



Mushroom Family Learning Center

1240 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 531-1225
mflcdirector@hotmail.com
mushroomfamily.org

A Big Thank-You to...

- All of our homeroom parents who coordinated the class holiday parties.
- Anja and Maja Williams and family for their donation of blocks and a workbench.
- Brooke Boehmer (former Mushroomer) and family for their donation of dress-up clothes and toys.

News & Notes

IMPORTANT DATES / INFO

TUITION DUE JANUARY 1

SCHOOL RESUMES JAN. 4

**NO CLASSES ON M.L.K. DAY
JAN. 16**

**IN-HOUSE REGISTRATION
2012-13 STARTS JAN. 23**
General registration starts Feb. 1.

**SPEECH AND HEARING
SCREENINGS JAN. 24-25**

GEAR FOR OUTSIDE PLAY
Remember to bring suitable outdoor clothing (snow pants, winter jackets, mittens/gloves, hats, boots, etc.). Please label items. The kids will go out daily unless it's extremely cold or rainy.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFO
Please let the office know if any of your contact info has changed (phone, address, email).

PARKING LOT SAFETY
Please drive slowly in the parking lot. Remember it is ONE WAY entering off Washington Road and exiting to Sunnyhill Road.

WAYS TO HELP MUSHROOM
- United Way agency # is 885339.
- Giant Eagle's Apples for the Students program # is 5245.
gianteagle.com/schools/apples-for-students
- Save Labels for Education (bin in the stairway).

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!
- **Eli Metz**, 3/4s and **Grace Metz**, Pre-K PM; parents: Katelyn and Scott Metz.
- **Juniper Gessner**, PreK-PM; parents: Nicole and Eric Gessner.

From the director...

Welcome to 2012! I hope you enjoyed your holidays with your family and friends. We are looking forward to a great second half of the school year with you and your wonderful children.

I want to say a BIG thank-you to all of the parents and children who participated in our Scholastic Book Fair — those who purchased books and those who volunteered to make the book fair such a huge success. I am proud to report that by your generosity we netted \$504, which will benefit our education fund. We also earned Scholastic Dollars, which enabled each teacher to purchase books for their classrooms.

It's Registration Time Again!

It is time once again to think about next school year. It seems hard to believe we are half-way through our current school year. We are having a blast but now we need to leap forward to get ready for next year. I am pleased to announce there will not be an increase in tuition or fundraising fee. Registration will be held January 23-31. Everyone will receive registration forms in their cubbies on Tuesday, January 17. In order to be registered, the following items **MUST** be complete:

- Forms must be filled out completely.
- Registration fee must be attached.
- Families must be current in tuition payments.

Registration will be open to the public on Wednesday, February 1. Please be aware that classes fill up quickly. If you have any questions, please contact me. Scholarships are available; please come to my office for a confidential scholarship application form.

If you know of a family who may be interested in our school, please have them call to schedule a tour.

- *Joan*

Joan Harrison

When I Play I Learn...

When I play with playdough or clay, I am learning:

- to see the shape against the background of the table—a reading skill.
- concepts of shapes, relative sizes: big, small, length, height.
- to see negative space when cookie cutter shapes are taken away.
- to express feelings, squeezing and pounding.
- to exercise imagination and creativity.
- that the amount of a substance remains the same, even when the shape changes.





Speech and Hearing Screenings

Speech and hearing screenings will be available at our school on January 24-25. Easter Seals provides speech, language, hearing and middle ear screening for early identification of problems in preschoolers. It takes approximately 15 minutes and the cost is \$20 per child. Registration forms will be available in Joan's office.



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News & Notes

From the president of the board...

Happy New Year!!! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break! We were all a bit under the weather and had to delay our celebrations for a week. But we made the most of the extra family time and had lots of new toys to play with! My oldest son also had a birthday and turned SIX!!! Why do they grow up so fast?! It seems like just yesterday he was singing the "Goodbye" song with Gem the Giraffe in Theresa's Early Learners class, and now he's in his last year at our school and loving every minute of Marilyn's K-Too class and taking the "big bus" to kindergarten. I wish I could stop time!

