Childcare Center Vs. Home Care: Which is the Best Option?

In today’s society, where most parents must work fulltime there is no other option than to have someone watch your child. One of the hardest decisions a parent may make is where to have their child when they are at work. Parents may not want to send their child to a childcare center but when you are doing something to benefit your child it may be an easier decision. There are many benefits for children by going to a high quality early care and education center.

Childcare Center Benefits:

- **Socially**
  Children benefit when they are surrounded by other children their age. They learn what is the right and wrong way to interact with their peers. When they start kindergarten, children who have been in childcare, are more inclined to make friends and becoming part of a group.

- **Emotionally**
  Young children have difficulty dealing with their emotions until they learn how to express themselves appropriately. When children are surrounded with other children their age, they learn how to share and play with others. Children may get frustrated or upset at situations, which can lead them to bite, hit or cry. When in childcare, they learn how to deal with their emotions, and rather than getting upset, they will talk about their problems.

- **Physically**
  Physical activity is extremely important for all children. Childcare centers take all children, from infants to preschool or kindergarten outdoors daily. Most childcare centers also offer different classes to ensure children are exercising. Some of these classes include, dance, dramatic play, and fitness.

- **Cognitively**
  Children learn best when they use age appropriate learning material. To ensure that each child attains their highest learning potential, they are placed into different classrooms based on age. High quality childcare centers use age appropriate toys, games, and activities to help each child learn and grow.

There are numerous advantages of having your child in a high quality childcare center. Helping to grow socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively are just a few benefits of childcare. High quality childcare focuses not only on providing a nurturing, safe, and clean environment, but also teaches children all different aspects of early learning and helps them thrive and grow.
The Learning Experience® (TLE) academic programs begin in September and end in June. Summer Camp sessions start at the beginning of July and run through the end of August. Summertime at TLE is always an adventure in fun. Emphasis is placed on hands-on experiences involving nature and exploration.

Summer programming is structured around two programs: Cub Camp™ for our littlest campers and Kid Kamp™ for preschoolers through age eight.

Summer Camp

Each week brings surprises!

• There are sing-a-longs, live performances from puppeteers, musicians and costumed characters.
• Our children love playing on special apparatus erected on our grounds such as a Balloon Typhoon and a Moon Walk.
• Science projects built around nature are a large part of camp activities. Children participate in growing vegetable gardens, creating butterfly habitats and ladybug lodges.
• Live exotic creatures visit with their handlers.
• Favorite theme days include Beach Party Day, Olympic Day and Carnival Day.
• Campers participate in sports, games and relay races.
• They enjoy snow cones, watermelon and other refreshing summer treats.
• Additional activities include incredible arts and crafts, wacky water play, carnival games, pony rides, physical fitness, music, dance and dramatic play.

*Summer programming & activities may vary by location

Club House For Kids:
Ask about our weekly Summer Camp fieldtrips offered at our Concord and Livingston Centers!
Solve the Spring Crossword Puzzle by using the clues below.

Across:
2. It is fun to see the first _______ bloom in Spring.
8. In Spring, you can see ___________ fluttering from flower to flower.
10. Kids look forward to playing outside in Spring when the temperature is _______.
11. It is nice to see plants become _______ in color during the Spring.
12. Spring is a good time for planting _______.

Down:
1. If you _______ tulips in fall, they will bloom early in Spring.
3. __________ appear on flowers and trees before they bloom in Spring.
4. It is interesting to watch a flower grow and _______ in Spring.
5. In Spring, the _______ warms the ground and shines on plants to help them grow.
6. Some _______ migrate to warmer places when it is cold and return again in Spring when it is warm.
7. Spring is when the _______ begins to grow quickly and lawns need to be mowed more often.
9. There is plenty of sunshine in Spring, but there is also _______ to help plants grow.

