From the Director

Children Help Lead the Parade of Nations

Date: Monday, April 4, 2016
Time: 11:00

The Center for Child Development children have been invited to help lead the Parade of Nations on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 11:00 AM in the Memorial Union. At 10:50 the children and teachers will meet in front of the Bookstore. The children will be positioned, as a group, behind the main parade banner. Each child will play a rhythm instrument and walk with the parade to the Memorial Union Ballroom. The children will then return to the classroom for lunch. We would love to see parents at the parade!

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting (PAC)

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016
Time: 12:00-1:00 PM
Location: Room 269 EML Hall

Agenda:

- Summer Curriculum
- Gardening Grant
- Transition of Children over the Summer Months
- Spring/Summer Menu
- Preschool Graduation Celebration
- Fall Caring and Sharing Community Giving Project Ideas
- Center Page Newsletter Feedback

Family Survey-We Need Your Feedback!

Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2016
Time: 7:00-9:00 or 4:00-5:30
Location: Main Entry to Center

Please join us for the last Parent Advisory Committee meeting for the year. The purpose of this committee is to assist the Center staff in developing and implementing parent events, provide ideas and feedback on the children’s curriculum, share resources and identify areas of concern with the program, and help find solutions. All parents are welcome! Bring a sack lunch if you wish. If you are unable to attend but want a topic discussed, please call Deb Habedank 231-8281 and she will add that agenda item to our discussion.

Mission

Our mission at the Center for Child Development is to serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights, and well-being of all children, their families and university students.

Wish List

- Larger Towels
- Bubbles
- Yoga Mats
- Sidewalk Chalk
- iPad
- Hockey Sticks
- Child-size Soccer Balls & Basketballs

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Week of the Young Child-Celebrating Our Youngest Learners!

Week of the Young Child is April 11-15, 2016. It is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The purpose of the WOYC is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. It is a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each child and every child experiences that type of early environment - at home, at child care, at school and in the community- that will promote their early learning.

The Center for Child Development has the following events planned to celebrate children, families and professionals:

**Monday**  
**Kick off to the Week of the Young Child**- At 9:30 we will kick off the WOYC by having some very special visitors from the Biology Department—Reptiles!

**Tuesday**  
**Parent Appreciation Breakfast**- Please join your child for breakfast anytime between 7:30-9:00 AM. The children will have prepared two kinds of quick breads to share with you! This is our way to say thank you for your support and partnership in providing care and education to your child.

9:30 **Preschool Anti-Bullying and Bystander Curriculum** by Wendy Gordon

**Family Social-Bowling in the Memorial Union.** You are invited to a family bowling party from 5:30-6:30 pm. All bowling lanes are reserved for the Center. Parents will be asked to wear bowling shoes if they choose to bowl and children can bowl in their socks. Parents please supervise your child closely as bowling balls are heavy and we do not want pinched fingers or toes. The cost is $3.00 per bowler and money will be collected by Deb Habedank at the door.

**Wednesday**  
**Kiddie Days at Shepperd Arena**- At 9:45 the children will be walking to the Shepperd Arena to see, touch, smell and ask questions about baby farm animals.

**Working Together Wednesday**- Today the children will work together, build together and learn together on special classroom projects. The toddlers will work together on an art project and the preschools will make cardboard creations. When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills.

**Thursday**  
**Staff Appreciation Day**- This is a day to thank the teachers who support your child’s care and education. Show your appreciation by thanking them for their dedication and commitment to young children and families.

9:30 **Preschool Anti-Bullying and Bystander Curriculum** by Wendy Gordon

**Friday**  
**9:30 Preschool Agriculture Education Day**—Agriculture students from across North Dakota and Minnesota will visit the Center to help children learn about 1) Dairy 2) Crops 3) Meat and Poultry sources. Hands-on ice cream taste testing, planting a sunflower and matching where meat and poultry come from will be just a few of the educational learning opportunities for the children.

The Center for Child Development is accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. As part of our accreditation, parent feedback is required and valued. Please allow an extra 10 minutes at drop-off or pick-up time to complete a Family Survey. Deb Habedank will be sitting in the main entry of the Center asking parents to complete the two-page survey. We ask for 100% participation. A summary of your feedback will be shared in the May newsletter.
Parent Conferences

We will be starting parent-teacher conferences the first week in April. If you have not signed up, please do so. If the times available for conferences do not work for you, please visit with Stacey or Sam. We look forward to meeting with you!

Where's Stacey?

Stacey will be taking a family vacation April 13-15. A list of subs will be posted in the classroom.

Baby Sign Language

The children have shown an interest in the sign language and we see them using it during play. Most of the children have learned how to sign baby, ball, book, bird, dog, cat, eat, more, sleep, milk, toothbrush, hat and maybe a few more. This month we would like to introduce a few more functional signs to them such as mommy, daddy, play, water, drink, and maybe a few farm animals.

Fun and Easy Activities to Do At Home

- Have your child put different size balls or large pom poms into a muffin pan.
- Take an empty spice container and your child will have fun putting Q-tips or Popsicle sticks inside and then can fill and dump the container.
- You can take an old wet wipes container and have your child put different size lids into its opening and work on opening and closing the container.
- Take a shoe box and hide different toys inside. Your child will have fun taking the toy out and hiding it themselves or hiding other toys inside the box.
- Color old shoebox with markers or crayons.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for this month. The parent sign-up sheet is attached to the Parent Bulletin Board. Please request a meeting time that best meets your schedule if times indicated do not work.