With the new year brings the second half of our school year. I wanted to provide you with an overview of what is to come at our school. In February we will have a new fundraiser. We will be selling Mixed Bag Designs which provides a large selection of items from reusable shopping bags to cell phone/iPad cases, all at very reasonable prices (see page 6 for more info). And in March we will have what we are calling "Mushroom Madness" where we will raffle off baskets of various products and gift cards from local venues. Raffle ticket purchases will go 100% toward your fundraising fee! I would also like to thank everyone for making our recent Scholastic Book Fair a success!

On to a more serious topic, one that is near and dear to my heart, as many of you know: car seat safety. I have worked hard to compile a list of current recommendations and just helpful information to make your car seat use and choice as easy as possible. It can be found on the last page of this newsletter; I hope you find it useful.

If you have any further questions on the topic, please feel free to contact me either via email at bignellfam@yahoo.com or in person! I am always available to look at a seat you are using or help choose a new seat for your child. I know that if I am ever in an accident with my children in the car, I just want to know that I did everything I could to protect my children from possible injury and I'm more than willing to help you do the same!

- Erin

Erin Bignell

News from the 2s class from Theresa, Debbie and Marlene...

Happy New Year and welcome back. What a wonderfully festive December we had. In between decorating our room for the season, we took some time out to do some special activities. Since we had no real snow fall, we made our own and the children loved playing in it. We do hope it really does snow but we will surely do a lot of this activity again.

Our pretend snow brought in our five little snowmen that were looking very fat. With this activity the children observed the process of subtraction in a concrete way: watching each snowman as the sun melted it away. We also played a few games to practice sharing and waiting for our turn. December was indeed a wonderful month. Now that all the festivities are over, we will settle in and have a quiet January together.

This month we will talk about what the animals do during the cold winter months. We'll make bird feeders, flap our wings to keep warm and practice hibernating in our caves just like the bears do. Bears will be a big topic this month. We will have a bear parade so everyone will need a SHOE BOX for their bears to ride in. You may begin bringing them as soon as possible. If you have extras, we'll take those too.



What's a bear month without *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*? We will act out some of our favorite stories and refresh our memories with our favorite nursery rhymes too! This quiet month will provide the opportunity for the children to practice their socialization skills. Projects will be planned but the concentration will be on providing the children with more opportunity to experience the social aspect of being at school. We will be having fun and keeping busy!

We want to thank all of you for your generous contributions with snack. The children are always delighted to know that there is something good to munch on and they look forward with pride in sharing it. We always make sure to give a big "thank you" to our snack person of the day. It is one time the kids enjoy being singled out. Some suggestions for snack would be string cheese or any kind of cheese (the children love it),



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School delay/cancellation



MFLC will follow Mt. Lebanon School District in case of inclement weather. Note that when Mt. Lebanon calls for a delay, MFLC will also be delayed — not cancelled. Starting time will be 10 a.m. for morning classes and they will dismiss at the regular time; afternoon classes will begin on schedule. Please check local TV and cable stations, email blasts and the school answering machine when in doubt.

cut-up apples and bananas, little dippers with pretzels and, of course, goldfish crackers. We know how hard it is to choose nutritious snacks while staying away from those foods that cause allergic reactions. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. Also, we would like to thank you for your patience with bringing all the outdoor gear to school. Some days the children guide us outside and some days they are comfy and cozy and just want to stay in. Either way, we always like to be prepared.

If you have any ideas or activities that you would like to share with us and the class, please let us know. We always enjoy visitors to the class and new ideas to expand on. We are having a wonderful time with all your children. They are amusing, enchanting and downright fun!

News from the 3s class from Jamie, Betsy and Liz...

The month of December brings a lot of excitement in the air. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa, children realize it is a fun time of the year. The three-year-olds and their teachers are no exception.



We love to have a good time in our class so that is why our theme for the month of December was "Let's Have a Party." We realized that parties come in all shapes and sizes. One of our first parties was actually created by

the students in our classroom. During one of our learning centers, a group of children decided that it would be fun to have a tea party. They grabbed the kitchen food, found a blanket in the loft and had a tea party on the table. Just picture about 15 children standing around a small table sharing tea cups. We decided to invite our teddy bears to a fancy tea party with jelly sandwiches, cookies and "tea" from a teapot. We even tried a little of the green tea we examined during our science lesson.

