From the Director

Bright and Early ND 4 STAR Award Maintained

On June 6 the Center received notice that our 4 STAR Award through Bright and Early ND was maintained! Our achievement scores were:

**Infants:**
- Responsive Caregiving: 5.42  
  Needed an average score of 4.0

**Toddlers:**
- Emotional Support: 6.53  
  Needed an average score of 5.0
- Engaged Support for Learning: 4.67  
  Needed an average score of 3.5

**Preschool:**
- Emotional Support: 6.67  
  Needed an average score of 5.0
- Classroom Organization: 6.44  
  Needed an average score of 5.0
- Instructional Support: 4.33  
  Needed an average score of 3.0

Picnic on the Playground and Team Jersey Day

When: Wednesday, July 18, 2018
Time: 11:15 AM
Where: Center Playgrounds

We are having a picnic on the playgrounds and team jersey day! Parents please bring your sack lunch and join your child for a picnic outdoors. Also our curriculum this week is Sports Variety Pack so wear your favorite team jersey! While on the playground feel free to play on the playground with your child and see how our gardens are growing.

Thank You for Completing Child Enrollment Forms

Thank you for completing your child’s annual enrollment forms. From the information you submitted, child emergency information, email addresses, phone numbers, parent consent, allergy information, food program, and health records are all updated and copies provided to the classroom. The Child Information Sheet will be updated by you approximately every three months. As your child visits their health provider through the year, please remember to bring in the updated immunization form. Remember you can go to www.ndsu.edu/childcenter/ to obtain and complete Center forms.

A Warm Thank You to the Prairie Heights Community Church

On Sunday, June 10 a team of nine volunteers arrived at the Center for a community service project. They worked from 8:30-12:00 with the Director, cleaning, raking, sweeping, organizing CD’s, pumping air into our balls, and tightening screws in the cubbies. Their time and energy greatly benefitted the Center for Child Development! A huge thanks to Matt (Bell and Jeric’s Dad) for suggesting the Center as a service project!
Gardening Curriculum with Stephanie and Julie

Each Wednesday morning at 9:30 Stephanie Jensen, Program Assistant; Julie Garden-Robinson, Food and Nutrition Specialist; and our teachers are educating children on gardening. Our June curriculum included: Planting the Garden, Critters in the Garden, Seeds in the Garden, Roots and Stems. July the curriculum will include: Leaves, Flowers and Fruits. Hope you have enjoyed the parent newsletter sent home on Wednesdays!

Little Chefs

The children in the toddler room had fun helping to make Hummus by putting the garbanzo beans in the food processor and smelling the ingredients as we put them in. We talked about the different sizes of the spoons and cups we used in the recipe. It was interesting to see how the beans changed shape from when we poured them in the food processor until we tasted them. Most of the children really liked tasting the hummus with a cracker.

Hummus from thespruceats.com

1 can garbanzo beans /chickpeas, rinsed and drained
1/4 c. olive oil (to replace the tahini)
1 T. lemon juice
1 t. cumin
Salt and pepper to taste

In a food processor, blend all ingredients together until smooth and creamy.

Serve immediately with pita bread, pita chips or vegetables. Store in an airtight container for up to three days.

The Great Outdoors

We continue to play outside, go on campus walks, read books outside, discover nature and bugs, water paint, chase bubbles, explore the sand, and garden. We would love for parents to join us on the playground in the mornings to read books under the yellow canopy!

Parent Reminders

The center closes at 4:30 so if you would like to talk to Ariel or Holly about your child’s day, please arrive 10 minutes early at pick-up time as we would be happy to share.

When bringing your child’s backpack into the classroom, make sure it is free of dangerous items that children could reach: ex. medicines, diaper cream, clippers etc. The children love zippers and are curious to see what’s in the bag.

Wellness Center Gym Day

The morning of July 25, we have reserved a fun day with the Wellness Center Child Care Program for a gym day. The older children will play and run at the gym.

