



## February 2011 Issue

### Upcoming Dates:

**FEBRUARY -**  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**FEBRUARY 18TH**  
PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

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## Preschool Accreditation: What it Means

Considering the fact that fewer than 10 percent of America's preschools have gained accreditation from the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#), we are proud to be one of them. The Chastain School has been accredited since it opened and we are now in the process of going through re-accreditation, which happens every 5 years. Many parents may know that our school is accredited by NAEYC but may not realize just how important it is or how difficult it is to maintain. Accreditation is gaining headway because it is the standard in grading a school for quality of care. Over time, quality can drop and organizations can grow complacent. That's why NAEYC has upped the ante on their accreditation standards, putting in place more stringent guidelines for facility design, staff educational qualifications and programming, as well as health and safety, physical environment and administration.

There is a long list of requirements and some of them are new. NAEYC has always had high standards in health and safety, but under the new standards, accreditation is much harder to achieve. How hard? A preschool in California which just achieved accreditation, was

"required to call in specialists in contagious disease control and an allergist to help us prepare an area free of dust and pollen for play. We were required to have our air conditioning and heating system checked twice a year for cleanliness. We had a hazard consultant point out any features in the school that might put children or adults at risk."

Even more importantly, NAEYC has focused equally on curriculum and teaching practices, raised the bar for teacher eligibility requirements, and added a new standard in leadership and management. Primary consideration is also given to the nature of the child's experience. So accreditation now better represents the whole picture – from the building itself to the quality of teachers and staff employed at the school. Programs which are accredited by the association give parents the comfort of knowing their child will be well-cared-for, and educated by, a highly-qualified professional. Research, science and practical experience have shown that children benefit most when they are in a developmentally appropriate setting which enhances what a child is learning at home.

For some schools, it's not just the staff doing all the legwork. Parents are joining in, too.

"Accreditation promotes teamwork and a more efficient and higher quality education for our program."

Achieving accreditation is a big deal and it's not something that happens overnight. A school must go through a 4-step process: the school needs to enroll in a self-study program, submit an application promising to complete candidacy materials within one year, become a candidate, and then meet the NAEYC Accreditation program standards.

Within six months of a program's submission and approval of Candidacy Materials, NAEYC Assessor(s) will conduct an on-site assessment visit and evaluate the school against a list of 10 standards covering:

- Relationships
- Curriculum
- Teaching
- Assessment of Child Progress
- Health
- Teachers
- Families
- Community Relationships
- Physical Environment
- Leadership and Management

For more details on the NAEYC accreditation process, visit [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org).

## New for 2011 - ProCare

Beginning this month, February 2011, The Chastain School will begin using ProCare Software to handle all of our customer data and accounting information. ProCare software has built a reputation as the industry-standard in early childhood



centers for nearly 20 years. The only difference that you may notice as a parent is that the customer statements that you receive will be formatted a little differently.

One of the many advantages to switching to ProCare is that more members of our administrative team will have access to your account information when you need it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

What	Where	When	Cost
FROM HERE TO TIMBUKTU: A JOURNEY THROUGH WEST AFRICA	<a href="#">Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta</a>	<b>Feb 5th - May 30th</b> Mon-Fri, 10am - 4pm Sat & Sun, 10am - 5pm	\$12.50
SINGIN BEAN KIDS KARAOKE	<a href="#">The Singin Bean</a>	<b>Fridays in February</b> 6pm-8pm	\$3 minimum purchase
PETER PAN	<a href="#">The Threesixty Theatre at Pemberton Place</a>	<b>January 21st - March 20th</b> Tuesdays- Fridays @ 7:30PM Saturdays 2:00PM and 7:30PM Sundays 1:00PM and 5:00PM	Sat & Sun Matinee \$40-\$125 (Children \$30), Tues - Fri & Sun Evenings: \$35 - \$110 (Children \$20)
RINGLING BROS. & BARNUM & BAILEY presents BARNUM'S FUNUNDRUM	<a href="#">Philips Arena</a>	<b>Feb 17th - 21st</b> Thurs 7:30pm, Fri-10:30am & 7:30pm, Sat & Sun-11am, 3pm & 7pm, Mon-11am & 3pm	\$14 - \$35
RINGLING BROS. & BARNUM & BAILEY presents BARNUM'S FUNUNDRUM	<a href="#">The Arena Gwinnett Center</a>	<b>Feb 24th - 27th</b> Thurs - 7:30pm Fri -10:30am & 7:30pm Sat - 11am, 3pm & 7pm Sun - Noon & 4pm	\$14 - \$35
PARENTS PALOOZA	<a href="#">Cobb Galleria</a>	<b>Feb 26th &amp; 27th</b> Sat- 10am—6pm Sun- 11am—5pm	Advance Tickets: Adults \$10, Kids \$5-\$18, Under 5 Free At the Door: Adults \$12, Kids 5-18 \$6, Under 5 Free
THE BODY DETECTIVE	<a href="#">Center for Puppetry Arts</a>	<b>Through March 13th</b> Tues-Fri – 10am & 11:30am Sat - 11am, 1pm & 3pm Sun - 1pm & 3pm	\$16

## February Black History Month

February is **Black History Month** and in honor and celebration of this month long holiday a few of our teachers are teaching the children about the many African Americans whose contributions have influenced the hearts and minds of our nation.



