

# Center Updates

## Tuition Statements – 2014:

Your Louisiana School Readiness Tax Credit form will be provided to all parents/guardians of children who attended our center and were under the age of six (6) at any point in 2014. You are responsible for filing this form with your Louisiana individual income tax return to claim the tax credit. We will have available for dissemination no than January 31, 2015. **Please remember, you must have a zero balance on your account to receive this tax credit.**

## 2015 Tuition Rates & Payment Policies:

|                            | New Students:<br>NOW<br>Existing Students:<br>8.24.15 |   | Walker<br>South |
|----------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Twos                       | 160   | Registration Fee-Full<br>Time (August – December)   | 150             |
| Twos/Threes                | 160   | Registration Fee – Full<br>Time (January – May)     | 75              |
| Threes                     | 140   | Registration Fee-School<br>Kids (August – December) | 75              |
| Four                       | 135   | Registration Fee –<br>School Kids (January – May)   | 50              |
| Before and After<br>School | 70  | Registration Fee-<br>Summer Camp                    | 100             |
| Summer Camp                | 135   |   |                 |

- During Public School closures: \$10/day attended will be added to normal B&A School tuition program.
- Existing Students - Effective August 2015: Tuition Rate will be determined by the classroom enrolled, not age of child.
  - (Two-year old children currently enrolled in the two/three room: will pay two year old rate. When child turns three, will pay the new three year old rate)
- Fall enrollment fee includes August of 2015 – May of 2016
- Summer Camp enrollment fee includes June and July

## Child Care Assistance: Modification of co-pay calculation & important notices regarding authorizations:

Child Care Assistance (CCA) calculates subsidy on a monthly basis; however, we charge tuition on a weekly basis. Therefore, we convert CCA's monthly subsidy to a weekly amount in order to determine your copay. CCA only pays for a max of two (2) absent days per month for full time children, which are reconciled two (2) weeks after the end of the month. For part time children, CCA does not pay for any absent days. **Effective March 2 2015, Fundamentals Early Learning Center will begin assuming 25% absent days on all accounts and will calculate copays accordingly.** Should your child attend more than 75% of allotted days, we will credit your account after reconciliation (two weeks in following month).

Your weekly tuition amount is calculated based on the full amount we expect from CCA to pay for your child, after a 25% absent day deduction. When there is a difference in actual amount of reimbursement vs. the projected reimbursement, we will adjust both your account and CCA's account and you will be responsible for the difference, should one exist. If there is a credit, it will be posted to your account.

Lastly, with the new paperwork being submitted to the state, your current authorization will be terminated by default. This is unavoidable and we apologize for the inconvenience. You will receive new authorizations which you will need to complete timely so no lapse in payments occur. Should you have any questions, please see your director immediately.

## Louisiana's Early Education Acts/Programs and our participation in full swing!

As of January 2015, all of our locations are actively involved in the Louisiana Early Childhood Network Pilots! We are blessed and excited for this opportunity to be a part of the creation of a unified system in Early Childhood in Louisiana. Over the past few months, we have been able to collaborate with local school systems, head starts, and NSECD programs to support one another and share knowledge in professional learning communities, which has proven to be just the beginning of the growth of our professionalism at Fundamentals.

Along with our pilots, over the course of 4 months each Fundamentals site has been participating in the My Teaching Partner Program (MTP) provided by CLASS, the new classroom assessment scoring system that will soon replace ITERS & ECERS. We have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience during this process and have seen our teacher's significantly increase their assessment scores. This process will continue through the end of the school year and we are expecting more increases in assessment scores.

January 2015

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EXTRA, EXTRA

Read "OWL" About It!

Happy New Year!

"Experts tell us that 90% of all brain development occurs by the age of five. If we don't begin thinking about education in the early years, our children are at risk of falling behind by the time they start Kindergarten."  
- Robert. L. Ehrlich

We hope that everyone is having a wonderful start to the New Year! We are excited about 2015 and all of the things we have in store for the children and families here at Fundamentals! New Year's is a time of change and new beginnings and we would like to share some of the upcoming events, celebrations, and changes we are making at our centers!

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## Upcoming Dates



**January 30<sup>th</sup>** - Last day to submit ACH Forms

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** - First day of ACH processing

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** - Center Closed: Mardi Gras

**February 27<sup>th</sup>** - Last day for current students to register for Summer Camp

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Summer Camp Registration: Opens to wait list families

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - New Copay Calculation For CCAP Recipients

**March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>** - Center Closed for In-service and Professional Development

**April 10<sup>th</sup>** - Last day for current students to register for Fall School Year



## CONSTRUCTION THEME

The focus of this study is to introduce students to the work of builders, architects, heavy equipment operators – in the construction of houses; and, to introduce children to the concept of a home as a place where people live.

