

Dear ECC Parents,

As a parent of a Little Star, one of the pastors of Claremont UCC, and as the church staff liaison to the Early Childhood Center Board, I am writing to inform you of the 2010-2011 tuition increase of five percent. You are likely thinking – how can tuition go up when I have not had an increase in my salary this year? How can tuition go up when I or my partner has lost a job and/or hours? How can tuition go up when our housing market is crashing? How can tuition go up when it is abundantly clear that we are living in difficult financial times? And, those who have been with the school for years now, how can tuition be going up *again*?

Yes, all of those things are true. But, while all of that is the case, the reality is also that expenses have been on the rise and the school is attempting to improve the quality of the school and the benefits of the teachers at the same time. In 09-10, tuition was raised \$10/child to cover nominal increases in utilities with the understanding that it was difficult financial times. This year, after much consideration, increases have been budgeted in the following areas:

- Increase from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for shared expenses with the Claremont United Church of Christ (covers financial bookkeeping, copiers, utilities for our infant/toddler and preschool classrooms, liability insurance, and more). This is an item that had not been increased in the last 9 years.
- Providing long-term disability insurance for our teachers
- Necessary increases in utilities for Grandma's House and Workers Comp insurance

Unfortunately, a 5% increase in tuition does not allow for an increase in salaries. But, it is every intention of the board to accomplish that next year.

So, while I know that a 5% increase in tuition will be a challenge for many of our families, please know that it is going to continuing the quality program that we all love here at ECC. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any of our Board Member parents (Trina Keil, Pauline Nash, Phyllis Epling, Rachael Ranney or our Director, Kristy Knight).

New tuition rates for the 2010-2011 school year are now available on the ECC website!!

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Early Childhood Center, its teachers, and the children of ECC!

Sincerely,

Iona Dickinson
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