Walking Field Trip

On Wednesday April 6th, we will be taking a walking field trip to Sudro Hall. We will be exploring concepts in Health Care such as tools used during a visit to the doctor and hospital. We will be leaving the Center at 9:30 and returning around 11:00 that morning. If your child arrives between 9:30 and 11:00, please bring them to Sudro Hall as there will be no staff or students in our classroom.
Child Transitions
It is child transition time! We will be starting our child transitions with Dez moving to the Preschool Room. He will be a full time preschooler on May 9th.

Activities for Home
Here are a few ideas to promote your child’s development that we have been working on at school.

- Fine Motor and Pre-Writing Skills-- Stringing small beads, painting using water colors, cutting with scissors, picking up objects with tongs, copying shapes.
- Cognitive and Mathematics-- Counting objects sequentially, looking at a group of objects asking “How many do you see?” (Quantification), identifying shapes and associating shapes.

12 Ways to Support Language Development for Infants and Toddlers
By Raelyn Buscho

During the first years of life, children’s brains are developing rapidly and their communication skills grow by leaps and bounds. Research has shown that when adults provide children with higher levels of language stimulation during the first years of life, children have better language skills. Here are some ways you can support your child’s language development.

1. When your child points to something, tell him/her what it is. While you are telling them, look at it and point to it too.
2. Use a gesture along with the word you say, so your child can say it too. If you tell them it is time to eat, tap your lips. Your child can then imitate the gesture and tell you when they’re hungry.
3. Talk to your child about what you are doing. Tell them what will happen next, so they will know what to expect.
4. Talk to your child about what they are doing. Using words to describe their actions and feelings helps them learn those words too.
5. Take turns chatting back and forth with your child. Listen to what they are saying – then imitate their coos or babbles. With older children, you can reply to their questions and ask your own questions. Children like open-ended questions that don’t have right or wrong answers. “How will you build your tower?”
6. Model bigger and more complex sentences. If your child says, “Two cat,” you can say, “You have two cats on your shirt!”
7. Sing with them. It is easier to learn words in songs. Children can learn about rhymes, the ABC song, the colors of their clothing, and the names of their friends through songs.
8. Take your child to the library. Let him/her pick out a book and read it to them. Let your child decide where they would like to sit while you read.
9. Make books about them. When they see themselves in a book, they will learn that books can be about things in their life.
10. Show your child the words by pointing. When you point out words in books and on containers, your child begins to understand how printed and spoken words are connected.
11. Be playful while they learn. Children like to ask you what shape the cookie cutter alphabet has made. You can say, “You made the letter L,” or ask, “I wonder what letter you made?” It’s less fun to be asked, “What’s this?”
12. Give your child time to learn and explore. There’s no rush to learn the names of colors, letters, and things. Children will learn them in their own time based on their individual development.

Sources:

Spring Is Here!

It is wonderful to have an early spring! You may take home all winter items except a hat & light gloves, as mornings can be cool. If we get precipitation again we will just play in room 319.

Parent - Teacher Conferences

We will be having parent - teacher conferences throughout the month of April. Thanks for taking the time to complete the Pre-Conference Survey for your child’s primary teacher. This valuable information helps us discuss your questions and concerns first. If you haven’t signed up for a conference time yet, please do so soon. Let your primary teacher know if there are schedule concerns.

Our Student Teacher

I hope you have had a chance to meet our student teacher, Sam. She has been working in the room Tuesdays & Thursdays since January. This month she will begin her six weeks of full time teaching. Sam will work in the preschool room Monday-Friday, opening or closing each day. She will also be implementing activities leading up to her “take over” week scheduled for April 25-29, 2016.

Children’s Field Trips

For our field trips this month the entire Center will be walking to Sudro Hall on Wednesday, April 6, to see the nursing department health area. We will also go to Shepherd’s Arena for Kiddie Days. The children always enjoy seeing the farm animals from NDSU. This trip will be Wednesday, April 13th. We will leave around 9:50 to walk over there, please join us for either or both trips if you’re able.

Preschool Graduation Celebration

Save the Date! Is your child going to kindergarten this fall? If so, please mark the date of Thursday, May 5th for Preschool graduation in the afternoon. More information will be coming soon.

Spanish Curriculum

Hola! Como Estas? Did you hear some new words from your child this past month? The children were eager to learn Spanish words from Angela, our field experience student, and to taste a traditional Spanish bread.

The children made and ate for lunch “Arepas” on March 8. Some comments the children made about arepas included: “Yummy” “They’re sweet” “I taste the cheese” “Gross”. Most of the children tasted them and everyone enjoyed working together to make the dough. Some of the children asked if their Mom or Dad could make it at home, so we decided to include the recipe. Enjoy!

Arepa (Corn Cake) Recipe -- Aleaen Authentic Family Recipe

Ingredients:

- Pre-cooked white corn meal, warm water, shredded mozzarella cheese, salt

Preparation

1. Pour 1/4 cup of pre-cooked white corn meal in a bowl
2. Add 1/4 cup of warm water
3. Add 1/4 teaspoon of salt or less
4. Stir corn meal into water with your fingers until mixture forms a soft, moist, malleable dough

Happy Birthday to You:
16th – Anna will turn 4!
18th – Livia will be 5!
5. Add 1/4 cup of shredded mozzarella cheese
6. Mix the shredded mozzarella cheese with the dough
7. Make a ball with the dough
8. Flatten the ball of dough between your palms making sure all sides are even (it does not need to be completely flattened)
9. In a frying pan cook the Arepa- 4 minutes over medium heat on each side for a total of 8 minutes cooking time.
10. Enjoy!

Story Time Fun

After reading the story *Five Little Monkeys with Nothing to Do* by Eileen Christelow, we had a group discussion about what chores the monkeys had to do in the story. We then charted those chores and graphed how many of our friends had to do those chores at their home. Here are the results:

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