Sudoku

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+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 9 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
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+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 4 | 9 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 9 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
| 8 | 9 | 5 |
+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+---+
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Did you know most TLE events are open to the community? This means that even if your child(ren) do not attend a TLE center they can still participate in the fun-filled activities such as those mentioned below. Call the center nearest you. For further information come visit us on the web at www.thelearningexperience.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date of Event</th>
<th>Time of Event</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concord, MA</td>
<td>Black Party/Lemonade stand, hotdogs, hamburgers, raffles &amp; much more!!!</td>
<td>5/19/2010</td>
<td>11am to 2pm</td>
<td>(978) 341-0601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord, MA</td>
<td>Join us in the kickoff to Concord's 375th Birthday Celebration at Emerson Field in Concord!!! Including a baseball game, flea market, carnival rides, 50/50 raffle, train rides, and much more!!!</td>
<td>5/16/2010</td>
<td>Gates Open at 10 am</td>
<td>(978) 371-9515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Brunswick, NJ</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>5/15/2010</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>(732) 432-7605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough, NJ</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>5/22/2010</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>(908) 369-9604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledgewood, NJ</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>5/22/2010</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>(973) 927-1646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledgewood, NJ</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>6/12/2010</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>(973) 927-1646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston, NJ</td>
<td>Open House/ Ice Cream Social/Scholastic Book Fair</td>
<td>5/7/2010</td>
<td>5pm to 7pm</td>
<td>(973) 422-1030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston, NJ</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>5/15/2010</td>
<td>11am to 2pm</td>
<td>(973) 422-1030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston, NJ</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>6/17/2010</td>
<td>7pm to 9pm</td>
<td>(973) 422-1030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manalapan, NJ</td>
<td>Dinner and a Movie</td>
<td>5/15/2010</td>
<td>5pm to 10pm</td>
<td>(732) 452-0635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manalapan, NJ</td>
<td>Baby Shower with The Breeze  Radio Station at the Monmouth County Mall</td>
<td>5/16/2010</td>
<td>11am to 3pm</td>
<td>(732) 452-0635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manalapan, NJ</td>
<td>Memorial Day Celebration</td>
<td>5/29/2010</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>(732) 462-0035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manalapan, NJ</td>
<td>Summer Camp Kick off Luau</td>
<td>6/25/2010</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>(732) 462-0035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matawan, NJ</td>
<td>Mommy and Me Tea</td>
<td>5/7/2010</td>
<td>Morning Drop Off and Evening Pick Up</td>
<td>(732) 290-2591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matawan, NJ</td>
<td>National Chicken Dance Day (Chickens Dance Elmo will visit all the classroom)</td>
<td>5/14/2010</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>(732) 290-2591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matawan, NJ</td>
<td>Parent's Night Out</td>
<td>5/21/2010</td>
<td>6pm-10pm</td>
<td>(732) 290-2591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matawan, NJ</td>
<td>Cookie Monster's Birthday Party</td>
<td>5/25/2010</td>
<td>Afternoon Snack time</td>
<td>(732) 290-2591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matawan, NJ</td>
<td>Breakfast to go</td>
<td>6/4/2010</td>
<td>Morning Drop Off</td>
<td>(732) 290-2591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matawan, NJ</td>
<td>Dad and me Date</td>
<td>6/18/2010</td>
<td>Morning Drop Off and Evening Pick Up</td>
<td>(732) 290-2591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matawan, NJ</td>
<td>Pajama Day</td>
<td>6/21/2010</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>(732) 290-2591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montvale, NJ</td>
<td>Grand Opening</td>
<td>5/15/2010</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>(201) 476-0200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montvale, NJ and Ramsey, NJ</td>
<td>Street Fair in Suffern, NY</td>
<td>6/13/2010</td>
<td>9am to 5pm</td>
<td>(201) 476-0200 or (201) 327-5200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsey, NJ</td>
<td>Open House/Open Fair</td>
<td>5/22/2010</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>(201) 476-5200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readington, NJ</td>
<td>BobbleMania Jr.</td>
<td>5/15/2010</td>
<td>Starts at 1pm</td>
<td>(908) 549-5577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering Heights, MI</td>
<td>Open Enrollment Night</td>
<td>5/13/2010</td>
<td>5:30pm to 7:30pm</td>
<td>(506) 566-4685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering Heights, MI</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>5/29/2010</td>
<td>10am to 1pm</td>
<td>(506) 566-4685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering Heights, MI</td>
<td>Open Enrollment Night</td>
<td>6/3/2010</td>
<td>5:30pm to 7:30pm</td>
<td>(506) 566-4685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering Heights, MI</td>
<td>Sterling Heights Library Preschool Fair</td>
<td>6/23/2010</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>(506) 566-4685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy, WI</td>
<td>Muffins for Mom – Mother's Day Celebration</td>
<td>5/7/2010</td>
<td>6:30am to 8:30am</td>
<td>(248) 267-9609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy, WI</td>
<td>3rd Day</td>
<td>5/22/2010</td>
<td>9:30am to 11:30am</td>
<td>(248) 267-9609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy, WI</td>
<td>Doughnuts for Dad</td>
<td>6/18/2010</td>
<td>6:30am to 8:30am</td>
<td>(248) 267-9609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne, NJ</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>5/22/2010</td>
<td>11am to 2pm</td>
<td>(873) 839-1515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne, NJ</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>6/5/2010</td>
<td>11am to 2pm</td>
<td>(873) 839-1515</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Choose The Learning Experience?

