Teacher Technician Position Update
As you know, Samantha Miller resigned from her Teacher Technician position in the Infant room and has already started her international travel. Upon Mary Duggan’s return from family medical leave, Raelyn will move from the toddler room as a teacher, to take Samantha’s position in the Infant room. Our hiring committee has been interviewing candidates for a Toddler Teacher Technician to work with Mary. The goal is to find the best teacher, provide a one week orientation and have the individual start in the classroom as soon as possible.

November Family Survey Results
Thank you for taking the time to complete the NAEYC accreditation Family Survey as well as the optional survey! These surveys are completed twice a year and results are shared in the following month’s newsletter, at Parent Advisory Committee meetings, and at staff meetings. The survey helps us to recognize both our strengths and weaknesses. Our ultimate goal is to meet your child’s developmental and educational goals in partnership with parents. This year parents suggested that they would like to receive the survey through e-mail and complete it electronically. The return rate was much lower than in previous years when paper surveys were used, but the amount of written comments increased which we are very thankful for.

The total return rate of all classrooms was 51% and a breakdown of the individual classrooms are:
Infant Room: 50%, Toddler Room: 54%, Preschool Room: 50%

Strengths of the program include:
- Parents and teachers have a good relationship
- Teachers take good care of the children and help them learn to get along with others
- Parents feel that they are invited to take part in classroom activities and events
- Parents feel that the teachers and program work to meet their child’s individual or special needs and get other resources within the community when needed

Areas that need improvement or more information include:
- The teacher often shares information about things happening in the program and wants to know about things my child is doing at home.
  - Parent teacher conferences are held during the fall and spring semesters, this is a time where you can share what your child is doing at home and also a time for teachers to share what your child is learning in the classroom. Other meetings may be held throughout the year at the parent or teacher’s request. Information about the program is also available in the monthly newsletter, notes posted by sign-in and out sheet, and at the Parent Advisory Committee meetings.

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.

Center Closed:
Monday, December 26—Christmas Holiday
Tuesday, December 27—Professional Development/Carpet Cleaning
Wednesday, December 28—Professional Development

Center Hours:
7:00 am-4:30 pm Monday, December 19-Friday January 6.

Wish List:
2-3” Colorful Ribbon for Weaving
Stickers
Crayola Washable Markers
- I talk with a teacher about my child at least once a week (or every day if my child is a baby).
  - A classroom teacher is available in the morning and at the end of the day for questions and comments. We also have an “open door” policy allowing families to come into the classroom at any time to see their child or talk with a teacher. You may also contact your child’s teacher, or Deb Habedank by phone, e-mail, or written note with any questions or concerns.

- The teacher asks about things that are important to our family and uses this information to help my child grow and learn.
  - Ongoing interaction and support from both families and staff make the connection between home and school a two-way street. You can share information about your child with us through the family survey, at drop off/pick up, parent-teacher conferences, the Featured family Bulletin Board or by calling a teacher or the director, Deb Habedank.

- When I disagree with how a teacher works with my child, I feel comfortable letting the teacher know and working together to find a solution that works for both of us.
  - Teachers work together in partnership with families, establishing and maintaining regular, on-going, two-way communication. We encourage you to talk to your child’s teacher about any concerns you may have. You may do so during parent-teacher conferences, which are held in the fall and spring semesters, by phone, e-mail, written note or individual meeting time. You may also contact the director, Deb Habedank, at any time.

- Student workers are not CPR certified
  - Though there is always at least one Infant-Child CPR and Pediatric First Aid certified teacher in the classroom, students are encouraged to attend these class offered at the NDSU Wellness Center to become certified.

Likes/Please Continue:
- Field trips
- Caring & Sharing Community Giving Project
- Stories teachers share with parents about child’s day
- Students and other professionals that come in the classrooms and teach lessons and enrich our curriculum
- Individual Child Portfolio

Please Try:
- Incorporate more science, technology, and math related activates in the classroom
  - These activities are implemented during teacher directed activities and indicated on our weekly lesson plans.

