From the Director

Family Survey

Do you feel welcomed in our classrooms?
What is the Center doing right with your child’s education?
What should the Center improve upon?
Are we meeting your child and family needs?

On Tuesday, November 14 please allow an extra 5-10 minutes to complete a Family Survey on how we are meeting your child and family needs. Deb Habedank will be stationed in the main entry to the Center between 7:30-9:00 AM and then again from 4:00 to 5:30PM handing out the survey. The results will be sent to NAEYC as part of our re-accreditation and will help us to identify our strengths, need for improvement and to develop goals. We ask for 100% parent participation please. This survey is anonymous and will be tabulated by a Field Experience student, then shared with Center staff. A summary of the Family Survey feedback will be shared with parents in the December newsletter.

Scholastic Book Fair

Dates: November 27-30, 2017
Time: 8:30 AM-5:30 PM
Location: Small Preschool Room

There will be many children and adult books to choose from for your purchase. Ordering books on-line is also an option. When you purchase a book you will take it with you that day. If a book has been sold out, you will receive the book before the holidays. Payment is by cash, check or credit card. The Center received 40% to 50% of the sales back in books and classroom materials the children. A sign-up sheet for parents to help set-up the Book Fair will be posted in each classroom.

Bright & Early North Dakota Quality Rating and Improvement System

The Center for Child Development has re-applied for Bright & Early North Dakota Quality Rating and Improvement System. Currently the Center holds a 4-STAR rating, the highest rating possible. The Bright & Early 4-STAR Rating System helps parents and providers assess how a child care and education program supports a child’s early learning and development.

Bright & Early is an initiative lead by the ND Department of Human Services to ensure that North Dakota’s children receive the quality child care they need for success in school and life.
As an NAEYC Accredited program we are required to:

1. Have all classrooms assessed by a trained observer on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). This assessment focuses on effective teacher-child interactions in infant, toddler and preschool classrooms.
2. Teachers hold a two year degree or higher.
3. The Director holds a National Director Credential from Aim4Excellence.

The process includes outside observations, writing goals for improvement based on observations, making improvements, teachers assessing our classroom environments, final observation with scores and a dollar award when we achieve our Bright & Early ND 4-STAR award.

The Nurtured Heart Approach and You

By: Jordan Breckenridge, Alyssa Tils, and Taylor Feist-Social Work Students

What is The Nurtured Heart Approach?

The Nurtured Heart Approach is a relationship-focused methodology used in parenting and working with children. It is based on The Three Strands™ which we will discuss below. The Nurtured Heart Approach is useful in building a stronger relationship between parents and children, even in the most difficult situations. The approach has been shown to be effective in children with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), and Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). The approach focuses on social emotional interactions and aims to turn negative behaviors into positive learning experiences. We believe that all parents would benefit from this approach to cultivate strong, positive emotional relationships with children.

The Three Strands™

The Three Strands™ are the main components of the approach and are as follows:

1. Absolutely No! Refusing to energize negativity - The approach states that when a child with strong body language is engaging in wrong behaviors, it is important that the parent not respond verbal. When we respond to these wrong behaviors we are essentially rewarding the child with our attention and energy.

2. Absolutely Yes! Super-energizing success - No matter how small the victory, do not forget to praise and honor the child. These small celebrations of positive behavior will eventually lead to the repetition of these behaviors.

3. Absolutely Clear! Establishing and implementing clear limits and consequences - It is important that the parent makes sure to set clear limits and boundaries regarding what behavior is acceptable and desired and what the consequences will be if the child engages in wrong behavior choices.

How Can You Use It?

Watch and observe the next time your child engages in a wrong behavior, whether it is a tantrum in the supermarket, taking a toy from a sibling or peer, or being physically aggressive. Make sure you watch your body language, small cues like eye-rolling, sighing, and folding the arms are signs that you are rewarding the child with your attention. Let the child know that you are willing to listen to what they have to say once they are. Once the child stops the behavior make sure to praise the child for their ability to listen. Watch your child for positive behaviors such as sharing or asking for things politely and celebrate these right behaviors. Make sure you are using your energy on celebrating the small victories and not on...
stopping the wrong behaviors. Sit and discuss limits and boundaries with your child, letting them know what is ok and what is not. Make sure there are some definite consequences for negative behaviors. Following these steps will lead to strong emotional relationships with your child.

For more information on the approach visit: https://childrenssuccessfoundation.com/

Any questions/clarity on specific situations feel free to contact Deb Habedank and she will pass the questions on to our Social Work team.


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Infant / Toddler EML 161 Happenings by Stacey & Raelyn

Colder Weather.....

Please make sure you have a warm coat, hat, and gloves for your child at school. Weather permitting, we will go outside. PLEASE label all items as well!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We will have parent – teacher conferences Nov 1-9. They can last between 20-30 minutes and will be held upstairs in EML 261 (where Deb’s office is located). The sign- up sheet for a conference is located on the classroom door. If these times don’t work for you, please talk with Stacey or Raelyn. We look forward to meeting with you and learning more about your child!

Toothbrushes

It is time to replace your child’s toothbrush at school. Please bring a new toothbrush labeled with your child’s name. We brush teeth after lunch and do NOT use toothpaste. If your child does not have a toothbrush yet, you are welcome to bring one at any time.

