

# SOUTHSIDE UPDATE

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## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR: “19 YEARS OF HIGH QUALITY CHILDCARE”

So how does one measure the true degree of quality in childcare when there are so many criteria which define the term “quality”?

In order to answer that question, many criteria must be included with the data that we examine at Southside Child Development Center. There first should be a tool that objectively measures the satisfaction of customers. There should be another tool that measures the success of children who graduate from Southside. And third, there should be a tool to measure the quality of the staff who work at Southside everyday, caring for your children.

The first tool we use to measure the satisfaction of our parents is the Annual Parent Evaluation. This tool has given us valuable affirmations regarding our strengths and constructive criticism to improve our weaknesses. Without accountability, though, it is ineffective. This is why we set goals to improve our weaknesses and revisit the

results at several of our monthly staff meetings throughout the year.

The second tool is used to measure the success of children who have graduated out of our program. We have no tool; but we do have the ability and the desire to follow-up on families whose children have graduated from Southside. The results are outstanding! Our graduates move on to become leaders in their prospective schools. We have had and will continue to have graduates leave our PreK and take their places in the finest private schools in the U.S., ultimately earning full scholarships to the top universities in the U.S. i.e.: Chris Akers, Amanda Hardy, etc.

And finally, the third tool is to measure the quality of the staff. I am proud to say that the entire staff and administrators here at Southside continue to set the bar high with credentials ranging from having earned the CDA, to diplomas from Vo Techs, Community Colleges and 4

year Universities. Southside staff’s cumulative number of years of professional early childhood education experience is equivalent to approximately 150 years of service! Wow!!

Come see why you have peace of mind. Meet our staff and come enjoy the fellowship at our 19th Annual Open House on Saturday, April 16.

Our guest speaker is Ms. Rebecca Wisbar. She is a partner at Akers and Wisbar, LLC; and will be educating us on why and how to create a will. While she is speaking to the adults, we will have a magician, spacewalk, and dental team to entertain your children. Southside will have lots of wonderful door prizes to give away, including, but not limited to: a special “staycation” for two at Crowne Plaza, free babysitting for an evening, an intimate dinner prepared and served by Chef Ronell, and lots more!

Come enjoy great bar-b-que'd chicken complemented with the potluck competition dishes prepared by our parents.

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### Special points of interest:

- The first tool we use to measure the satisfaction of our parents is the Annual Parent Evaluation.
- I am proud to say that the entire staff and administrators here at Southside continue to set the bar high with credentials ranging from having earned the CDA, to diplomas from Vo Techs, Community Colleges and 4 year Universities.

## OPEN HOUSE

This Spring marks our 19th anniversary. What better way to celebrate than with a huge Open House event? Our guest speaker is Rebecca Wisbar. She is an attorney and partner at Akers and Wisbar, LLC. She will educate us on why and how we should prepare our will, especially if you have children.

This year we will be serving bar-b-que chicken! We have wonderful door prizes to give away. The children will have activities to participate in and will be able to jump in the space walk. Also, back by popular demand will be the parent potluck competition.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

When: Saturday,  
April 16

Time: 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Where: At Southside

Who: Southside parents (or guardians), staff, and children.

Parents, please remember you are responsible for your own children. Our staff are attending to socialize and be with their own children.



Come see what we have to offer your family at our 19th annual Open House!

## TEACHER APPRECIATION

It is that time again to show your appreciation for all the love, nurturing, patience and understanding your child's teachers give to your child everyday.

Many parents have communicated to me that they have experienced so much peace of mind when returning to work.

Please show your appreciation by implementing the following schedule of giving during the week of May 2—6.

Monday—Bring flowers

Tuesday—Bring sweets

Wednesday—Bring a note of thanks

Thursday—Bring teacher supplies

Friday—Bring bath and body items

All effort dedicated toward this special event is greatly appreciated!!!

A reminder memo will be sent out to parents with names of all of our staff in the last week of April.

## MS. SARAH IS LEAVING SOUTHSIDE!

During the month of April the Director has been very busy searching and interviewing for the perfect replacements for the changes she has made and to replace staffing changes that she did not make.