- Tuition Includes:
  - Enrichment Programs
  - Lunch Program
  - Phonics Program
- Convenient Hours of Operation:
  - Open from 6:30am-6:30pm
  - Only closed 7 days a year
- Parent Pleasers
- Over 30 years of experience in childcare

The Work and Family Experience Welcomes Our Newest Participating Centers:

- Richmond 4, VA
- Fredericksburg, VA
- Foxboro, MA

Participating centers not limited to the list above, please contact Kelly Simon at ksimon@tlecorp.com for more information about TLE and participating locations.

The Work and Family Experience® would like to ensure that THE LINK features articles of interest to you. If there is something you would like to learn more about or if you would like to share a story, craft, recipe etc. with us, please.

Send your comments to:
inquiries@workandfamilyexperience.com
Banana Butterfly Cupcake!!

FOR THE CUPCAKES:
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter, at room temperature
- 1-1/3 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 ripe bananas
- Assorted decorations: decorators’ icing, gumdrops, string licorice

FOR THE FROSTING:
- 3 cups confectioners’ sugar
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Food Coloring

Instructions
1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees and line a 12-cup muffin tin with baking cups. Use a dry measuring cup to measure the flour, then pour it into a small mixing bowl. Stir the baking powder and salt into the flour and set aside. (Tip: To measure flour precisely, your child should hold the full cup over the canister of flour and use the flat edge of a knife to level off the flour.)
2. In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs and stir in the vanilla extract. Add the flour and milk alternately, beginning and ending with the flour mixture, stirring well after each addition. Peel the bananas, place them in a separate small bowl, and have your child use a fork to mash them until smooth. Measure out 1 cup of mashed banana. Fold it into the cupcake batter until thoroughly combined.
3. Fill each muffin cup three quarters full. (You will have some excess batter.) Wipe off any spills with a paper towel. Bake the cupcakes for 20 to 25 minutes or until a knife inserted in the middle of one comes out clean. Cool in the muffin tin for 15 minutes and then transfer the cupcakes to a plate.
4. While the cupcakes are baking, make the cream cheese frosting. Cream together the sugar and cream cheese in a large bowl. When the mixture is smooth, beat in the vanilla extract. To tint the frosting, mix in a few drops of food coloring.
5. After the cupcakes have cooled, your child can use a plastic knife to slice the top off each one and then carefully cut each top in half. (Tip: To help prevent crumbling, make sure the cupcakes have completely cooled.) For each butterfly, frost the cut surface of the bottom of the muffin top, then arrange the two semicircles into wings on top (with the round sides of the semicircles touching). Frost the wings, then use decorators’ icing to squirt on designs. Add a gumdrop head and licorice string antennae. Makes 12 Butterfly Banana Cupcakes. Refrigerate any leftovers.

Tips:
Kids’ Cooking Skills: Use this recipe to teach your child how to measure flour, mash bananas, and decorate cupcakes creatively.
What you'll need:
- Foam journal or other notebook
- Foam letters (available as stickers)
- Foam shapes Wiggle eyes
- Craft jewels
- Fabric paint tubes
- White craft glue

How to make it:
1. Open journal and make sure it is right side up.
2. Glue foam shapes onto journal wherever you like.
3. Use wiggle eyes, craft jewels, and fabric paint to decorate however your child sees fit. We glued craft jewels onto our purple journal as well as onto the centers of our foam flowers. We used wiggle eyes to give life to the different sports balls.

What you'll need:
- Paper towel roll tube
- Tacky glue
- Scissors
- Three rolls of ribbon; one red, one blue, and one white
- Roll of striped red, white, and blue ribbon
- Hole punch
- Measuring tape, ruler, or yardstick

How to make it:
1. Wrap the striped red, white, and blue ribbon around the paper towel tube, applying tacky glue under the ribbon as you work. You can wrap the ribbon at an angle or horizontally, whatever you prefer.
2. After ribbon is applied and glue has dried, punch 9 holes in the bottom of the paper towel tube with the hole punch.
3. Cut three strips of red ribbon that are 46 inches long.
4. Cut three strips of blue ribbon that are 46 inches long.
5. Cut three strips of white ribbon that are 46 inches long.
6. Tie a knot in the top of each strip of ribbon.
7. Pull each of the strips through the holes so the knot is on the inside of the tube.
Save Up to $300/month

Employees receive a discount off regular tuition rates as well as waived extended care fees. To receive your discount simply print out the coupon and present it with your employee I.D. to your local participating The Learning Experience center.

See Human Resources for your discount!

Why Partner with W&F?

- Savings of up to $300 per month
- Priority enrollment
- Discounts off of regular tuition rates
- And much more!

In the next issue of THE LINK...

- A delicious and simple new recipe to share with your children.
- Arts and Crafts
- More opportunities to Test Your Brain
- Updates on the exciting events at your local TLE center.