- Spend more time learning about the cultures, traditions, holidays, and festivals of the children in the Center
  - This will be discussed at our next Parent Advisory Committee meeting. As stated on page 14 of the Parent Handbook, “The Center values diversity and would love for you to come in and share a “piece of your life” with us.” Please contact your child’s teacher to discuss a time to share!

- Has there been a visit from a medical doctor to help the children gain awareness of what doctors do?
  - The Center has a team of nursing students come into the classrooms and teach about going to the doctor or dentist and what tools doctors use to keep children healthy. This occurs each fall semester. Then spring semester every other year, we have the Great Health Care Adventures curriculum presented by the NDSU nursing department that provides hands on stations for children to learn about going to the doctor along with a field trip to Sudro Hall Nursing Lab.
From the Kitchen to the Classroom

Iced Pumpkin Cookies by Gina
Cook time 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Serves 36

DIRECTIONS:
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and salt.
2. In a medium bowl, cream together butter and white sugar. Add pumpkin, egg and 1 teaspoon vanilla to butter mixture. Mix in dry ingredients. Drop on cookie sheet by tablespoonful’s; flatten slightly.
3. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes in preheated oven. Cool cookies then drizzle glaze with fork.
4. Glaze: combine 2 cups powdered sugar, 3 tablespoons milk, 1 tablespoon butter and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Add milk as needed to achieve drizzling consistency.

The children had fun smelling all the ingredients for the cookies. They were surprised how the pumpkin looked from the can before baking the cookies. They felt the difference between the flour and sugar and found although they were both white, they felt different. The children enjoyed adding the ingredients, stirring the batter and smelling the spices!

No Book Orders
There will be no December book orders placed above your child’s cubby this month due to our program sponsoring the Book Fair.

AWESOME Parent-Teacher Conferences!
Thank you for meeting with your child’s primary caregiver for parent-teacher conferences. Teachers enjoyed the one-on-one time with parents to learn more about your child and family. Together we have written new learning goals to promote your child’s growth and development.

Professional Development Days
According to ND licensing requirements, full time child care and education professionals are required to complete a minimum of 13 hours of approved Growing Futures professional development annually. Our national accreditation encourages a minimum of 20 hours of annual professional development. NDSU also has required employee trainings to be complete annually. On Friday, November 25, when the Center was closed, the teachers and director completed eight hours of Growing Futures approved professional development.

Holiday Break and Family Travel
Teachers will ask families if their child will be absent over the holidays. Accurate child counts assist teachers in staffing the classrooms, maintaining accurate meal orders, and allows staff to take vacation time with their family.

Theater Class to Perform for the Children
On Thursday, December 8, 2016 the children will enjoy three contemporary fairy tales written and performed by students in a theater class. These performances will take place in the Memorial Union Century Theater at 10:00-10:45 am. This curriculum opportunity will promote creative thinking and incorporate a variety of theater elements such as character, theme, setting, plot, costume, make-up etc. and the appreciation for the arts. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us!
Just a Reminder
Please label your child’s hats, mittens, and coats that are coming to school with their name. Thanks!

Featured Family
This month, our Featured Family is ISLA! Check it out!

MSUM Students
Katie and Amy, both Minnesota State University Moorhead students, have finished there 40 hour practicum in the Infant-toddler room. The children have enjoyed playing with them and explored their many new activities.

Happy Holidays to You and Family!
Stacey

Happy Birthday to You:
December 22nd Adrienne turns 3!
December 24th Jia turns 3!

I’m A Little Snowman (tune to “I’m A Little Teapot”)
I’m a little snowman, big and fat (hold arms out to be big)
Here is my broomstick, (make like holding broom next to you)
Here is my hat. (touch head)
When the sun comes out, (circle arms above head to make a sun)
I will melt, down, down to the ground. (sink down as if melting)

Update on Teachers
Mary Duggan—“My recovery is going well. Prior to the colder weather, I was out walking each day and resting for a bit upon my return home. Overall, I am feeling well. No complications have arisen. My post–operative appointment is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7. At that time I will learn when I have clearance to return to work and if I have any restrictions. I hope to greet each of you on December 8th.”