For starters we are very sad to see that Ms. Sarah will be leaving Southside. She is moving to New Orleans at the end of May. Meanwhile, our new Assistant Director in training (intern) is Ms. Carrie Beth. Ms. Carrie Beth will be introduced at our Open House this month.

She comes to Southside with over 5 years of experience in commercial childcare; a bachelor degree in Sociology and a Masters in Family and Consumer Science. She has also worked in an office doing clerical work.

Please embrace Ms. Carrie Beth as she works hard to fill the shoes of Ms. Sarah.

## CLASSROOM NEWS

Nursery—From Ms. Velma

My name is Ms. Velma Potier; and I am the new Nursery Teacher as of April 1, 2011. I've been employed in professional childcare since May 2004. I graduated from Louisiana Technical College in May 2008 in Care and Development of Young Children. It is my pleasure to care for each and every one of your infants. I was previously the Teacher Assistant in the Tigers' classroom. It was the best experience ever, working with Ms. Betty C.

The past week has been an adventure getting to interact with your infants. Each and everyone of them are special in his or her own way. Hannah is very curious. She loves to crawl around the classroom back and forth to the Older Infant classroom. Chloe is starting to position herself in the crawling position. Dylan is grasping for objects. Aaron is using his fine motor skills, holding his bottle with very little teacher assistance. Grace is very playful. She loves rolling over. Eloise loves grasping for objects and rolling over. John loves to be bounced on his legs, using gross motor skills. Kennedy is very independent. She enjoys feeding herself without teacher assistance. Many developmental milestones are being met in the Nursery.

We have been doing many painting activities. I'm always open to suggestions and new ideas. I am working hard to get to know each baby's needs and personality; as well as all of their parent's concerns.

### Upcoming Events

Sat., April 16  
19th Annual Open House

Tues., April 19  
Mother's Day Ceramics

Thursday, April 21  
Classroom Easter Parties

Friday, April 22  
Closed for Good Friday

Mon., May 2—Fri., May 6  
Teacher Appreciation Week

Friday, May 6  
PreK Graduation

Mon., May 16  
Camp Southside begins

## CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

### Older Infants—From Ms. Shirmelle

We have come to the close of March, and now with the start of April comes Spring. Spring brings beautiful flowers and beautiful babies to Southside. Please remember to bring sun screen and bug spray because we do go outside every day.

We welcome Kyle to the Older Infant room. He is adjusting well to his new surroundings. Emma is developing gross motor skills as she experiments with crawling. Leyah is pulling-up on the furniture and is looking like she wants to take a few steps. Amrita is progressing very well now. She is beginning to take more and more steps every day. Benjamin is also progressing very well. He is crawling around the entire room at will with no problems. Harrison is the happiest child in our class; keeping a smile on his face at all times. He is also beginning to say little words at times.

Juliette is making remarkable progress. She is beginning to take steps more and more on a daily basis. I enjoy spending time with your babies every day; and would not trade them for the world.

### CAMP SOUTHSIDE

Plans are underway for the best summer camp in Baton Rouge. Tell your friends, who have school-aged children, we only have 28 spaces left for *Camp Southside*.

This year we will tentatively have two classes. These two classes will be divided out by age. Campers will go on fieldtrips; do crafts; take computer classes; go swimming; join the summer reading club; eat well; learn rules for certain sports; make great new friends; and lots more!

*Camp Southside* begins on May 16. See Denise for a *Camp* booklet.

### Toddlers—From Ms. Debbie

Welcome to the beginning of spring. March was a fun month. We enjoyed the warmer temperatures and sometimes the cooler weather. We welcomed Nathan and Devyn to our class from the Older Infant class.

The toddlers are working on different skills this month. Some are working on language, physical, and cognitive skills.

