerns / comments or general updates needed. Your child's teacher will be asking each family the best way to communicate with you on a monthly basis (telephone, email or in person) As always please use the time drop off and pick up times to touch base with your child's teacher on any comments or concerns. In addition please see Mrs. Taren if your child's teacher is unavailable.

Listed below are the day's teachers will be absent due to school schedules. Please speak with Mrs. Taren if you have any questions or concerns.

Ms. Paula / Tuesday Afternoons

Ms. Mercedes / No Mornings

Ms. Tina / Wednesday Afternoons

Ms. Briana / Thursday Afternoons

Ms. Keisha / Thursday Afternoons

**Thank-you for supporting our teachers!! Their higher education will improve the care, love, and over-all quality they provide as teachers.**

### I'm Moving; I'm Learning Programs

#### **Cooks in the Kitchen (Included in tuition)**

Children will learn the basics to measuring, mixing and kitchen safety while learning the essentials to cooking. These sessions will be taught by:

Mr. Joel (Seth's dad) &  
Mrs. Anastasia (Chris Mom)

Please see the Parent Corner for your child's class times and days.

#### **Music & Movement (Included in tuition)**

Ms. Briana will once weekly instruct fun music and movement activities for each classroom to enjoy. These sessions will be in addition to the music and movement they already participate in while in the classroom.

Please see the Parent Corner for your child's class times and days.

#### **Julie Art School of Dance**

(Session 2 Beginning every other Friday Jan 7<sup>th</sup>)  
Cost \$25.00 per month

The dance class is every other Friday from 10-11:00 AM. Class is taught by Mrs. Elizabeth Owner of Julie Art School of Dance. She will focus on beginning ballet, flexibility and balance. Extra clothing is required during class.

#### **Happy Birthday Martin Luther King**

What: A Special Birthday Party for Dr. King

When: Jan 17<sup>th</sup>

Time: 3:30 PM

Where: All Classrooms

Please donate a special goody for our special party for Dr. King!

Did you know?? Small Steps is partnered with Blue Ridge Behavioral, Roanoke City Preschool Program, Easter Seals and Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center. If you would like more information on these organizations please visit the Parent Resource Corner.

## Parents be involved at Small Steps...

### Parent Reading Program

Parents please volunteer to read to a classroom at the center. Our story time can be anytime that suits your schedule and will last approximately 30 minutes. Please see Mrs. Taren if you would like to volunteer your time reading to our children!! ☺

### Author of the Month Take Home Books

Parents, if you would like to read a book to your child by our feature author of the month Eric Carle please see Ms. Jasmine in the nursery for a listing of the books we have available. Books are allowed to be checked out for 1 week and will need to be signed out by Ms. Jasmine. If you would like to receive one of our books for this month, please see Ms. Jasmine

### Join the BIG Steppers PTA

Are you interested in helping your child's Learning Academy, do you have good FUNdraising ideas, do you enjoy giving back to the community, and most of all do you want to be involved? If so then the "BIG" Steppers Parent Committee is just for you!! The Big Steppers Parent Committee is an active partnership with Parents and Educators of Small Steps to help raise funds for the community and Small Steps Learning Academy while assisting families financially, educating parents, volunteering in our community and MOST of all ensuring the growth and happiness of our children! BIG Steppers Parent Committee is for moms, dads, grandmas, granddads, aunts, uncles and guardians; this committee is for anyone! Some people think parent groups are the same; however they are not! BIG Steppers is resourceful, beneficial to the community/ children and most of all FUN!! The BIG Steppers President is Small Steps Pre-K Educator, Ms. Tina in the Pre K Class. Please speak with Ms. Tina if you are interested in becoming a BIG Stepper ☺

### Last Call for LOST BOYS

If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor for the young men & boys or if your little boy would like to join the LOST BOYS please see Mrs. Taren ☺

### **\*\*Calendar of Events\*\***

2<sup>nd</sup> Session of Dance Classes Begin  
January 7<sup>th</sup>

Spring Semester Begins for Teachers  
January 10<sup>th</sup>

Music & Movement  
Beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>

BIG Steppers PTA Meeting  
January 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM

2010 Yearly Childcare Credit  
Issued January 14<sup>th</sup>

SSLAcademy.com Launched  
January 15<sup>th</sup>

Martin Luther King Birthday Party  
January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 PM

Parent's Night Out  
Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-11:00

Cooks in the Kitchen  
Beginning January 27<sup>th</sup>

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Thank-you for reading this month's  
Newsletter and allowing Small Steps to  
care & educate your child ☺

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