



A Message from the President

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe ten years has gone by since we opened our first Rainbow Academy in Iselin. Sometimes it feels like yesterday that I was retiring early from Bell Atlantic with 25 years of service.

My wife, Julia, and I were eager to start the next chapter in our lives by forming a family business that we would love and nurture as we built our dream to work with and someday pass on to our sons: Lou, Guy Jr. and David.

From the first day, our vision was to provide children with exceptional love and care in an educational home away from home atmosphere. As parents, we understood how hard it would be for others to leave their precious children while they worked, so we strived to make parents comfortable and welcome with our open door policy.

Finally, we knew that along with offering a warm atmosphere where a quality learning program was fun, the key was to hire people who would love the children in their care, like their own. Our employees would be an extension of our family while receiving unprecedented benefits offered in the childcare community.

Ten years later, I am proud to say we have those same goals and are still eager to exceed the expectations of the families in our care. Currently, we have eight centers throughout NJ and will continue to grow while keeping all of the principles we started with.

As always, I thank all of the families past and present who have helped to make Rainbow Academy so special.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Guy Falzarano
President & CEO



ISELIN CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

Our first Rainbow Academy celebrated their 10 year anniversary in November. Excited children, parents and staff attended a pot luck dinner, played carnival games and enjoyed a rainbow of cupcakes. The highlight of the event was a spectacular concert put on by Mr. RAY (composer and singer of "Rainbow Academy. The Place to Be.")

Congratulations to Cole Simon (and his parents of the Goldfish class for winning the free tuition raffle!



What is it?

In 2001, the Rainbow Academy Child Care Centers formed a separate, non-profit called "The Rainbow Foundation" with one primary goal: *Contribute to the health, education and overall well being of children.* Rainbow Academy corporate offices donates all of the administrative costs so that all of the money raised is available for distribution to local and national children's charities and families in need.

The Rainbow Academy Foundation, a 501c non-profit organization whose mission is to help parents connect with their children. Grants are available for grants:

Family Education (Book programs, Sign Language Classes for a family member of a deaf child, etc.)

Family Health & Well Being (Medical costs, Family and Child Therapy, Hearing Aids, etc.)

Family Planning (Adoption, In-Vitro, Fertility expenses)



Rainbow Dreams (Vacations for a child with terminal illnesses, Travel Expenses for Adoption, Making dreams come true!)

Look for continuous updates on a regular basis. And, as always, we welcome your suggestions on what you would like to see included.

Who is eligible to receive a grant?

Families or programs located in the counties where there are Rainbow Academy centers, can apply for a grant. To do so, visit www.rainbowacademy.com, fill out an application and submit it for review. Applicant must be "sponsored" by a Rainbow Academy parent, staff or investor. If you have any questions, please contact foundation@rainbowacademy.com

What's New UNDER THE RAINBOW?

Our new website is launched!

We are proud and excited to announce the launch of our new website, rainbowacademy.com. It has a great new look, is user-friendly, educational, fun and filled with valuable information! Here are a few of the NEW features:

Rainbow Resources -

- o Helpful Links (Websites on Parenting, Early Childhood Education, Family Resources, etc.)
- o Rainbow Recipe Exchange
- o Fun for Kids (On-line coloring book)
- o Rainbow Newsletter
- o At-Home Learning Tools (Reading Readiness resources, Sign Language chart)

Show Me A Rainbow Day -

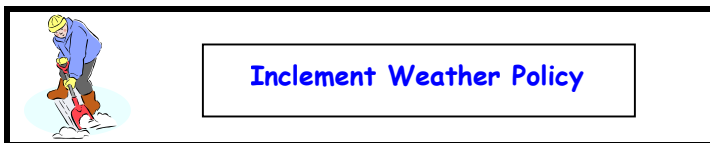
- o Developmental Milestones
- o Rainbow Academy curriculum

Locations -

- o Virtual Tours of all of our centers
- o Announcement "Stickies" for each center

IMPORTANT: The login for ParentView has changed. To log into your account, simply go to the website, www.rainbowacademy.com and follow the instructions:

- o Go to "Parent Login" (this is the button on the lower left-hand side of the home page)
- o Select your center location
- o Login as usual



Every effort is made to stay open for our families. The primary concern is for the safety of the staff since our early morning openings require them to travel often before snowplows have cleared the roads. If it is necessary to close the center, we will post information on the homepage of our website and on each center's telephone voice-mail by 6:00 a.m. Please recognize that closing the center is never an easy decision to make and not taken lightly.

Recipe Contest WINNERS



Special thanks to everyone who submitted either a child friendly recipe for an apple dish or any other family favorite recipe.

Congrats to winners of the Toys R Us gift cards!

1st place \$100 - Apple Bars - Clare Vo-Schneider, Brick
 2nd place \$75 - Pork Tenderloin with Spiced Apple Chutney - Dawn Avagliano-Schumacher, Rutherford
 3rd place \$50- Apple A Day - Karen Carey-Lynch, Cranford

Don't miss the Rainbow Recipe Exchange on our new website.

Cold Weather Reminders

Brrr!! It's starting to get cold outside. At Rainbow Academy, we believe fresh air and outdoor play are an important part of your child's day. Please help us to keep your child comfortable both inside and outdoors by doing the following:

1. Update your child's extra clothing, so that they are ready for cooler temperatures. Extra



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clothing should consist of at least one complete outfit (underpants and undershirt, long sleeve shirt, warm pants, and socks.)