The **Bonsai's** had lots of fun creating their own traffic light, in honor of Garrett Morgan, using construction paper. They

are on display outside of their room.

The **Plum** classroom proudly posed in front of their huge "Who's Who In America?" poster with pictures of famous African Americans. The **Plums** made traffic lights and a baseball jerseys in honor of Garrett Morgan and Jackie Robinson respectively. They also made a MLK Dream Quilt that reflects what



they want to be when they grow up. Make sure to check out the displays in observance of **Black History Month** outside of the Persimmon, Mulberry and Mahogany rooms.



Did you pay someone to care for a child, spouse, or dependent last year? If so, you may be able to claim the Child and Dependent Care Credit on your federal income tax return. Below are some things the IRS wants you to know about claiming a credit for child and dependent care expenses.

1. The care must have been provided for one or more qualifying persons. A qualifying person is your dependent child age 12 or younger when the care was provided. Additionally, your spouse and certain other individuals who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care may also be qualifying persons. You must identify each qualifying person on your tax return.
2. The care must have been provided so you – and your spouse if you are married filing jointly – could work or look for work.
3. You – and your spouse if you are married filing jointly – must have earned income from wages, salaries, tips, other taxable employee compensation or net earnings from self-employment. One spouse may be considered as having earned income if they were a full-time student or they were physically or mentally unable to care for themselves.
4. You must identify the care provider(s) on your tax return.
5. Your filing status must be single, married filing jointly, head of household or qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child.
6. The qualifying person must have lived with you for more than half of 2010. However, see Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses, regarding exceptions for the birth or death of a qualifying person, or a child of divorced or separated parents.
7. The credit can be up to 35 percent of your qualifying expenses, depending upon your adjusted gross income.
8. For 2010, you may use up to \$3,000 of expenses paid in a year for one qualifying individ-

ual or \$6,000 for two or more qualifying individuals to figure the credit.

9. The qualifying expenses must be reduced by the amount of any dependent care benefits provided by your employer that you deduct or exclude from your income.

Our tax ID# is **25-0543311**.

If you need a statement for 2010, email our Business Manager, John Weaver.

### Additional Resources:

- [Publication 503](#), Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- [W-10](#), Dependent Care Provider's Identification & Certification
- [Form 2441](#), Child & Dependent Care Expenses
- Form 2441 [Instructions](#)
- [Tax Topic 602](#), Child and Dependent care credit

# New Faces at TCS



*Jamese  
Boykins*

Jamese has over seven years experience working with children. She prides herself on her ability to actively engage children in learning enthusiastically and willingly, with an energetic hands-on approach. She is currently working towards her B.S. in Elementary Education. She is certified as a Paraprofessional and is also a five year member of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.

Jamese is passionate about helping others and encouraging people to always strive for greatness. She enjoys Ben & Jerry's Milk and Cookies Ice Cream, journaling, people watching, reading, volunteering, and watching one of her favorite television show, "The Nanny" in her spare time.



*Shawn  
Titus*

Shawn was born on the beautiful island of Jamaica. She recently relocated from Detroit, Michigan and now resides in Lithonia, Georgia. She has a B.S. in Child Development and plans to further her education by obtaining her teaching certificate, Master's and ESL endorsement.

She comes from a family with a long lineage of educators and was bitten by the "educator bug" early in childhood. She has 15 years of educational experience ranging from birth to 2nd grade. Teaching is her passion and she desires to be the best in her field. She enjoys Latin dancing and welcomes the opportunity to learn new things.



*Rasheeda  
Hicks*

Rasheeda has been in childcare for 2 1/2 years. Originally from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, she moved to Atlanta in 2004. She is currently completing her Master's in Elementary Education. She is also certified in several Bright From the Start childhood courses. She finds that being a teacher is a rewarding career that allows her to build the foundation of education in little one's lives. She is excited to have the opportunity to assist in your child's development.

## February Birthdays

<b>Vera Walker</b>	<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
Holland Davis	Feb 1	Plum
Charlie Walker	Feb 1	Plum
Henry Colvin	Feb 3	Coconut
Emma Williams	Feb 10	Oak
Christine Lee	Feb 13	Oak
Connor Bailie	Feb 14	Coconut
Jack Sharp	Feb 15	Oak
Caroline Russo	Feb 16	Bonsai
Dallin Worrill-Meyers	Feb 10	Chestnut
Nadia Alavi	Feb 21	Mimosa
Asher Jacobs	Feb 21	Oak
Ian Fry	Feb 24	Coconut
Wren Booker	Feb 24	Olive
<b>Khrystal Davis</b>	<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Wisteria</b>
<b>Rozelina Kostova</b>	<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>Mimosa</b>
<b>Yuri Waddell</b>	<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>Mulberry</b>

## MVP for February



### Candice Galloway

Congratulations to Candice (Princess) Galloway for being awarded MVP for the month of February. Candice was nominated by her peers for being a great communicator with her parents and meeting their needs. Although she is use to working with 3 year olds, she relieves teachers

in the infant/toddler rooms without complaining. She works well with her co-teacher in implementing the lesson plans that are prepared and is always there to give an encouraging word. She is beautiful inside and it shines on the outside.

Thank you Ms. Candice for being who you are for the Plum room and for the The Chastain School.

As the MVP of the Month, Candice was awarded a \$100 gift-card and the coveted Teacher of the Month Parking Spot. **Congratulations Candice!**

