From the Director

Road Construction Season!

Starting Monday, May 14, 2018 through mid-August Centennial Blvd. (in front of the FLC Building) will be under construction. Parents will still back-in park on Centennial Blvd. A map of the open driving routes will be posted in each classroom and the University will have detour signs up.

Update Your Child’s Authorization for Non-Prescription Products Form

It is now time to update your Child’s Authorization for Non-Prescription Products form. This form authorizes Center staff to apply diaper cream, lotion, sunscreen, insect repellent and lip balm. You will also indicate the brand name of the product teachers are given permission to apply. This form will be placed above your child’s cubby and is due back no later than May 11, 2018, along with the products you choose to use. If we do not receive the completed, signed and dated form from you by May 11th, teachers will not apply any of the above stated items. An envelope will be placed on each classroom door for easy return.

Our Summer Teachers

Infant-Toddler Room: Stacey, Ariel and Holly

Toddler Room: Mary, Hayley and Maria

Preschool Room: Monica, Robin and Macey

Holly is a nursing student from Foley, MN and a Student Assistant in the infant-toddler room. Maria is a past administrative field experience student majoring in Human Development and Family Science. She is from Eden Valley, MN. Macey is a graduate student in Agriculture Education and has experience with all ages of children! She is from Mandan, ND. Please watch for their picture to be posted in the classrooms.

Summer Curriculum and Hands-On Learning

We are excited to offer the children a summer filled with fun and educational hands-on activities! Our focus this summer will include:

May 14-25  Health, Safety and Wellness

May 29-June 1  Gardening

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

*Summer Hours Monday, May 14th:
Mon.-Fri. 7:00AM – 4:30PM

Child Care Closed:
Monday, May 28 – Memorial Day

Wish List

3 - Girl’s tights, cotton or nylon
Beach balls
Children’s cowboy boots
6 - Small size Lab coats
June 4-15  Little Lab Coats - Science and Discovery
June 18-29  Musical Instruments, Music and Movement
July 2-13   Nature Detectives
July 16-27  Sports Variety Pack
July 30-Aug. 3 We Are All Alike... We Are All Different...

Growing Minds and Gardens

The Center received a $300 dollar ND Jr. Master Gardener Grant! Each classroom will be planting vegetables in pots and our garden bed. New this year will be a raised garden box built by Adam M. (Everly’s Dad)! Thanks in advance Adam for making this raised garden for the children to experience!

The toddler room will be planting tomatoes, eggplant, cauliflower, green beans, zucchini and yellow squash. The teachers have many recipes for the children to prepare using the fresh produce.

The preschool room will plant spinach, lettuce, purple cabbage, carrots, tomatoes and yellow peppers to make homemade muffins and rainbow salads.

An intern from Julie Garden – Robinson will promote nutrition and gardening education through hands on learning activities. We look forward to digging our hands into the ground the end of May!

April 2018 Family Survey Results

Center staff would like to thank all parents for taking the time to complete the Family Survey (Program Evaluation). This Survey is part of our national accreditation process through NAEYC and our program evaluation. The return rate was 37/40 surveys or 93%. Our goal is to provide the best care for your child and family.

Your feedback indicated that the programs strengths are:

- Relationship and teachers have a good relationship
- Teachers take good care of children and help them to get along with others
- Parents and teachers talk at least once a week about how the child is doing at home and the program
- Parents are comfortable with what their child is learning
- Teachers ask about things that are important to families and use this to help children learn and grow

Questions answered “No” or “Don’t Know” by two or more parents included:

- Question #16: The program helps me get to know other families in the program and encourages us to support each other.
  - The Center organizes family socials and educational events throughout the year. Families are encouraged to participate in Center sponsored events such as: Fall Picnic and Potluck, Classroom Field Trips, Parent Advisory Committee Meetings which meets a minimum of three times per year, Popsicles on the Playground, Kindergarten Transitions, Scholastic Book Fair, Parent Appreciation Breakfast, Parents Reading their Child’s Favorite Book in the classroom etc. Center
staff are very open to new ideas on how we can help parents get to know one another and feel supported.

- Question #17: I am always welcome at the program and am invited to participate by helping to plan events, being involved in decisions about the program, and taking on leadership roles.
  - Parents are encouraged to attend the Parent Advisory Committee meetings which help develop, plan, and evaluate different events for the Center. Examples include: T-shirt fundraiser, Week of the Young Child, Summer Curriculum. By completing the Optional Family Feedback Survey also incorporates your recommendation for program improvements. The Center has an open-door policy for parents and promotes breast feeding.

- Question #19: The program staff helps me learn about community events and resources that can help my child and family
  - Families can learn about community events and resources through various sources. The Center newsletter includes upcoming classroom field trips to learn about various resources throughout our community. We have brochures and magazines available in the main entryway that have listings of family friendly events in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Next to the sign in and out sheet we post community events such as kindergarten registration and swimming lesson opportunities. Parents have also emailed the Director upcoming community family events that they believe other parents would like to know about. These e-mails were forward to all Center parents.

Optional Survey Feedback included:

You like/please continue…

- The special things the kids are able to do (field trips, gardening, cooking, etc.)
- I really like how literacy is emphasized at an early age
- Healthy foods served to the children
- Small breakout activities
- Parent involvement
- Teachers

Please try….

- More reading, writing, counting and other challenging work
- Slowing down dynamics in rooms as it can causes over stimulation for some children

Concerns….

