DOWNTOWN BALTIMORE CHILDREN'S CENTERS

DBCC NEWS

DOWNTOWN BALTIMORE CHILD CARE, Inc.
Park Avenue Center, 806 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201-4807 • 410-669-1010
University Center, 237 Arch Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-1526 • 410-659-0515

March 2009

Don't miss this terrific 25th Anniversary Celebration for parents, teachers, friends and others in the DBCC community. ***Proceeds will benefit DBCC's Barbara J. Hawks Scholarship Fund.***

Join us at the stunning **Silo Point and Sky Lounge.**

This elegant space sits atop the newly developed Silo Point residences in Locust Point, overlooking the Harbor and the entire city skyline. This is your last chance to see the spectacular view from the top of Silo Point unless you buy a condo (or know someone who did).

As we are inspired by the breathtaking view,

We Will Honor Staff with 20 Years of Service

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS!

IMPORTANT NOTICE! This is the last hard copy of the DBCC Newsletter you will receive. From now on, the newsletter will be in an eformat.

If you wish to receive the newsletter electronically, send your email address to us at uc@dbcckids.org with newsletter in the subject line. The newsletter will also be available on our web site (www.dbcckids.org)

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Picking Up My Child From School - Why Does He Act That Way?

by Susan Sandstrom

Oh what those little children do to us!

At the end of the day we rush to get to school to pick up our child. We've missed her so much and can't wait to see her. How will you be greeted? There she is . . . she turns, sees me in the doorway and . . .

- ❑ bursts into tears and runs for her teacher or me,
- ❑ ignores me or,
- ❑ bursts into tears and says "I don't want to go home! Go Away!" or,
- ❑ she is delighted! She rushes for me and throws herself into my arms. I love you!

Sometimes it is hard to understand why there can be this array of reaction, especially when it is so clear how we feel. So why do we get these confusing reactions? Do they really not care?

One of the hardest things for a young child is to handle transitions – stopping one thing and starting another. Transitioning from school to home and from home to school is most difficult. That's why we want parents to be mindful of transitions and there is a knack to doing it well!

Young children have a hard time with strong emotions. The flood of feelings upon seeing a parent can be overwhelming because the child is actually so *happy* to see the parent.

One thing that can help a young child with both feelings and transitions is developing a routine. A routine is something the child can depend on, such as reading one book, three hugs and a kiss and then Daddy leaves. Young children make very few decisions about their life (which is appropriate) so things just happen to them. They often feel out of control which can make them fussy and difficult. Inconsistency can throw a young child off. The more things a child can depend on the better. It helps them feel safe and secure and in control because they can predict what will happen next.

Routines need to be set by the adult, not the child but the routine has to meet the needs and the temperament of the child. Sometimes a parent may need to remind the child about the routine and as children get older, they may test to see if the routine is trustworthy. If the routine is in fact trustworthy it will not change despite tantrums, whining or anger. Even though routines need to be trustworthy, parents need to be flexible, looking for signs that a routine may need to be changed. Does this sound like conflicting advice? Oh, this parenting stuff isn't easy! The birth of a sibling, a move to a new house, the death of a loved one or pet or growth to a new developmental level may all be things that prompt the need for a change in routine

So, please know that regardless of how you are greeted at the end of the day, you were missed. Children bond with teachers but teachers can never replace parents.

The mixed messages you receive from your child are all part of the emotional development of young children. Your job is to try and not take it too personally!

Ask Aliceanna...

Dear Aliceanna,

My toddler son is so clingy these days. I know he is in school all day and I understand his need for closeness but it is driving me crazy. Any advice?

Signed, Mother of a Klingon

Dear Mom,

It is natural to feel smothered when a child is super-clingy. We do everything we can to get the child engaged in an activity simply to create some breathing room for ourselves. But that response often makes matters worse.

My advice to you is to give your son what he needs. Hold him close, carry him a lot, pull him on your lap. Go overboard to the point where he begins to want some space. Give him so much closeness that you start to drive *him* crazy. Once his closeness quota is full, he will give you the space you need and be much more even in his behavior.

It is important to look at the child's behavior and *to fill the need.* For example, it is typical for adults to ignore a child who is displaying attention-getting behavior. The idea is that the bad behavior will go away if the child gets no attention for it. However, if you give your child extra attention, at other times, you will fill the need and the obnoxious behavior will likely go away.

[Do you have a question for Aliceanna? You may email your question to uc@dbcckids.org and put Aliceanna in the subject line.]