### Guiding Questions:

1. Can children understand that architects, carpenters, and contractors build houses/homes?
2. Can children name tools that builders use (hammer, wrench, screw driver)?
3. Can children understand that a home is a place where families live?

### Child Understandings:

Children will understand that houses are built by architects, contractors, and carpenters. Children will understand that a house/home is a place where a family can live. Children will understand that people live in different types of homes. Children will understand that homes are made up of rooms.

## Text Blasting & Group E-Blast

We have upgraded our software system to now allow mass text messaging and/or emailing to all customers or groups of customers. This is very exciting and will come in handy with reminders, field trips, and emergencies!

Please help us put this system to good use and complete the relative form with your information.

## Automatic Clearing House (ACH)- Tuition Express- Begins – February 2<sup>nd</sup>



Last year and earlier this month, we sent out information regarding our new mandatory tuition payment policies. Moving to this process will substantially help operations and allow for more time from management to focus on your child and the quality of care provided. If you are unsure about details or how to make the transition, please see the Director and she'll be happy to assist you.

Please note: *All paperwork for ACH must be completed and submitted to the center office no later than Friday, January 30, 2015. We will process all tuition payments for the week of Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> by ACH. After the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, no cash, checks, or money orders will be accepted.*

Don't forget, free checking accounts are available at Pelican State Credit Union in Denham Springs, regardless of credit history. They can be reached at 225.791.5393. They are located at 145 Rushing Road Denham Springs, LA 70726.

## Summer Camp Registration Deadline: Current Students – February 27<sup>th</sup>!



Enrollment will open for new customers to secure any remaining spots effective March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Space is extremely limited and expected to fill up fast.

*“Come travel the world with Fundamentals, and collect your passport stamps with us!”*

This year we have scheduled MORE field trips than any other summer camp! Weekly, kids will attend 2 field trips plus weekly trips to swimming and weekly Bounce House & Waterslides on site. Trips will be provided on our Fundamentals bus equipped with A/C, tinted windows, seatbelts for all the kids, and kiddie alarms ensuring that all children are off the bus at exiting.

Special stops along the summer will include: (1) Louisiana Children's Discovery Center (2) Louisiana Art & Science Museum (3) USS Kid (4) Bluebonnet Swamp (5) Aquatics Water Park.

To secure your child's spot, you must submit a summer camp enrollment slip and the full registration fee must be paid. The registration fee is non-refundable. There is already a waiting list of new families wishing to enroll – waiting beyond the deadline is not recommended as we expect to fill to capacity by the deadline. However, should spots remain available after February deadline, we will begin filling spots from the waiting list.

Summer Camp is a full summer program. You must pay for all weeks of the summer unless you use a vacation credit. To use vacation credit, account must be paid up and you may not attend any day for the full week. Vacation credits are equal to ½ of the weekly tuition rate.

All activities, field trips, and tee shirts are included in the registration fees and weekly tuition rate. Our summer camp program is all inclusive. Pay once in the beginning plus weekly tuition and nothing more!

**Registration fee per child for summer camp: \$100.00**

**Weekly tuition fee per child for summer camp: \$135.00**

\*Summer camp with full activities and field trips are for children who have just finished kindergarten or older and within our licensed age range. Children in the Pre-K program will have a jam packed agenda as well, just at the center and not on the road.

## Fall Re-Enrollment Registration Deadline: Current Students – April 10<sup>th</sup>!

Enrollment will open for new customers to secure any remaining spots effective April 13<sup>th</sup>. Again, space is extremely limited and expected to fill up fast. To secure your child's spot, you must submit a FALL RE-Enrollment Slip and the full registration fee must be paid. The registration fee is non-refundable.

There has been a waiting list of new families wishing to enroll for over a year. Waiting beyond the deadline is not recommended as we expect to fill to capacity by the deadline. However, should spots remain available after the deadline, we will begin filling spots from the waiting list.

\*See the Tuition Rates & Payment Policies chart in this newsletter for pricing information. \*

## New Paperwork Required for 2015!

In an effort to achieve several goals for 2015, we are issuing new student manuals (updated) along with new student forms and notices which will need to be completed and returned to the office by the end of February.

Please ensure you pick up a packet and additional forms if you have more than one child enrolled in our center. Paperwork will be available by the end of the first week of February. Your packet will included:

- Student Manual
- Enrollment Agreement
- Student Manual Acknowledgement
- CACFP Meal Application
- Text Blast Information Form
- Master Card