



Pitter Patter Learning Center

Contact Information

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Child Care Facility Name	Pitter Patter Learning Center
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Description

Pitter Patter Learning Center / Kiddie Academy of Phoenixville is a center – type program. Currently we serve 111 children, averaging about 85 children each day. We serve a local community and are trying to instill good nutrition and an atmosphere of service for our young children. Because of this, we raise garden beds for our own use and donate to local food banks. Along with furthering the education of our families and staff, it has promoted an amazing atmosphere of health and well-being at the center.

Keystone STARS Level 2

Category

Foods and Beverages provided during snacks, meals, or celebrations – N1 Fruits and Vegetables, N8 Nutrition Education for Staff, Children, and Parents

Goal

Our goal is to create an enriched environment that fosters nutrition and health for all students, staff, and parents.

Promising Practice

Our center opened as Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution first started. As we were designing our center, it became clear that our principles of healthy food were integral to what we wanted to achieve at the center. Due to that, we decided to have a kitchen that provided breakfast, lunch, and a snack to our children, but avoided processed foods. We wanted our meals to be cooked from scratch and fed family style. Over the course of the past few months we have been able to take this mission to the next level. With the help of Chester County Food Bank and Food for All, children planted raised garden beds. We built them from scratch and planted fruits and vegetables. These are cared for by the children, used in science exploration and nutrition education, and used in food preparation. We are splitting the proceeds of the garden with the local food bank.

Action Steps

- Agree to make nutrition a program priority.
- Access local resources for free, low cost services, or volunteer services and collaboration.
- Involve the children in implementation. Children assisted with constructing the garden beds, as well as planting seeds, caring for the plants, and harvesting when the plants are ready.
- Involve parents - our chef presented her tricks for using fresh ingredients to families.

Materials

Item Purchased	Cost of Item
Garden Hose	\$25.00
Sprinkler for Garden	\$6.25
Large Shovel	\$21.98
Garden Tools Pack	\$10.00
Watering Cans	\$5.00
Health Presentation for PTA & Staff	\$50.00

Advice

Dream big and realize that there are always ways to make changes happen! It is just a matter of finding the right steps. If you set high standards for your center and staff, they will reach the objectives as long as they are done in an encouraging and exciting way.

Evidence of Success

Every day our parents discuss the food program. New clients walk in the door knowing our reputation for having an amazing food program that believes in fresh food, vegetables, and fruits. The center is buzzing with excitement as the new gardens are flourishing and parents are inspired to change their own lives at home. The combination of education, energy, passion, and nutrition has created a new fresh standard at our childcare center.