Our next party involved pizza. They decorated real and pretend pizzas. We read Pete's a Pizza several times and even learned a pizza song. We counted pepperonis, graphed our favorite pizza and then made the biggest pizza ever.

We celebrated Hanukkah by decorating menorahs, eating

matzo ball soup and playing the dreidel game with real chocolate chips. Our Christmas celebration included decorating Christmas trees, baking cookies, coloring candy canes and reading 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. We had parents sing, play the guitar and read stories to us during the month of December. We have the best parents ever. They are always welcome to join us.

Not only did we enjoy all of our parties this month, we also enjoyed playing with our friends. We are starting to really become social creatures which is amazing to witness. We greet each other at the door by name, we worry about our friends if they are absent, and we create our own play like baby/mommy, Spiderman and firefighters. We enjoy the doctor kit and love to be the patient. We practice taking turns and using our positive words to communicate. These are skills that will not only benefit them now, but far into the future.

We hope you all enjoyed your holiday break and are looking forward to the next few months of exploring new topics, strengthening friendship and just having fun.

News from the 3/4s class from Liz, Brian, and Marlene...

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful time over the holidays. We'd also like to thank you all for your generosity. Your gifts are truly appreciated!

December was a quick month. We planned a theme focusing on the sensory delights of the holiday season. Although we did explore this theme, inspiration took us in a few different directions. While I love using monthly themes to organize our lessons, I like to stay flexible enough to allow passion—mine, the children's, or a combination—to be the ultimate deciding factor in what we pursue. When I find something that really grabs me and I think, "I can't wait to share that with the class!" I know I have a winner, whether or not it adheres closely to the monthly theme.

This year's class really loves small animals. We used Ellen Stoll Walsh's mouse books (Mouse Paint, Mouse Shapes, and Mouse Count) to explore colors, shapes and numbers. We incorporated plenty of play activities with our little





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mice. The children really seemed to look forward to discovering what would happen next in the ongoing adventures of the mice. One cute comment illustrated how the children experienced this continuity: when I said the mice all ran away, someone said, "They ran away to their other books." We played with our own homemade light table, constructed pictures out of shapes, danced in color puddles, retold stories using toy animals, and had a mouse-tastic week!

Next we focused on gingerbread. There are so many wonderful activities related to this theme that we barely scratched the surface! We made gingerbread scented playdough, colored houses for our gingerbread babies, decorated gingerbread house mats with playdough "candy," and learned a song about making gingerbread.



We read several different gingerbread stories, including the traditional gingerbread man story as well as two stories by Jan Brett. The children are focusing on the stories more at this stage, and we are beginning to do more with trying to predict story events, as well as comparing the different stories we read. We had fun baking our own gingerbread people. We talked about why the gingerbread man was afraid to get wet in the river (he would "disintegrate"—their word, not mine!). We tested it out with our own science experiment and found that our cookie did indeed disintegrate when we put him in water. It made a delightful mess!

We had a fun holiday party, thanks to help from Julie DeBisschop, who provided peppermint scented playdough (a huge hit!) and salt dough ornaments for the children to paint. We also played Zingo and pretended to ice skate while listening to the soundtrack from "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Throughout the month, the children worked on special gifts for you. We hope you enjoy them, and that you appreciate just how hard it is for three- or four-year-olds to part with something special and beautiful that they have made themselves. Although they may have wanted to keep the ornaments, we hope your smiles and thanks when you opened their gifts will kindle in them a lifelong appreciation for the joy of giving.

Should she stay or should she go? When Your Child Has Been Sick

There are many different flu and stomach "bugs" going around and we want to do all we can to avoid passing these germs around. Do not send your child to school if he/she has not been fever free or vomit/diarrhea free for 24 hours, or would not be able to benefit fully from being at school.



In January, we will explore the theme "Animals in Winter." We will learn how different animals cope with colder temperatures and limited food supplies.

News from the 4s class from Cathy, Melanie and Kim...

We glued our way into December with lots of gold glitter and the making of our famous "great green gobs of GAC" during G week! The kids had fun watching the milky liquid turn into GAC, learning some math and science concepts along the way. There was also a good game of Alphabet Bingo to help reinforce those letters.