My mother
by
Amanda Danchin,
age 4

Snail
by
Elijah Texter,
age 4

CHILDSPEAK

• **Kayla Robeson**, age 4, was asked to look out the window at the family's new car. Kayla was disappointed and said, "I don't like it. I want a princess car." She quickly reconsidered and said, "Well, I'll get in it for daddy."

• **Saleigha Fennel**, age 2, was watching a bird outside and called to it as it flew away, "Bye bird! See you tomorrow bird!"

• **Eli Cole**, age 4, walked up to the teacher holding a rubber shark and said in his best shark voice, "I voted for McCain." He then switched into his normal voice and said, "I voted for Obama." Then back to shark voice, "But I voted for McCain."

• **Darrell White**, age 5, went on a field trip with his class. On the bus ride he excitedly noticed a cow far off in a pasture. "I saw a hippo!" he cried.

• **Milena Reed**, age 4: "I bite my nails. My daddy is normal. He said it's all right for me to bite my nails. My mommy is not normal. She said it is not all right for me to bite my nails."

• The children gathered around the TV to view the presidential inauguration. "Look," Said **Gerald Stewart**, age 5, "It's King Obama!

• **Winnie Duan-Porter**, age 1, came into the office, grabbed a calculator and held it up to her ear and said, "Hello?"

• Infant **Nathan Kearns** was visiting in the office with his mother. His diaper was changed and one of his shoes disappeared. His mother could not find his shoe, so the rest of the office starting helping in the search. It was nowhere! We searched the stroller, the diaper bag, under the furniture – the shoe was gone. We had just about given up when Nathan crawled off. There, on his bottom under his clothes was a perfectly outlined shoe!

• The day after Christmas **Kayla Robeson**, age 4, woke her mother up and said, "Let's go see if Santa left more presents this morning."

"I don't think so, Kayla," said her mother.

"I'd better check just in case!"

[Do you have a Childspeak we could use in the Newsletter? Email us at uc@dbcckids.org and put Childspeak in the subject line.]

ALUMNI NEWS

✻ **Willy Moore** came to the center and we had a chance to catch up on Henry and Ben.

Henry is 15 years old and in the 9th Grade at Friends. He is a musician and plays the piano and guitar (acoustic and electric).

Ben is 12 years old and in the 6th Grade at Friends. He is into sports and was the 2nd string quarterback for the middle school A team. He also plays basketball and is a pitcher on the baseball team.

All our love to Caroline, too!

✻ Lately we've been trying to contact some of our early students. We've heard from **Amanda Lewis** who was one of our first five students. Amanda lives in Odenton, Maryland and works for a customer service department. She plans to go back to Johns Hopkins University in the future.

Shahin Firoozmand is going to school in Shanghai, China.

Justin Fox lives in Florida. **Matthew Boersma** is currently a graduate student at Hopkins studying neuroscience and this past summer he got married!

✻ We heard from DBCC mom, **Nancy Carrey-Beaver** and she filled us in on her children. **Jesse** goes to school a block away from his DBCC alma mater, at the High School for the Performing Arts. He is a Senior theater major (remember when he used to dress up in tutus when he was 3?) and has been accepted to Carnegie-Mellon for Musical Theater for Fall 2009. Theater is his life and passion and because of his drive, talent and perseverance, he will probably succeed. It all started at DBCC with your dress up box.

Remember **Ben**? He is now 21. He is taking time off from college now. He was at Univ. of Maryland College Park for 2 years and is now living in Baltimore, learning to support himself and hoping that he can make it in the world of music. He plays bass guitar in 2 bands and hopes that one day he can use music to enrich the lives of others.

✻C'mon all you alums! Get in touch with us so we know what you're up to! uc@dbcckids.org

DBCC Alum Nationally Recognized!

Jules Ouwerkerk, DBCC alum, was one of 10 students recognized nationally out of the 21,000 entries!

USA TODAY __December 19, 2008 __ Scholastic Books sponsored a contest where students throughout the county were asked to do a drawing of a president. The contest was designed to tap into children's fascination with the 2008 election, which, for all practical purposes, began two years ago. For the nation's youngest schoolchildren, the election and its aftermath have spanned most of their school careers.__ Runner-up Jules Ouwerkerk, 8 years old of Baltimore City School's Roland Park Elementary/Middle School, illustrated President John F. Kennedy who served from 1961 until he was assassinated on November 22, 1963.

☺ IT'S A GIRL! ☺ IT'S A BOY!

