From the Director

A Warm Welcome to Ariel Johnson

A warm welcome to Ariel Johnson our new Infant-Toddler Teacher Technician working in the Infant Room. Ariel has many years of experience working directly with children and as a Director of Child Care and Education Programs in the Fargo area. We are so happy to have her a part of our professional team! I asked Ariel to share a bit about herself and family...

“Hi, I’m Ariel and I am a past student at NDSU in Human Development and Family Science. I actually did my field experience with Stacey in the Infant room a couple years ago. I am originally from Harvard, Illinois and I came up to Fargo to go to school and play volleyball for the Bison. I am married and have a 14 month old son. I am excited to be back in the classroom with Stacey and look forward to working with NDSU families!! “

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Time: 12:00-1:00
Location: Room 269 EML Hall

Please come to our last Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting for the year. The purpose of this committee is to assist the Center staff in developing and implementing parent events, providing ideas and feedback on the children’s curriculum, sharing resources and identifying areas of concern with the program and helping to problem solve. All parents are welcome to attend as we love your ideas and feedback! Bring a sack lunch to this informal meeting if you wish.

Agenda:
- Childcare Alive Curriculum
- Spring/Summer Menu
- Summer Curriculum
- Jr. Master Gardeners Grant
- Week of the Young Child
- NAEYC Accreditation Update
- Bright and Early ND Update

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.

Child Care Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 7:30AM-5:30PM
Child Care Closed:
No Closures for April

Week of the Young Child

Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is April 16-20, 2018. It is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. The purpose is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services

Published by the Center for Child Development, Department 3142 Box 6050, NDSU, Fargo ND 58108, 701-231-8281, Room 261, E Morrow Lebedeff Hall
that meet those needs. It is also a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each 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. We’re so excited for a weeklong celebration of our youngest learners! During this week we would like parents in each classroom to sign-up to read their child’s favorite book to the children. A sign-up sheet will be posted with best times to read. We hope you will take 10 minutes to read to the children this week!

Monday
• **Kick off to the Week of the Young Child!** Children will be preparing the pancake batter for the Parent Appreciation Breakfast. Did you know? Cooking develops vital math and science skills children need to succeed. The children will measure, pour, stir and learn to ready a picture recipe.
• **Parent’s Read their Child’s Favorite Book**


Tuesday
• **Parent Appreciation Breakfast**- Please join your child for breakfast anytime between 7:30-9:00. This is our way to say THANK YOU for your support and partnership in providing quality care and education to your child.
• **Parents Read Their Child’s Favorite Book**


Wednesday
• **Working Together Wednesday**- Today the children will participate in a group art canvas project. Once dry these original group art pieces will be displayed in the Center. When children work together they learn teamwork while developing social skills, cooperation and creativity.
• **Parents Read Their Child’s Favorite Book**

Thursday
• **Staff Appreciation Day**- This is a day to thank the staff who support your child’s care and education and partner with YOU! Show your appreciation by thanking them for their dedication and commitment to young children and families.
• **Parents Read Their Child’s Favorite Book**

Friday
• **T-Shirt Day**- We will wear our new green and gold Center for Child Development t-shirts today!
• **Gym and Yoga at the Wellness Center With New Friends**— At 9:30 the children will leave our Center to run, play games and do Yoga with the children at the Wellness Center Child Care Program. Our fabulous yoga instructor is Krista, Silas’s mother.
• **Parents Read Their Child’s Favorite Book**


Family Survey-We Need Your Feedback!

**When:** Tuesday, April 24, 2018  
**Time:** 7:30-9:00 or 4:00-5:30  
**Location:** Main Entry to Center

On Tuesday, April 24 please allow an extra 5-10 minutes to complete a Family Survey at drop-off or pick up time. This Survey asks parents how we are doing in meeting your child and family needs. We ask parents for your honest feedback and a 100% return rate to identify our strengths and design strategies for improvement. This Survey is anonymous and will be tabulated by an Administrative Field Experience student. A summary of your feedback will be shared in the May Newsletter.

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Parent Teacher Conferences

We will begin parent-teacher conferences this month. All conferences will be scheduled with Stacey. A conference sign-up sheet will be posted on the door for you to sign up. If these times do not work for, please talk to Stacey so we can arrange a time that does work for you. I look forward to sharing your child’s growth and development and developing new learning goals with you!

Friday Fun at the Gym

We will continue to bring the older toddlers to the Benson Bunker Fieldhouse on Friday mornings from 10-11. They love to run, dance, and play with the toddlers and our preschool friends!

Kiddie Days

On April 26th (Thursday), we will be taking our older children over to NDSU Shepperd Arena for their annual Kiddie Days from 9:30-10:00. There will be a variety of farm animals for the children to see and touch if they choose to. We welcome all parents to join us. Please talk to Stacey or Ariel if interested!

Pick Up Time Conversations

Please remember that the Center closes at 5:30. Allow at least 10 minutes before closing time if you wish to visit with the teacher about your child’s day. Thank you!

What is Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Why is it Important?

Infant and early childhood mental health refers to the developing capacity of a child to:

1. Form meaningful relationships
2. Manage and express feelings
3. Explore and learn within their family, community, and culture

When infants and toddlers have their needs met by a kind and encouraging parents and caregivers, they develop a sense of safety and security. This trust provides them with the assurance to explore their world, try new things, learn and interact confidently with others. Early positive interactions are critical to a child’s mental health and set the stage for lifelong success. How can we nurture your child’s mental health?