Conversation corner during H week involved asking the kids their favorite time of the holiday and their responses were wonderfully considerate of others; they are really using their noodles! We learned about and did projects related to Hanukkah before working on our parent presents and celebrating "Rudolph Day" the following week. The reindeer activities fit right in with I week when we made igloos with cotton balls. Sharing time was fantastic!



Movement with Debbie found us improving our yoga, running relay races, and becoming different animals. This group loves to go outside — we appreciate your remembering all the gear!

Thank you to Rose, Denise and Christine for the fabulous holiday party with games and crafts that kept us busy on the rainy day. Thanks to all the parents for the generous gifts as well.

January will bring us (what else?) J week! If you plan on sending your child to kindergarten next year, we will be reinforcing the basics — writing his/her name, the numbers to 20, and upper- and lowercase letters. Regardless of your plans, it's good for all to practice these things at home too.

Hope you had a wonderful start to the new year! We look forward to a fun winter with your children.



Is your child asking to stay longer at Mushroom?

Sign up for enrichment and/or "Munchin' Lunchin!"

Supervised lunchtime is \$6 per day for kids 3+. In enrichment, the children have fun making crafts, cooking, learning Spanish and reading new stories. Classes are available for those 4+ on Mondays and/or Fridays each month; \$14 per class. Sign up for however many you like! Contact Jamie for more info at jamie_geisler@comcast.net.

- 2) If you happen to sign up for snack on a letter day, please try to coordinate it with the letter. (A - applesauce, B - bananas, C - carrots, etc.) Get creative and have fun with this!
- 3) If you would like to volunteer in our class, you could read a story, share a craft or a cooking idea, or play a board game or musical instrument that begins with our current letter. Please set this up with me ahead of time.

If you or Grandma have a sewing machine, would you like to bring it in on B day (1/11, Wed.) to help the children sew bean bags? We have done this several times in the past and it is always a very special day for the children. Last year, we had our first grandma come and she was a huge hit! We will also incorporate animal information into our alphabet/winter theme.

We wish all of you a healthy new year filled with family, friends & FUN!

News from the Pre-K afternoon class from Cathy and Melanie..

Happy new year! We started December admiring our "hand" tree up in the hallway outside the classrooms and enjoying the special treat of seeing a play performed by one of the K-Too classes. We also continued to work on writing our names, including attempting to do it on the lines which is tough at this age. Keep practicing this at home with your child in preparation for kindergarten. G week also brought us the Grinch and the making of great green gobs of GAC — a magic concoction that is both fun to make and to play with. A big welcome to our new friend, Juniper, who joined our class this month.

After making some deep red playdough in our pretend bakery, the kids were inspired to make some real cookies using our terrific rolling, cutting, and measuring skills. We also made candy canes and did some ice painting with powdered paint and ice cubes — beautiful pictures, but COLD work!! That was one of our I week activities due to our H and I switcheroo.



The Nutcracker story and music really got us in the mood for the season. For H week, we worked on and



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News from the Pre-K morning class from Jane, Debbie and Brian...

Happy 2012! We spent the month of December creating festive decorations for our classroom/hallway. We made several "group" projects: large tree, evergreen mural, sparkling lights. We then began our secret gift construction: decorated wooden photo boxes, photo wreaths, six-pointed stars, and sparkling lights. All of these projects required many fine motor skills, listening to and following directions, and each child's patience and creativity! We concluded December with a terrific holiday party hosted by our fabulous "party moms" (THANK YOU!) and a few lessons about Hanukkah.

Thanks to all of you for your thoughtful, generous gifts and kind words! Your children are our gift and we truly appreciate them and their fabulous parents!



January is the time in the school year when I like to "kick it up a notch!" We start diving into the alphabet and getting a bit more academic. You will notice that our projects will start to have

even more pre-reading/math skills and we will do much more printing, tracing, and cutting, all in an effort to get your children ready for kindergarten. That is what the A.M. Pre-K class is all about!

Our theme for January will be SNOW & THE ABC'S OF WINTER! (Have you noticed that ever since we started our Predicted vs. Actual Snow chart we have not had a single inch of snow accumulation?!?) We will start the year off with some number activities, constructing our own calendars, and some fun, snowy art projects!