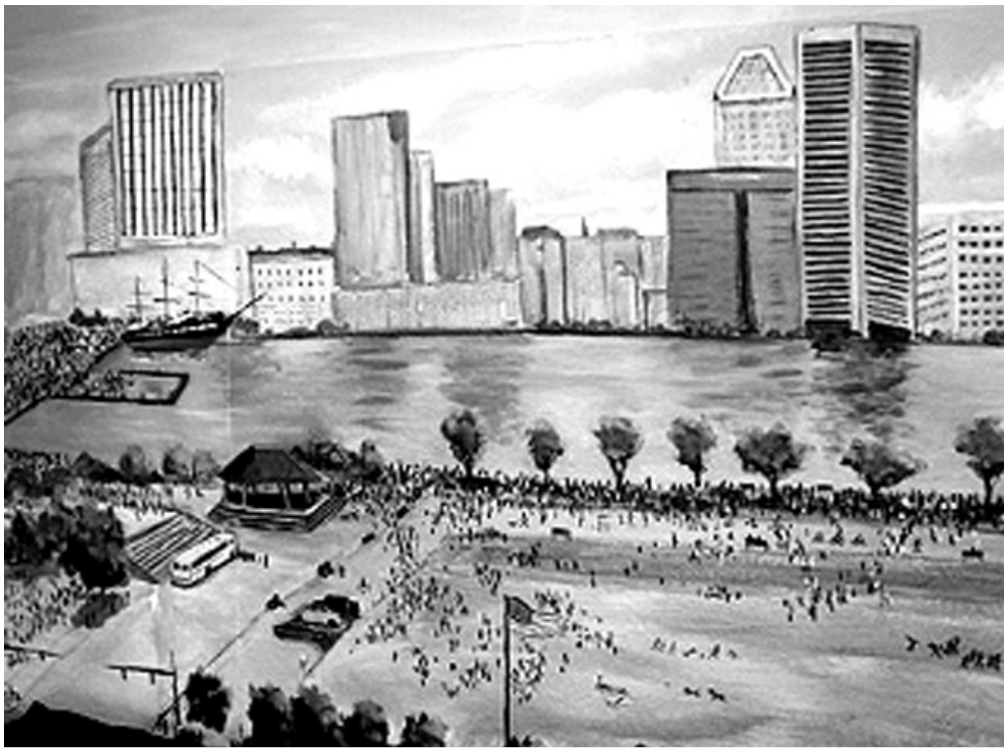
☺Kwabe is a big brother! **Kofi-Marcelino Juan Osei** was born on January 23, 2009 and weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. Congratulations to Patricia, Tony and Kwabe!

☺Bowen is a big brother! **Anya Claire Valery** was born on February 12, 2009 and weighed 6 lbs. 7.5 oz. Congratulations to Dana, Ernst and Bowen!

☺Alexander is a big brother! **Josephine Nekimken Mahn** was born on February 26, 2009 and weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. Congratulations to Danielle, Gayle and Alexander!

☺Teacher Krystle Beckett is a mom! **Nysean Westly Beckett** was born on March 5, 2009 and weighed 2 lbs. 8 oz. Congratulations to Krystle and Grandma Jackie!

Part of the colorful new mural in the University Center library painted by DBCC parent, Kirk Seese (www.bbmurals.com)



Gabriela and Isla playing hand games in the infant room

Avery and Santiago Upside Down

Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance

Have you heard about the Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance (DBFA)? It is a new grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of families who choose to call downtown Baltimore home.

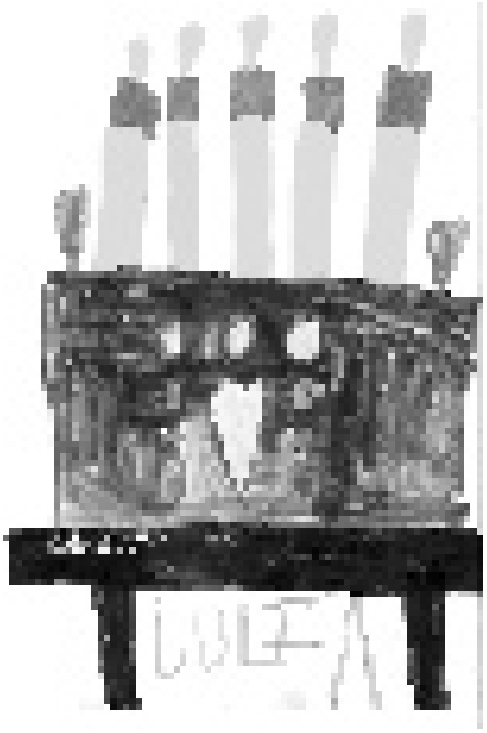
Propelled by the belief that thriving, connected families are key to vibrant communities, DBFA fosters and promotes family life in Baltimore's city center.