- Respond to their needs and cues.
- Comfort and reassure them when they are scared, angry, or hurt.
- Provide consistent care giving as much as possible.
- Develop routines to promote predictability and security
- Spend quality, unhurried time together by reading books, playing, singing songs, or snuggling
- Talk about feelings
- Help children calm when overly excited or angry.

Adapted from zerotothree.org

“What Springs In Spring? Buds spring! Leaves spring! Flowers spring! Trees spring! Plants spring! Grass springs! Robins sing In Spring!” By Meish Goldfish
Parent-Teacher Conferences

Teachers will be scheduling, conducting parent-teacher conferences and celebrating the Week of the Young Child all in April.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will start April 16th with the sign-up sheets posted by April 1st. There will be one sign-up sheet for Hayley’s primary care group and one for Mary’s. As always, if the dates and times listed do not work with your schedule, please talk with your child’s primary care teacher to schedule a better time, as we want to meet with all our parents.

Kiddie Day’s at Shepperd Arena

On April 26th, we will be taking a walking field trip to NDSU Shepperd Arena for “Kiddie Day’s. We will leave the Center for Child Development at 9:15. All parents are welcome to join us by either walking with us or meeting us there. Due to the nature of this sensory experience, please have either boots or an alternate pair of shoes available for your child to wear for the field trip.

Language Development

Encouraging language development, specifically communicating and speaking, in infants and toddlers takes many shapes and forms. Beginning in young infancy, language development is supported by listening and watching for different types of sounds, gestures or cries a baby may makes. In older infancy language development is supported through exchanges, taking time to allow sufficient time for the child to respond to questions or suggestions. During “toddlerhood” language development is supported by modeling two or three word sentences that the child can imitate, or responding to the child’s use of words to express needs or wants. Older toddler’s language development is supported by asking open ended questions. Open ended questions are questions such as “tell me about that tower”, “tell me about your picture”, “What you think would happen if___” or after a child tells about an occurrence asking “then what will happen”. Ideally, open ended questions are a question that requires more than a one word response and a question to which you don’t know the answer. Through open ended questions we facilitate the child’s ability to process information taken in, assess the information and then to express thoughts regarding that information. Through their answers, we can find out a great deal about what the child thinks and feels. The best part of this process is that any response is a correct response. Always keeping in mind, no matter what the age of the child, the process of expanding a child’s language and comprehension skills is best developed by intentional listening, repeating what you heard the child say and expression of open ended questions. This process broadens the child’s vocabulary and association skills which, in effect, develops their cognitive development.

Resources: North Dakota Department of Human Services Birth to 3 Early Learning Guidelines pg.30; Family-Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs by Deborah Diffily and Kathy Morrinson, pg 10.
Parent-Teacher Conferences

Preschool room parent-teacher conferences begin mid-April. Thanks for taking the time to complete the Pre-Conference Survey for your child’s primary care teacher. This form gives teachers valuable information to make the most of the conferences for YOU. If you haven’t signed up for a conference time yet please do so soon. Also, let your teacher know if there is a scheduling conflict. Conferences are limited to approximately 30 minutes.

Bright & Early ND Quality Improvement Program

Sometime this month the Center will take part of the final observation for the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), a part of the Bright & Early ND Quality Improvement Program. Teachers and children will be observed for approximately two hours to assess the quality of teacher interactions with the children and between the children. The assessor will also document the teachers asking children open-ended questions, our response to children’s needs and conversations, and how we promote critical thinking skills. Since this is a very important observation for our center leading to a STAR rating, we are required to have both teachers present during this observation. IF the CLASS observation is taking place during a scheduled parent-teacher conference, we will contact you and re-schedule the conference.

Child Developmental Portfolio

We hope you look at your Child’s Developmental Portfolio during parent-teacher conferences. This Portfolio provides a purposeful collection of evidence of your child’s learning collected over time, which demonstrates your child’s efforts, progress, process and achievements.

The Portfolios is designed to represent all areas of development which includes:

- Health/Safety
- Cognitive & Mathematics
- Language & Literacy
- Science/Technology
- Social Studies
- Social/Emotional/Self Help
- Physical Development - both fine & large muscle
- Nutrition

By saving work and language samples made by your child, taking photos of them “in action” during the day and logging observations of events from the classroom, teachers are able to demonstrate your child’s growth and development.

The Child Developmental Portfolio can also help your child’s future kindergarten or “next” teacher by showing evidence of your child’s strengths and needs, areas of interest and best ways of learning. Past parents from the Center have indicated that the Child Portfolio has become a treasured keepsake that they look through often with their child.

Spring or Still Winter?

Looks like a late spring this year. Please continue to leave full winter gear in your child’s cubby (2 pairs of waterproof mittens) until teachers post that our playground is dry. If you could check your child’s clothing for wetness at the end of each day that would be appreciated.

Preschool Room Happenings

March 27, April 3 and 10 – 9:30 AM – We will be participating in a program called “Childcare Alive” that promotes healthy eating habits and active lifestyle. This grant will also help the center receive new active movement equipment!

April 4, 11, 18 – 9:10 – Movin’ & Groovin’.
April 26 – 9:15 – Field trip to the barn at Shepperd Arena for Kiddie Days. Join us if you can!