James, Scott, Evan, and Nathan love to sit down with the word books and point to the pictures to hear the names of the objects. Mary Lynn and Emmi are being little mothers to the dolls. They will use the bandanas to cover the dolls and hold and pat them in a soft manner. Connor has learned to use the ladder on the slide. He preferred to climb the slide to get to the top, but now has mastered the ladder to get to the top. Brian is the chef of the class. He will point to the food basket and get out bowls and pans with foods and pretend to cook on the stove. Abby likes to hold our fingers as she says, "walk". She likes to walk around the play yard pointing out different objects to learn the names. Devyn is a big helper. She will pick up sheets and mats after nap time and bring them to the teachers. Matthew likes to play the xylophone. He will use the hammer to hit the keys and make music. Jaxson is using sentences to talk. In the afternoon around video time he will repeat, "Video, let's go".

We welcome Ms. Angela to our class. She will be the interim teacher to finish her course work for Early Childhood Education.

Swim time will soon begin. I will ask for swimmers for each child. If you have not filled out a medication form for sunscreen, please do so. The sun is very hot during swim time.

### Congratulations!

We congratulate Ms. Velma for being promoted to the new Nursery Teacher position!

### Tigers—From Ms. Betty C.

Wow! This year is passing by quickly. Warm weather is upon us, so parents don't forget to change out those winter clothes to summer clothes.

Thank you to all my parents who participated in our fundraiser, and enjoy the chocolate. Be on the look out for info about our Easter party and egg hunt later this month.

During the month of March, we started with the Mardi Gras weekly theme. Thanks for decorating riding toys for your little ones to ride in our parade, which was a huge success as always because of your presence and support.

Our next weekly theme was Nutrition. We ate nutritious snacks and meals as always from the grain, dairy, vegetable, and fruit categories. We made a veggie collage and made orange trees and flower art using muffin liners.

Our third weekly theme was St. Patrick's. We decorated shamrocks. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the children wore green; ate green eggs and ham; and drank green milk in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Our fourth weekly theme was Spring, our favorite time of the year. During this week we decorated our classroom with bumble bees, butterflies, lady bugs, and flowers.

Our last weekly theme was Gardening. We learned that plants need water, light and food to grow big and strong. We planted beans to watch as they grow in our classroom.

This month, the Tigers have been concentrating a great deal on language development. Everyday we encourage the Tigers to "use their words" and we also engage in many activities that enhance their language skills. Every morning we sit down for Story time; and the learning and nurturing begins. Show and Tell also plays a big role in nurturing. It gives your child a great deal of self-confidence. Every Thursday most of the Tigers are so proud and very eager to "show and tell" what they have that day. You may ask what can you do to help your Tiger continue developing their language skills, this is one way. See you next month in the Den.

# CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

## *Teddy Bears—From Ms. Betty H.*

March was a very exciting month. During outside play time, Jack challenged Ace in a soccer game. There was a whole lot of kicking going on! May the best player win. They were really using their gross motor skills. Conner G. was so excited when he made his first basketball basket, running around the playground giving his friends a high-five. Adria and Adalee loved drawing beautiful pictures on the patio and in the sand.

We made Mardi Gras floats for the finest parade in the South. The Teddy Bears worked hard gluing beads to their floats. Connor P. made an awesome float with his beads. We paraded in the parking lot with all the parents and grandparents. I would like to thank all of you for coming out, bringing beads and supporting the children.

For the week of Nutrition, we listed the basic food groups; read books about food; made cows and corn stalks; and planted vegetables. The Teddy Bears cut pictures out of the newspaper about different kinds of food. Haydon enjoyed identifying vegetables. He loves to eat them at school. Lucas worked very hard on his "Nutrition" poster. He remembered the song "Dig A Little Hole" that we sang as we planted our beans.

We went to see *Sesame Street Live*. It was awesome! Nathan experienced **great** enjoyment seeing it for the first time as a Teddy Bear. He could not get enough of all the *Sesame Street Live* gang. Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who helped out at the show. I would like to thank Ms. Rachel and Mrs. Yolanda for reading stories to my children.

We had a visit from the Leprechauns! They messed-up the classroom everyday, during St. Patrick's week. Maddock couldn't get over the mess in the room. He said, "Why do we have to clean-up behind the Leprechauns?". We wrote letters to their parents letting them know we are here to help. So finally, they learned their lesson. The Leprechauns were very happy to clean up their mess. Ben was concerned about them coming to his home but learned later that they only come to Southside.