Upon Mary’s return or shortly after, Raelyn will become the teacher in our infant room taking Samantha’s position. Our team has been interviewing candidates for the Toddler Teacher Technician position. Upon hire, the candidate will have a guided one week orientation both in the classroom getting to know the children/parents and in the office.

Outdoor Play
When the weather outside is zero degrees or above (including wind chill) we will go outside to explore the wonderful elements of winter weather. Please leave your child’s labeled outdoor clothing in their cubbies. Labeling items helps to make sure the correct items stay with the correct child and in the correct cubby.

Words of Wisdom
“If one stage is driving you crazy remember it will pass, then they’ll go through a new phase with something different to drive you crazy.”
“A day spent playing outside with my child is a day to remember!”
The above quotes came from a book entitled *Meditations for Mothers of Toddlers* by Beth Wilson Saavedra. This book is full of inspirational thoughts based on a mother’s experience. Truly great reading for anyone with children under the age of three.

**Spicy Applesauce Ornaments**

Here is a very nice way to add a spiced scent to your home. This fun family activity involves math skills and all the senses! Have Fun!

Roll the dough to about ¼ inch thick. Dust tabletop and rolling pin with cinnamon to prevent sticking. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Place shapes on wax paper; poke a hole with a straw at the top of each shape. Allow to air dry for several days or bake them @ 250 F. Turn the shapes often to prevent curling. Tie a ribbon or yarn to the shape when dry. Enjoy the smell of spices throughout your home.

**Ingredients:**
- ¾ cup ground cinnamon
- 1 cup applesauce
- 1 tablespoon ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon ground allspice
- 1 tablespoon ground cloves

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**Daily Routine Reminders**

**Signing Your Child In and Out Daily:** Please help us keep an accurate count of children in our classroom by remembering to sign your child in when you arrive and out upon leaving the Center. We use the sign in sheet to take menu counts and emergency head counts making sure all children are present and accounted for. The USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program also uses the sign-in and out sheets to verify who did or did not eat each day.

**Winter Clothing:** The cold weather has arrived! Please help your child be comfortable outside by having snow pants, waterproof mittens, a warm hat & winter coat in the Center each day. These items may be kept in your child’s cubby during the week if that is more convenient to you. We do go out every day when the weather is 0 degrees or above.

**Time to Switch Out Toothbrushes:** Teachers will be switching out the children’s toothbrushes at the semester break. Please check your child’s extra clothing box to see if there is one in there. *Caring for Our Children-National Health and Safety Performance Standards* recommends replacing the toothbrush when bristles become worn or frayed or approximately every three to four months.

**December Field Trip**

**Thursday, Dec. 8 – “Contemporary Fairy Tales”** - See front page of newsletter for details. We will walk over to the Memorial Union Century Theater together 9:50 and return around 11:00. Please let us know if you would like to join us!

After reading *I am Respectful* by Melissa Higgins & Gale Saunders, the children brainstormed ways that they are respectful to others. They had excellent ideas! We are thankful to you – our parents for sharing your child with us!

| Chase – I don’t take their marker. | Eben – I talk about it with them. |
| Anna – We be nice to each other.   | Nyla – I paint with somebody     |
| Desmond – I don’t hit their face. | Shawn – share animals           |
| Drake – Make popcorn with friends | Piper – Say sorry if I hit them  |
| Henry – Say sorry to them.        | Graham – making bread with them |
| Laura – When angry then I get happy & slide on slides | Evan – I hug my mom. |
| Eowyn – Eating chocolate with friends | Robert – I go outside with them. |
| Yeo Jun – sharing toys             | Suzy – I like to share crackers  |

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