2. The weather changes throughout the day so please make sure your child has the appropriate outer wear including a warm jacket, hat, gloves or mittens and scarf.
3. Label all clothing permanently (marker or label). Having your child's name on items will more likely prevent loss and ensure a quicker return. This will also help prevent spread of germs as the right child has the right gloves and hat.
4. If your child doesn't feel well enough to participate in the activities, it might be a good idea for him to take the day off. In order to maintain classroom child/teacher ratios, staff members cannot stay inside with a child. (Details in the Parent Handbook under Outdoor Policy.)

Remember: Always feel free to speak with your child's teacher and you are always welcome to stop by the office to speak with a director.

Share the magic of READING!

One of the best ways to encourage early literacy and the love of reading is to *read to your child*. In each newsletter, we will introduce you to one of our favorite children's books. We hope you and your child enjoy our warm recommendations as much as we do.

The Polar Express - By Chris Van Allsburg
One Christmas Eve not so long ago a boy leapt from his bed on to The Polar Express, a magical journey to the North Pole! The pictures along with fabulous writing bring you to a place so many of us have dreamed of.

Believers will be thrilled with what the humble boy asks Santa for when he can ask for anything.

The Polar Express can be used as a learning tool for many educational activities:

Language: Pre-read the story by looking at the pictures. After reading discuss where you would like to take a magical journey and what you would ask Santa for.

Math: Count and compare the reindeer

Science, Music and Motor: Enjoy shaking bells and discuss whether it is a loud or soft sound.

Art: Draw a picture of your own journey on The Polar Express. Write down how your child describes his or her picture. This will become a keepsake that you and your child will treasure for years to come.

A Key to Continuous Improvement! Staff Training

Before Labor Day weekend, the staff of all eight Rainbow Academy centers met for a full day of seminars and learning. Topics included:

- ~Positive Discipline
- ~Stress Relievers for Educators
- ~Developing Strong Parent Relationships
- ~Communicating with Co-Workers
- ~Maximizing Your Time
- ~Developmental Need by Age Group



Ask the Expert

At Rainbow Academy, we are here to support our parents and answer your questions about everything from early child development to education. Visit the "Ask Bernadette" blog on rainbowacademy.com and your questions will be answered by Bernadette, a former Pre-K Teacher and Center Director. Following is a recent article that can be found on the blog:

My Child Is Sick. What Should I Do?

Excerpts from "A Winter Guide to Keeping Your Child Healthy"
By: Bernadette Tardio Liaison, Rainbow Academy

Keeping your children and our staff healthy is extremely important to us. Our policies and procedures are especially important to note at this time of year.

Our guidelines for daily cleaning and sanitizing of our rooms are enforced - including toys. In addition to our ongoing practices, our cleaning service comes every night and uses safe, "green" products. Fresh air purifiers and circulators are at work killing mold,



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mildew, bacteria and even airborne germs while improving the overall air quality. Finally, handwashing is the most important factor in reducing the spread of germs and therefore, emphasized for all - teachers, caregivers, children and parents.

Together with the help of our parents, we can reduce the incidences of illness in our schools. While it is a constant struggle balancing an ill child's needs with job responsibilities and commitments, it is equally important that parents are able to discern when a child should stay at home or be seen by a doctor.

Prevention is the key!

- Sleep is extremely important in helping ward off illness and speeds the recuperation period.
- Dress your children adequately. Several thin layers will keep them dry and warm.
- Reinforce the proper hygiene being taught in school, such as frequent and thorough hand washing. Wash your hands before picking up your child and have older children in the household wash hands when they get home from school.
- Inform your child's teacher if you gave her any medication before school.
- Tell your child's teacher about a new diet or if a particular food could cause stomach problems.

"My child is sick. What do I do?"

- Listen to your child especially if they are unusually irritable or complain about not feeling well enough to go to school.
- Back-up Plan - If your child is sick at school and needs to come home, develop a back-up plan if you can't pick her up within an hour. Perhaps a neighbor or relative can watch the little one.
- Sick Care - Many major companies today have trusted services that provide in-home back-up care for a sick child, spouse and even elder care. Check with your HR department to see if your company has this plan. If not, request that they investigate contracting a vendor such as LifeCare.

- Save your days - If you can stockpile a couple of sick days or vacation days in case you need to stay home with your child, it will give you some peace of mind in an emergency.

Some reminders about our Sick Policy - (see your Parent Handbook for details)

- Do NOT send your child to school if he has severe pain or a temperature above 101.5 degrees, or has any flu-like symptoms, such as vomiting, a sore throat and severe coughing. Other ailments, such as acute diarrhea, yellow eyes with discharge, infected, untreated skin patches, rapid breathing, skin lesions that are weeping or bleeding, and blood in the urine, calls for an immediate visit to a pediatrician.
- If your child has been prescribed an antibiotic, they must have been treated for 24 hours before returning to school.
- If your child was sent home with a fever, they must be fever-free for 24 hrs. before returning.
- Children returning to school after an illness from a contagious disease must bring a doctor's note.
- Never send your sick child to school with over-the-counter or prescription medication not accompanied by a prescription. Staff will NOT be able to administer any medicine without a current authorization from your child's doctor.

**Sick children should always be seen by a doctor.

Whether this winter brings severe storms, light dustings or just cold temperatures, I hope these tips will help keep your child safe, warm and healthy. And, perhaps, give you a little peace of mind.

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!



Schools are closed

Christmas - Mon. Dec. 24th and Tues. Dec. 25th
New Year's - Dec. 31st and Tues., Jan. 1st