Then, starting on January 10, we will cover a different letter every Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, proceeding in alphabetical order. Our goal is to have each child be able to recognize each uppercase letter and the sound it makes. We ask you for some extra cooperation on these days:

- 1) Please help your child select one item from home to bring that begins with the current letter. It does not have to be a toy and certainly does not require buying anything (e.g. on A day, he/she could bring an apple, angel, or acorn).



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Mushroom Wish List ~ If you or someone you know may be able to contribute, please let Joan know!

- Scooter board
- Little Tykes ride-on fire truck
- Clothes: boys and girls underwear, socks, pants, and tops
- Any adult musical instruments for Miss Theresa's music class
- Dress-up clothes for boys

baked our handprints (maybe a little too long!) and made our special holiday presents for the parents along with celebrating "Rudolph Day." We put together antlers, sung the Rudolph song and made reindeer food. J week will come in January.

Thanks to all the parents for the very nice gifts and to Amanda, Heather and Justin for organizing a wonderful holiday party!

The kids are really starting to "get it" when trying to put together sounds to make words and it is great to see. They are trying so hard! This is the time of year when we really start focusing on getting ready for kindergarten. Along with the letter of the week activities, we will do more printing and add to our word books and list. But of course we'll still have lots of fun too!

News from the K-Too class from Marilyn...

The month of December kept both the morning and afternoon classes busy, busy! We needed at least another month to fit in all that we wanted to learn and do!

We learned and wrote about a different international holiday over two class periods. We constructed a lighted model of the sun, earth, and moon to help us understand when Ramadan begins and ends. We pretended to search for the first sliver moon (with flashlights in the darkened classroom!), fast, and then feast (snack by lamp light) when the sun went down. We had a Diwali party with glittery fireworks illuminated by oil lamps called diyas and made colored rangoli mosaics. The children put together free form natural wood menorahs and painted them blue and gold for Hanukkah. Last of all, each child made a sled Christmas ornament with their picture in the middle. The children learned that all of these holidays are celebrated everywhere on the globe, although they originated in specific countries. Every celebration had a connection with light, caring, community, and specific traditions and symbols.



January will be a bit more relaxed and we will return to our journals, playing, exploring, and learning that we love at Mushroom! We have been so busy with holiday projects that I think the kids miss the relaxed flow of the day. January will be more science oriented. We will talk about

winter, snow, the water cycle, and begin our study of electricity (unless they show greater interest in another subject) at the end of the month. Parents, if you have any special connections for field trips, science topics, community places, let me know. I want to start introducing possible areas of study to the children to gauge their interest level.

I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday and break. Thank you for the wonderful gifts. I truly appreciate your generosity! Thank you also for sharing your children with me. They are delightful and we enjoy our time together. Happy New Year!

February Fundraiser!

mixed bag designs

Eco chic reusable bags!



- Shopping bags
- Tote bags
- Lunch bags
- Snack bags
- Laundry bags
- Duffles
- iPad and iPhone covers
- Laptop covers
- Travel bags
- Cosmetic bags
- Garment bags
- ...and much more!

Info to come soon and check out
www.mixedbagdesigns.com



Car Seat Safety Guidelines

Compiled by Erin Bignell

General Car Seat “Rules”

- ✧ Read the car seat manual as well as the manual for the vehicle to make certain you are properly installing the seat and that the seat is appropriate for your vehicle, as well as for the size of the child.
- ✧ When using the LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tether for Children) system during installation, be sure you are using it properly.
 - Vehicles have weight limits for use of the LATCH system.
 - If only the outside seat positions in a row have LATCH anchors, you may not “borrow” one from each of the outside positions for the center position.
 - Do not use both the car seat shoulder/lap belt and the LATCH system. One is not better than the other, but the use of both is not recommended.
- ✧ Chest clip should be at armpit/nipple level no matter if the child is rear or forward facing.
- ✧ To tell if the straps are tight enough, perform a “pinch” test: pinch the strap above the chest clip in your child’s collarbone area. If you are able to pinch the strap and it folds, it is too loose. Your fingers should slip off when trying to pinch the strap. This test should be performed with your child wearing regular thickness clothes.
- ✧ When properly installed, a car seat should not be able to be moved more than one inch in any direction when pushed/pulled on.
- ✧ Never allow your child to wear a winter coat while in the car seat. When in an accident, even at low speeds, the impact will compress the coat and it has the same effect as placing your child in the seat with the straps too loose. So if you have to loosen the straps to fit the thickness of your child’s coat, it’s too thick to be worn under a harness. Other options include:
 - Place your child in the harness with no coat, buckle the harness, and place the coat on backwards over the harness.
 - Use a car seat poncho, blanket or other cover in the vehicle.
- ✧ The use of any car seat accessories that go between the child and the mechanism of the seat (such as a Bundle Me or head positioner) is not recommended. These items have not been tested, and like a winter coat, may compress during an accident and result in the harness to not work as it should. The car seat manual most likely states not to use “after-market” items. If you need more of a support for an infant’s head, it is advised to roll up receiving blankets and place one on either side of the infant’s head.
- ✧ Any time you install, or re-install, a car seat, be sure to get it inspected. You may locate an inspection station using this link: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/cps/cpsfitting/index.cfm>.

