**Important Dates**

**June**
- 13...Spring Session Ends
- 15...Father’s Day

**July**
- 1-4...CDC Closed
- 7...Summer Session Begins
- 7...Play Group
- 14...Play Group
- 21...Play Group
- 28...Play Group

**August**
- 4...Play Group
- 8...Summer Session Ends
- 11-30...CDC Closed

**September**
- 1...CDC Closed
- 2...Fall Session Begins
- 19...Cuisine de Vin

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**Tips to Keep Children Safe All Summer Long**

Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer — a time of playground fun, camping, swimming, and other outdoor activities. When kids are outdoors, their sense of adventure and curiosity soars, which can, unfortunately, lead to a higher risk of injuries. Here are some tips to help your family safely enjoy all the fun summer has in store. Some may seem obvious, but when it comes to child safety, you can never have too many reminders to avoid becoming complacent.

**Drive with care.** Teach your children to buckle up every time they get into a car, regardless of the length of the car ride. Buckling children in age-/size-appropriate car seats, booster seats, and seat belts dramatically reduces the risk of serious and fatal injuries.

- Check around your parked car for children before you pull away. Teach children to be aware of moving vehicles and to wait in safe areas where drivers can see them.
- Accompany young children when they get in and out of a vehicle. Hold their hands when walking near moving vehicles, and in driveways and parking lots.

**Mowing matters.** While it may seem like just a common household tool, thousands of children are injured in lawn mower accidents each year, some severely.

- Teach children to never play on or around a lawn mower, even when it is not in use. They should never be permitted to walk alongside, in front of, or behind a moving mower.
- Children under age 6 should be kept inside the home while mowing.

**Fire safety simplified.** Teach kids never to play with matches, gasoline, lighter fluid, or lighters. Make a habit of placing these items up and away from young children.

- Do not leave children unattended near grills, campfires, fire pits, or bonfires. Always have a bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby when burning fires.

**Make a safe splash.** Designate a “lifeguard.” Always pick at least one responsible adult to monitor children at all times.

- Know CPR: Before investing in a pool, be sure to take a CPR class. The faster CPR can be administered to a person in distress, the stronger the long-term outcome.
- Enroll kids in swimming lessons: Teach the skill of swimming to children at a young age. Enroll kids in classes to learn the basics and avoid accidents.
Center Leadership

Since 1977, the CDC has been lead by a group of devoted and trusted volunteer Board of Directors. These individuals bring with them a wealth of knowledge and life experiences which helps to support the mission and vision of the center.

If you are interested in applying to the Board, please contact Cathryn Tames at cathyt@childrensdc.org.

Board of Directors:
Jenny Briones, Chair
Michael Dinius, Vice Chair
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Betsy McCarthy, Speech & Language Pathologist
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Malory Torres, Finance Director
Diane Turney, Development Director
Nancy Whitcomb, Office Manager

Proud Supporter of the Children’s Developmental Center

Jen Briones
Board of Directors, Chair

My story began almost 13 years ago, when my daughter was referred to the Children’s Developmental Center for therapy services. I was immediately impressed with the staff and services provided by CDC. Their knowledge and the way they care about the children was beyond my expectations. Many of the staff quickly became like family, and 13 years later, they still are.

I knew early on that I wanted to become more involved and help to ensure the services available to my daughter, were available to other children for many years to come. Within a year I joined the board of directors and began coordinating volunteers for a number of fundraising events. It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of this very special organization.

For the last 37 years, the CDC has strived to provide quality services and ensure that all children receive the help they need to live a full and productive life. This year was no different. We were able to serve over 600 children and form many new partnerships within the community, most recently with The Carson Kolzig Foundation. It has been a fun and exciting year for CDC and we look forward to next year being even better.

Autism in Aquatics at Ken Serier Memorial Pool

Introduce your child on the autism spectrum to the water in a safe, calm, and fun environment. The Autism in Aquatics class at the Ken Serier Memorial Pool in Kennewick is limited to 5 participants and their in-water caregivers and is held in the training tank so that all class members can touch the bottom.

A variety of tools will be used to help introduce basic water safety information to participants and the caregivers, so that practicing on their own time can be continued in a relaxed and easy fashion.

Classes are offered in a Friday/Saturday format from 12:00 noon—12:45 PM each day. Cost is $17.00 Kennewick Residents and $25.00 for non-residents.