Infant / Toddler EML 161 Happenings by Stacey, Ariel & Holly

Happy Birthday to You
July 1st Vincent turns 1!
Toddler FLC 113 Happenings by Mary, Hayley, Maria & Michele

Welcome to July

Thank you to all the parents who indicated their child’s attendance or vacation time for the week of July 2-6, 2018. Mary will be gone Monday and Tuesday and Hayley gone Friday for annual leave. Their substitutes will be posted in the classroom. Have a safe Independence Day!

Also Mary will be on annual leave for a family trip July 13-20. Substitutes will be posted the week prior.

Birthday Treat Reminder

A gentle reminder that food treats need to be commercially prepared and packaged in factory-sealed containers. Healthy snacks or a treat such as bubbles or stickers are always welcomed and encouraged instead of food!

Water Play Fun

We will give a 24 hour or more notice of outdoor water play. Water play is sprinkler time. Please bring water shoes, towel, hat, swim suit and a swim diaper for those who are still wearing diapers or pull-ups. We will send your child’s wet clothes home at the end of the day.

Gardening Update- Growing Minds and Vegetables

The toddlers have three gardens we are tending to. In our large garden the zucchini, yellow squash, tomatoes and green beans are growing well. Our herb garden has oregano and basil growing. In our middle sized garden we planted cauliflower and eggplant. Both vegetables are peaking up and becoming stronger. The children have been watering and weeding our gardens. This month we hope to see blossoms and produce starting!

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July Events

- 5th -- 10:30- Walk to Babbling Brook & outdoor stage for a dance time
- 20th -- 10:00- Walk to Soccer Park (behind T-lot/Jimmy John’s)

Water Play

Please continue to have water play clothing in the Center daily. We often have water play spontaneously as weather allows. We on Friday we send home swim gear for washing, if used that week. Thanks!

Teacher Annual Leave

Monica, Robin and Macey have planned for some family vacations times. We will post these dates in advance and let you know of the substitutes.

Family Vacations

Please continue to let the teachers know if your family will be gone from school or on vacation. This helps us have accurate meal counts and plan curriculum. A call or email in addition to face-to-face communication, in advance of the date, is greatly appreciated.

Nap Bags

Please look over the items your child has in their nap bag. We recommend a small, light blanket, a crib sheet and one small stuffed animal. Sometimes we notice children are damp as they awake from the warmer blankets and it is difficult to fit large blankets, stuffed animals and a pillow into a standard backpack. Teachers encourage children’s independence by encouraging them to pack their items in their nap bag. Sometimes children get frustrated because they can’t fit everything in. Larger bags are difficult for children to carry and we have limited storage space. A standard size school backpack, with your child’s name clearly labeled, is recommended.

Birthday Celebrations

A birthday is a special day in your child’s life and we love to celebrate with your family. We encourage parents to come and spend time with your child on that day as your schedule allows. You are welcome to come to story time (sit with your child or read a special book with class), join us for meal time or playtime and share a special treat item with the group. We ask that the food item, if brought, be a healthy choice that your child enjoys (ex. cheese cubes, mini muffins, fruit juice popsicles-see Parent Manual page 31 for our requirements. Also bring enough for every child (20) and for three teachers to share at a meal. If your child is having a friend party, a reminder that invitations should not be distributed as school but mailed directing to families.

Feature Family Board

Has your child been featured on our classroom Feature Family Board? We have our bulletin board near the bathroom for everyone to see. Our preschoolers love to use special “group time pointers” to lead the group in telling about their family pictures. The child also gets to choose friends to ask them questions about their family and favorites during the “Learning About ...” time. Please take a minute to look at available dates on the sign up page. We would love to learn more about your child and family!

“**It’s a BEAUTIFUL day, Ride a bike, Fly a kite, Walk the dog, Freeze tag, Play ball, Play in dirt and dirt don’t hurt, Go play outside, WONDER, Build a fort, Swing, Climb a tree, Catch Frogs, Run a race, The sun is SHINING, Hide and go seek, Getting back to nature, Chasing fireflies and butterflies, PLAY, PLAY!”**  

Author Unknown