As an independent, nonprofit alliance, DBFA partners with local government, business, and nonprofit organizations to develop family-wise programs and policies, including initiatives for strong public schools and early childhood programs, enhanced public safety and environmental quality, and expanded recreational and cultural opportunities.

DBFA further endeavors to cultivate community by connecting families with one another and with the resources to take full advantage of life in downtown Baltimore.

Please visit DBFA's website to learn more: www.dbfam.org.

DBCC's new T-shirt design
by Sadie Dodds, age 4



Julia's Birthday Cake by Isabel Wu-Karr, age 5

Taking Care of Babies

By Denise Miller

I love to keep children.
I love to hold the infants close and to kiss them.
I love the feeling of being needed and
I love the instant gratification of a warm look
they give,
The smiles and giggles,
And the way they close their eyes
When held close as if to say,
"I can sleep now,
And I can go to sleep
Because I feel safe with you."

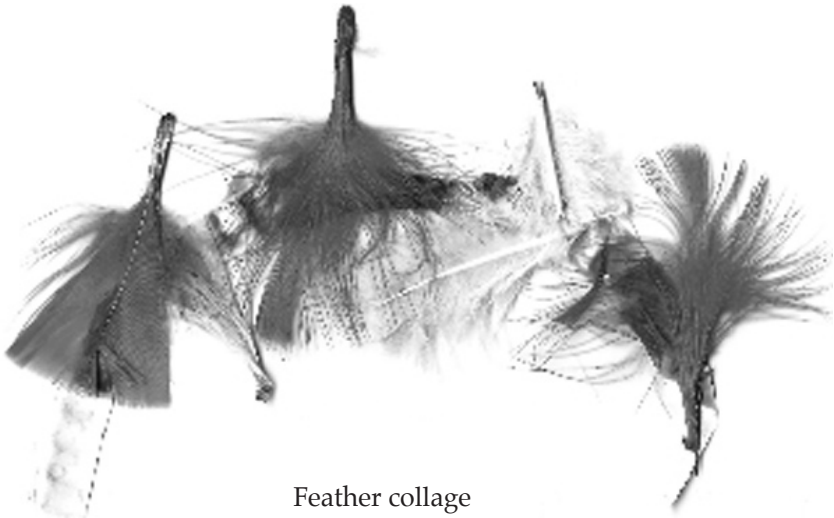
A tired looking woman walked into the Park Avenue center one afternoon. She had finally found a job but she needed child care for her two-year-old son. There was space for her son but when she asked about the monthly tuition tears started rolling down her cheek. "I can't afford this. You know, I have hopes and dreams for my child. How can he reach his potential when I can't even afford good child care? What about my son's hopes and dreams?" Luckily, DBCC had some money for scholarships and this child received financial aid and stayed at the center until he left for kindergarten.

High quality child care is expensive but Ron Lally, WestEd's Co-Director of the Center of Child & Family Studies worries about the "damage" done to young children – especially infants - who are enrolled in over-crowded centers with understaffed and minimally trained teachers.

All children deserve the highest quality child care and serving an economically diverse population is a part of DBCC's mission. Every child deserves access to early care and education and 97% of those children who attend high quality child care are ready for kindergarten.

DBCC

DBCC's tuition only covers 90% of the costs of child care. The other 10% needs to be raised through fundraisers. By donating to DBCC or attending the 25th Anniversary Spring Fling you are helping DBCC provide financial aid and equal access to quality early care and education for all of Baltimore's children.



Feather collage
by Kayla Robeson, age 5

Lightbulb
by Jordan Brown, age 4

Saturday, March 28th, 2009

6:00 P.M. - 10:00 p.m.

Join us at the stunning **Silo Point and Sky Lounge.**

- ***Light fare & wine***
- ***Music by Delta Connection Trio featuring musicians from the popular Mambo Combo***
- ***SILENT AUCTION***

Tickets purchased before March 28, $40 per person, $75 per couple
Tickets purchased at the door: $45 per person, $85 per couple

Silo Point and Sky Lounge. 1700 Beason St.,
Baltimore MD 21230
(entrance on Steuart St.) • Free Parking • www.silopoint.com

Event sponsors include Turner Development Group

Downtown Baltimore Child Care, Inc.
806 Park Avenue
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Childhood should be a journey, not a race.