Dates: June 20 & 21; 27 & 28 July 11 & 12; 18 & 19 August 1 & 2; 8 & 9

More information can be found at: www.active.com/kennewick-wa/water-sports/swimming-classes/swim-lessons-autism-2014
Tracie Winkelman Earns Parent Leadership Award

In May, Tracie Winkelman, one of the CDC’s Certified Teachers, was honored at the Infant and Early Childhood Conference in Olympia, WA. Based upon outstanding leadership related to early intervention programs, Tracie was one of only two in the State to be recognized. While Tracie is quick to credit others, she was very instrumental in the development of the Down syndrome Association of the Mid-Columbia. She exemplifies their mission “to enhance the lives of individuals with Down syndrome by providing support, resources and information to families and community members, and by promoting heightened awareness and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome.”

Congratulations, Tracie! We are so proud of you!

Photo Left to Right: Kathryn Miller, Maria Castellano, Sam Kerwick, Renee Schaefer, Tracie Winkelman, Teresa Brown, and Michelle Hergesheimer

iPads...yet another tool teachers and therapists can use to motivate kiddos

Our teachers and therapists are excited at the prospect of adding another element to their therapy sessions. Using this technology, teachers and therapists can help the children they work with that have fine motor, cognitive, articulation, and language delays. “New applications are appearing almost daily that assist our students develop their skills,” states Betsy McCarthy, Speech & Language Pathologist. “Finding ways to engage and motive the kiddos and their families is essential to their progress. Incorporating iPads is just another tool we can use to help them reach their full potential.”

The staff at the Children’s Developmental Center realizes, when it comes to helping children, one size does not fit all. While iPads may not be used with all children we serve, they can be a powerful tool for some. The Center is very grateful to the Three Rivers Community Foundation for their support and funding to purchase the iPads.
Is baby sign language worthwhile?
Answers from Jay L. Hoecker, M.D., The Mayo Clinic

Baby sign language — when babies use modified gestures from American Sign Language — can be an effective communication tool. Teaching and practicing baby sign language also can be fun and give you and your child an opportunity to bond.

Limited research suggests that baby sign language might give a typically developing child a way to communicate several months earlier than those who only use vocal communication. This might help ease frustration between ages 8 months and 2 years — when children begin to know what they want, need and feel but don’t necessarily have the verbal skills to express themselves. Children who have developmental delays might benefit, too. Further research is needed, however, to determine if baby sign language promotes advanced language, literacy, or cognition.

To begin teaching your child baby sign language, familiarize yourself with signs through books, websites or other sources. To get the most out of your baby sign language experience, keep these tips in mind:

- **Set realistic expectations.** Feel free to start signing with your child at any age — but remember that most children aren’t able to communicate with baby sign language until about age 8 months.
- **Keep signs simple.** Start with signs to describe routine requests, activities and objects in your child’s life — such as more, drink, eat, mother and father. Choose signs that are of most interest to your child.
- **Make it interactive.** Try holding your baby on your lap, with his or her back to your stomach. Embrace your baby’s arms and hands to make signs. Or carry your baby and make the sign on his or her body. Alternate talking and not talking while signing. To give signs context, try signing while bathing, diapering, feeding or reading to your baby. Acknowledge and encourage your child when he or she uses gestures or signs to communicate.
- **Stay patient.** Don’t get discouraged if your child uses signs incorrectly or doesn’t start using them right away. The goal is improved communication and reduced frustration — not perfection. However, avoid accepting indiscriminate movements as signs.

Keep in mind that, as you teach baby sign language, it’s important to continue talking to your child. Spoken communication is an important part of your child’s speech development. As your child’s speech develops, they may stop using the signs to communicate.
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2014
Time: 5:30—7:30 PM
Place: Children’s Developmental Center
1549 Georgia Ave., Richland, WA
RSVP: 735.1062 x241 (Miss Sam)

Please join us for a fun night of pizza, arts & crafts, and a read aloud to celebrate the beginning of summer. Thanks to the Mid-Columbia Reading Foundation, each child will receive a free book to take home! This program is open to all children who are receiving services through the Center and their families. Please call today to register your child for this free and fun evening.

Here is a bookmark cut-out to start your fun family summer reading!

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Jan Hansens...Happy Retirement and Here’s to You!

There are certain people in our lives who just make the world a better place. They give us hope and raise our spirits simply by being the kind of people they are. Some people stand up and champion a cause, or provide the spark, or defy the odds, or do the right thing simply because it’s right. They don’t really worry about fame or acclaim, they just think about being good friends, good neighbors, good people. We don’t say it often enough, but we are grateful to have these people in our midst. Jan — THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU!

After 5 years of dedication to the Children’s Developmental Center as the Development Director, Jan retired and can now spend more time spoiling her adorable grandchildren and husband, John. Don’t worry about not seeing her, Jan has graciously offered to volunteer at future fundraising events.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your friendship, your commitment, and your continued support.

Congratulations, Jan!
HELP MUSHTAQ GET A LEG UP!

Fundraising yard sale

Family Friendly Entertainment!