Sign Language

Research has shown the use of sign language with hearing children can:

- help reduce tears and tantrums
- boost self-esteem and self-confidence
- strengthen the parent-child bond
- make learning to talk easier
- stimulate intellectual development

And it is FUN for parents and children alike!

The sign language we are consistently using in the classroom are more, sleep, eat, milk, please, and change. After you use the signs for a couple of months, you can introduce new signs. The more your child sees the sign, the faster they will learn and use it. Be patient and never show frustration if your child does not use the signs.

New signs we will be introducing to the children are book, mommy, daddy, help, play, thank you and stop. Please ask the teachers if you would like to learn the signs too and we can assist you!
Outdoor Weather

Please bring your child’s coat, snow pants, boots, water repellent mittens, hat and neck warmer (please no scarves) as we will be exploring the great outdoor even in the winter months. LABEL your child’s clothing with his/her name to prevent items from getting lost or mixed up with another child’s similar item.

Hand Washing Procedures

We work diligently with the toddlers helping them wash their hands for 20 seconds. The procedure we have found to work the best is:

- Wet hands with running water.
- Turn off the water, this saves on water as well as prevents the soap from being washed off the child’s hands.
- Rub front, back and between fingers during hand washing for 20 seconds. There is to model hand washing and counting to 20 or singing a song.
- Turn the water on to rinse hands. Make sure hands stay in the water stream rather than in the water pooling in the sink where the “germs” are.
- Take one or two paper towels to dry hands.
- After turning off the water, dry hands and forearms completely. This will prevent chapping during the winter.

When washing with your child in the bathroom, please always use the left sink. The right hand sink is used for diapering and potty handwashing. This way there is not cross contamination.

Hayley’s Vacation

Hayley is taking a very well deserved vacation November 6-10, 2017. Michele and familiar students will sub for her. We wish Hayley a fabulous and warm vacation!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Hayley has been doing parent – teacher conferences with her primary group since the end of October. Her conference will continue after her return from vacation. Mary’s conferences are scheduled November 6-17. Thank you to our parents for signing up for a time to meet with us. Parent-teacher conferences are a time we truly look forward to. It is a time to visit about the wonderful developmental milestones your child has achieved and is progressing toward.

Thought for the Month

Pete the cat says: “It’s cool to color outside the lines”
“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up”, Pablo Picasso

Preschool Happenings by Monica & Robin

Brrrrr…… The Weather is getting Colder!

Mornings outside have been a bit chilly on children’s ears and hands. Please keep a hat, gloves and jacket at the Center for outside play and bring winter clothing as soon as the snow comes. Winter ware includes: snow pants, boots, warm coat, hat and waterproof mittens, all marked with your child’s name. The children do go out every day when temperature are above 0 degrees.
Also, please consider the clothes your child is wearing to school each day. Dresses without tights or leggings and half sleeve shirts may not keep your child warm enough with our cooler weather. Having a sweatshirt or fleece jacket in the child’s cubby will help keep them warm and comfortable in the classroom and 319.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

We will be having our fall parent - teacher conferences the month of November. Thank you for taking the time to help us plan for your child’s learning by completing the Preschool Pre-Conference Survey and signing up for a conference time that works best for you. We look forward to meeting with you and learning more about your child’s development.

**Sheena Our Student Teacher**

During the past 10 weeks we have gotten to know Sheena from MSUM as she teaches part time in our classroom. Starting November 6, Sheena will be a full time student teacher with us through the end of the semester. She will be introducing herself to you as the month goes by, if she hasn’t already. Sheena will be planning, implementing and evaluating many lessons plans with the children and will do a week of head teaching December 4-8, as part of her learning experience. Robin & Monica will step back a bit and let Sheena take the lead role in the classroom. Feel free to discuss questions about what the children are learning and your child’s upcoming events. If you have any further questions or prefer to talk directly with Monica & Robin, we will always be there.

**Caring & Sharing Community Giving Project**

Excellent participation in the donating of food items for the Great Plains Food Bank. We had so much food and the children enjoyed putting their food items into the donated Gate City Bank reusable bags. The children wanted to make sure other families and children would have food to eat even if they couldn’t buy it. Here are the activities our children learned about while sharing with others:

- Discussed that a Food Bank is a place to store food items and there are different kinds of banks. We discussed that we would be putting food in a Food Bank.
- We worked cooperatively giving each other scooter rides outside
- We worked in pairs kneading and mixing homemade bread to make a snack together.
- Discussed how there are needs everyone has and how our wants are different.
- We worked together on cooperative marble painting.
- We listened to the story *The Teddy Bear* about a child that loses his bear and discovers a homeless man has found it and needs it more than him, so the child decides to give it to him.
- Explored the feelings of what it would be like to have only water for a meal (snack). The children felt sad that some children don’t have extra food and have to drink extra water to fill their tummies.
- The children built a kindness web from yarn. We all share a ball of yarn back and forth while sharing what we can do to be kind to others.
- We discussed why parents have jobs and what they do with the money (buying food). What would happen if a part of the sequence of going to a job – getting money – shopping for food – making food – eating food, was missing and how that would feel.
- We shared our garden produce with others at the University.
- We used our garden potatoes to make potato soup and shared it with the other classrooms.

**Giving Thanks!**

Robin and Monica would like to express THANKS to all our parents for allowing us be a part of your child’s life. This month of giving thanks, helps us think about your child and family and what you have taught us! We understand that choosing childcare and education for your child is important and an investment. We are thankful you have entrusted us to assist you in your child’s care and education.