- Security and safety of people walking into the Center
Parent-Teacher Conferences
A BIG thank you goes out to our parents for taking the time to meet with Stacey for spring parent-teachers conferences. Teachers enjoy learning about your child’s development and together creating new learning goals.

A Sad Good-Bye to Students
We have three field experience students in our classroom that will be finishing their hours the first week of May. The Student Assistants will be ending their hours throughout the week of May 7-11.

Hunter, a Student Assistant, will be leaving our classroom this month and not returning. She will be starting her two year rotation in the radiology department at Sioux Falls. We will miss her dearly!

Toothbrushes
It’s time to replace your child’s toothbrush at school. If you have not brought one recently, please do. We have parents replace them every 3-4 months. Please label your child’s toothbrush with their name with permanent marker.

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The Name Song—A Favorite Song of the Children
Brecken is here today, Brecken is here today……yeah Brecken…..

(You can repeat while using names of other children.)

“A Child who sings is a happy child” by Elder Enrique Falabella

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Child Transition

Alex will begin his transition to the preschool classroom this month. He will become a full time preschooler on May 14th!

Family Vacation Time

Tis the season for vacations! Please communicate your vacation plans to the classroom teachers and Deb so we can maintain accurate meal counts and staffing. You may be taking a day off here or there or enjoying a longer vacation. We would appreciate knowing all dates your child will not be in the center.

Infant-Toddler Playground Enhancements

We are in the planning stages to make changes to the Infant/Toddler playground. It is our goal to complete work to the grassy area of the playground. We will be making plans to level the ground as well as achieve regrowth of the grass between the sandbox and the concrete area. Stay tuned for updates!

Summer Teachers

Each summer the Center for Child Development hires students to work as Teacher Assistants in classrooms as well as substitutes for staff annual leave. This summer working in our classroom is Maria. Maria was Deb’s administrative Field Experience student during spring semester. Maria’s hours will be approximately 10:00-4:30. Maria will start on Monday, May 14th. Welcome Maria!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the parents who made time in their schedules to meet with Mary and Hayley for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Conferences are a valuable time for Mary and Hayley to learn from you what is best for your child and how we best can meet your child’s developmental needs. Also, thank you parents who made our “Staff Appreciation Day” during the Week of the Young Child a wonderful day for Mary and Hayley.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thanks everyone for taking the time from your busy days to meet with your primary teacher last month. We are able to better help your child grow and learn in preschool when you have your valuable input into our teaching practices.

Warmer Weather Clothing

Teachers have looked through your child’s extra clothing box and placed winter clothing above their cubby along with a note asking for summer replacements. Winter clothing may go home for the season. If you would replace clothing in your child’s extra clothing box, that would be appreciated and keep your child comfortable in case spare clothes are needed. Please continue to bring a spring coat, light hat and gloves for morning play. We are also switching toothbrushes this month so make sure your child has a new toothbrush to use.
Sad Goodbye & Warm Welcome

This month we will say goodbye to one of our friends as he begins a new adventure. Christopher will be leaving the Center May 11. We will miss him and his family. It was wonderful getting to know him these years.

We will be welcoming in a new toddler friend named Alex. Alex’s family has been in the preschool room before so we welcome back Pan and Pingjing to our room! It’s always great to get to know the toddlers better and see them grow as a preschooler.

May Field Trips

8th & 23rd: Teacher and children will walk to the Soccer Park behind T lot. We will leave after breakfast and return at around 10:30. Feel free to join us to play soccer and on the playground equipment.

Gardening Fun

The preschoolers will be going to the NDSU greenhouse to get some plants ready for our garden and we will be planting our “special” gardens in raised boxes and pots on our playground. The children are excited to learn about what goes into the various “special” meals we will make with our fresh garden produce, how long each item will need to grow and which items mature first. Teachers will be charting our plants growth over the summer months and making special meals with our produce. Be sure to ask your child questions about their garden. We are looking to plant a “rainbow” of foods and have many recipes to try. Yum!

Why Garden?

When considering the challenges that gardening with young children can present, it is often an area those who work with preschoolers avoid. But gardening offers such an array of learning experiences for children that it is a project that is most often worth the effort.

The North Dakota Early Learning Guidelines for ages 3 through 5 years (science, p. 42-43) affirms that early science is an important step towards school readiness in children. When we garden we are testing our knowledge on how physical properties of things can change, identify differences between living and non-living things, learn that living things are made up of different parts and plants need food, water, air and sun to survive. We are using observation through our senses and changes in the world. We express inquisitiveness through wonder at nature, ask questions and answer them through experiencing them and hypothesize why changes occur. We will investigate by recording data about plants and their growth and we’ll apply all of our new knowledge to how we can use gardening in our lives. Each of these terms directly influences how children learn and discover the world around them.

Science, of course, isn’t the only area where learning occurs for young children when gardening. Mathematics (p. 39-41) is used in many ways while gardening also. The children will learn to graph plant growth, compare seeds to growing plants, measure height of plants as they mature and many others. Learning to apply mathematics to nature, and gardening in particular, will help children to better understand how math applies in everyday life. Social studies (p. 44-45) are another area where learning abounds when gardening. The children will learn why plants are important to our environment, how we can grow what we need instead of buying and use decision making experiences to plan out how and when we garden. Gardening offers young children learning in so many academic areas that we as preschool teachers have begun to tell ourselves “how can we apply such valuable learning in our classroom”.

If you’d like more information about gardening with children, the Young Children magazine published by the NAEYC program explores this topic in their September 2008 issue. This article highlights many different programs that have had flourishing gardens with their preschool children in cooperation with community and family members.