JUNE 21 • 8a-3p

CHILDREN’S CENTER PARKING LOT OFF FOWLER ST. IN RICHLAND

Columbia Center Rotary is organizing a yard sale to raise money for a new prosthetic leg for Mushtaq Jihad, a local Iraqi refugee injured in an explosion (read Mushtaq’s story on the back). An online auction featuring higher-value items also will be held as part of this effort.

Donations of auction and yard sale items* are being accepted at:

- 5/28-6/18 @ The Vault Storage, 1550 Fowler
  Wed, 5p-7p, and Sat, 9a-11a
- After 6/12 @ The Children’s Center, 8a-5p

For more information, call 736-2306, email yardsale5080@yahoo.com or visit www.youcaring.com/mushtaq2.

*Mattresses or old computers will not be accepted. Donated appliances must be in working order.

Financial donations can also be made to the family.

For details, visit www.youcaring.com/mushtaq2.
Mushtaq’s last name is Jihad, a name that carries a lot of political context in our society, especially after 9/11. But stripped of its political context the word’s meaning is absolutely fitting for Mushtaq. It means “to struggle with all one’s might towards God.”

Mushtaq is an Iraqi refugee who lives in Richland, WA, with his wife and four beautiful daughters. Before he moved here, Mushtaq was a successful business owner in Baghdad, Iraq, operating four electronics stores. His wife, Adela, was a bank manager. They were well-off by Iraqi standards. This made him a target for an Iraqi organized crime/terrorist group, who in 2005 kidnapped Mushtaq and held him for ransom. For eight hours Mushtaq was brutally beaten and threatened while the terrorists called his wife with demands of money in exchange for Mushtaq’s life. By some miracle, Mushtaq was left unattended for a two hour period and managed to free himself from the restraints. He went directly to the police station where American forces also congregated. After hearing of his experience, the Americans went with Mushtaq to the place he’d been detained. There they found a cache of weapons and corpses in the building.

For the next two years Mushtaq and his family lived in continuous fear of the terrorists that had kidnapped him. Each time they found Mushtaq they would beat him and extort him for money and possessions. They repeatedly threatened to kill Mushtaq for being an alleged American informant, and Mushtaq repeatedly relocated his family to avoid them.

On April 2, 2007, Mushtaq and Adela welcomed their third child and first son. Eight days later, at 10:00 am Mushtaq left his wife and two daughters at home while he took their son to the hospital to receive treatment for jaundice. Upon exiting the building, a masked man detonated an explosive device near Mushtaq and his son. The blast killed Mushtaq’s son and took Mushtaq’s leg, and Mushtaq was left for dead in the street. No one came to their aid, which is not unusual in a war zone. At 3:00 pm, the terrorist group returned to confirm that Mushtaq was dead. Upon discovering he was still alive, they shot Mushtaq four times in the chest and threw him in a dumpster along with his son.

Mushtaq was in a coma for the next two months and has no recollection of the period. When he regained consciousness, he was told that a neighbor had helped his wife and daughters escape from the building and that they were staying with family. While he recovered in the hospital, the same group of Americans came to talk with Mushtaq. They conducted a background check to make sure he was not a criminal. Once it cleared, he was given a choice to move either Australia, Canada, or the U.S. Mushtaq chose the U.S. because he was grateful for the help he’d received from the American forces in Iraq. He has been in the Tri-Cities ever since.

Several months ago Mushtaq was diagnosed with leukemia. With his trademark indomitable spirit he refuses to be slowed by this most recent setback. He is currently receiving chemotherapy treatments even as he continues to rehabilitate his leg and associated ailments.

Since he lost his leg, Mushtaq has had several sub-optimal prosthetic limbs. With a top-quality leg, it is very likely that he will be able to work and better support his family. This is his greatest wish. Please consider a donation to help Mushtaq get a leg up!
THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU
SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS & GOLFERS!!!!

We wish to thank all who helped make the 25th Annual Golf Tournament a huge success. Held at the beautiful Canyon Lakes Golf Course, together we raised over $45,000.00 for the Center. Those funds directly support the programs and services we offer to children with developmental delays.

Save the Date
Friday
September 19, 2014
7:00 -10:00 PM
Join us at
Terra Blanca Winery & Estate Vineyard

Enjoy regional culinary delights paired with Red Mountain wines from the esteemed Terra Blanca Winery & Estate Vineyard, Hedges Family Estate, Kiona Vineyards, and Market Vineyard, live Rock-n-Roll music by LEAD FOOT, silent auction, a mystery wine raffle, and much more!

All proceeds benefit the Children’s Developmental Center

$60 per person/$70 at door
For tickets, email dianet@childrensdc.org or call 509.735.1062 x 281