For the week of Spring and the letter "Ss", we made butterflies, flowers, and decorated a tree. The children wore yellow on Friday. We discussed the parts of a flower and its buds. We talked about how baby ducks are born in Spring, along with other animals.

Happy Birthday to Connor Guidroz who is turning the big four! Happy Easter!

————— Mama Bear

## *Lions—From Ms. Heather Afterschoolers—Ms. Marilyn*

Spring has sprung! The flowers are blooming. The sun is shining. The bees are buzzing and mosquitoes are biting; so parents please send your child some bug spray, as well as sunscreen.

March was busy, but yet fun. During Mardi Gras week, we painted with Mardi Gras colors; decorated floats out of shoeboxes; and discussed why we celebrate Mardi Gras. The Lions had a great time riding their bikes in the parade. While learning about the letter "Rr", we practiced writing the letter "Rr", listing a number of things that start with the letter "Rr". We wore red; and listed the fruits and vegetables that are red.

The second theme for the month was Nutrition. We discussed all the healthy and non-healthy foods. And made a food pyramid. The Lions also painted a shining sun for the letter the "Ss" which was also introduced during Nutrition week.

The third theme for the month was St. Patrick's Tradition. We discussed why St. Patrick's Day is celebrated. The Lions went on a clover hunt and painted clovers. The letter "Tt" was introduced; so the Lions decorated their own T-shirts using their creative skills. They also enjoyed going on the field trip to *Sesame Street Live*.

For the Week of Spring, the Lions enjoyed the spring colors, flowers, and weather. They made cereal blossoms and butterflies using their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. They also painted spring flowers. The Lions really enjoyed the field trip to Bluebonnet Swamp and the picnic in the park. Kevin and Jake pretended to be the tour guides from the swamp and put the rubber snakes and lizards around their necks from the science center. They then promenaded around the class letting everyone touch them. The Lions really enjoyed that experience.

The last theme of the month was Gardening. The Lions labeled the parts of a plant and made seed collages with different seeds which can be planted in a garden. They also planted cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplant, watermelon and herbs in our outside box garden. All the Lions help with watering and pulling weeds out of the garden. We also attended the Kite Fest. The Lions made kites and flew them while watching all the other sizes and shapes of the other kites.

In the Lions' classroom we will start focusing on birthdates, addresses and telephone numbers. I think this would be important for them to know before they start Kindergarten. ———Roaring

My afterschoolers had a great time during the month of March. We celebrated lots of holidays and we also experienced a time change; where time moved up one hour. Unfortunately, we lost a precious hour of sleep.

We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday. Everyone discussed their favorite story. Zoe read "The Cat in The Hat". Haydon enjoys "Green Eggs and Ham". Nada loves "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish". Annalise adores "Horton Hears a Who!". We also played games, word searched, and completed puzzles.

For Mardi Gras everyone enjoyed helping the preschoolers make floats; paint their masks; and draw King Cakes. Don't forget we ate a lot of king cake, too. This was a great break for all the Afterschoolers. Nada spent her week with us enjoying lots of fun and activities. Everyone had a great time at the Parades catching the stuffed animals, beads, doubloons, and cups.

Our next holiday was St. Patrick's Day. Everyone made sure to wear green so they wouldn't get pinched. Haden discovered a new game for St. Patrick's Day. Annalise and Nada also learned some new words by completing the St. Patrick's Day word search. We also cut and pasted four leaf clovers for luck.

For Earth Day we discussed the importance of recycling and keeping our community clean. We are also planning to plant seeds for flowers and red beans so we can watch the different stages of growth.

The school year is coming to an end. Parents, please sign-up now for *Camp Southside*. We would love to have your Afterschoolers join our wonderful camp program.

## *Welcome to our Southside Family:*

**Dylan Harlan**—Nursery  
Mom- Rainey, Dad- David

**Emma Molina**—Older Infant  
Mom- Mari Molina Cintas,  
Dad- Jaume Sariol Marti

**Nicole Liu** - Lion  
Mom- Rui Sun, Dad- Changkun Liu