Rear-Facing Seats

- Infant seats are seats that can be removed from the vehicle each time you exit the vehicle.
- Convertible seats are seats that remain in the vehicle, but can be rotated to forward facing when the child reaches the height or weight limit for rear-facing.
- When rear-facing, straps should be AT or BELOW the child’s shoulders.
- Children should remain in a rear-facing seat until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by the manufacturer of the seat. The AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) recommends that children remain rear facing at least until the age of two, and then until the height or weight limits of their car seat’s manufacturer. This may mean switching a child to a convertible car seat that will face the rear in order to reach the age two recommendation.

- And yes, a child’s legs may have to get creative in position to remain rear facing until the age of two or even three, but there has NEVER been a documented case of broken legs due to being rear facing for too long...however there are thousands of cases of children being injured/killed due to being forward facing at a young age.

Forward-Facing Seats

- When a child has reached the height/weight limit of their rear-facing car seat, it is time to either turn a convertible seat to the forward-facing position, or buy a forward-facing car seat.
- If using a convertible seat, be sure to check the manual to change from rear to forward facing as it may not be as simple to just turn it around. Often times the angle needs to be changed, or LATCH belts re-routed.
- When forward-facing, harness straps should be AT or ABOVE the child’s shoulders.
- Be sure to use the rear tether when the seat is installed forward facing.
- The AAP recommends that children remain in forward-facing, harnessed seats until they reach the manufacturer’s height/weight limits on their forward-facing car seats. Many car seats now have limits of 65 to 80 lbs. However, many children first outgrow these seats by (seated torso) height first.

Booster Seats

- The AAP states that children can move into belt-positioning booster seat when they reach the weight/height harness strap limits of their forward-facing car seat.
- However the maturity of the child is also an important factor when making the move to a booster. It is important to be able to sit upright for the entire ride, leave the seatbelt in the proper position, and not “goof off” when riding in the seat.
- It is also important that the child’s legs are able to reach far enough to bend at the knee over the edge of the seat in a booster. If this is not a naturally occurring position, the child will most likely slouch so that the legs bend properly, and thus will not be sitting properly in the booster.

Regular Seat Belts

- A child should not be moved to a regular seat belt, with no type of car seat, until they are large enough for the seat belt alone to protect them properly. This usually does not occur until a child has reached 4 feet, 9 inches tall (57 inches) and are between 8 and 12 years of age.
- For a seat belt to fit appropriately, the lap belt should lie across the upper thighs and not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie across the chest/shoulder and not the neck/face.
- Children under the age of 13 should always remain in the rear seats of the vehicle to avoid injury due to air bags.

Has your seat been involved in an accident??

If you have been involved in any type of accident, no matter how minor, it may be necessary to replace your car seat, even if it appears to have no damage. Your insurance company (or the other driver’s) will likely cover this cost. However you may continue using your seat if ALL of the following are true:

- The vehicle was able to be driven away from the crash site;
- The vehicle door nearest the safety seat was undamaged;
- There were no injuries to any of the vehicle occupants;
- The air bags (if present) did not deploy; AND
- There is no visible damage to the safety seat.

References

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS>
<http://pediatrics.about.com/od/carseats/a/car-seat.htm>
(AAP recommendations)
<http://www.car-seat.org/index.php>