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.

Welcome to Fall Semester

The Center staff would like to WELCOME each family to the Center for Child Development and thank you for choosing to be a part of our program. You have chosen a nationally Accredited Early Childhood Program and 4 STAR ND Bright & Early program for your child’s care and education. Our goal is to develop a partnership with parents in your child’s education and prepare your child for life success.

Shout Out to Ariel Johnson

Each month our staff do things that are unseen by parents and co-workers. This newsletter Shout Out will be a place to let you know what our staff are doing to go above and beyond. Ariel Johnson, Infant Teacher, has been with the center since March 2018. Ariel is a volleyball coach of 14-18 year olds for Red River Infinity. She loves coaching and follows the girls through their sports life, celebrating their successes and providing encouragement. Her summers are filled with lake activities, hiking and visiting her extended family in Illinois. Ariel enjoys playing with the children, getting to know the families and visiting the former children from the infant room.

Do I Really Need to Sign My Child In and Out Daily?

Yes and we cannot stress the importance of this enough for your child’s safety! Our sign-in and out sheets provide:

1) Verification your child is present in case of an emergency or safety drill.
2) Verification for child head counts throughout the day as the child moves from one area to another.
3) Documentation of the USDA Food Program that your child was present when meals are served.
4) Documentation of parent initials of which parent picked up your child at the end of the day.

The Director will call you with a reminder if you are not signing your child in and out daily.

Wish List

Preschool boy underwear
Preschool boy training underwear (thicker)
Ribbon
Standard size crib sheets
Child size cowboy boots

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Date:      Tuesday, September 24, 2019
Time:      12:00PM-1:00PM
Location: Room 269, EML Hall

The Center would like to invite all parents to participate in our first Parent Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 24th. The purpose of the Parent Advisory Committee is to advise and assist Center staff on implementation of programs and activities for children and their families. Please bring a sack lunch if you wish. This meeting is informal so come and go as your schedule allows. Agenda will be posted in the near future.
Free Developmental Screening

On September 3-5, 2019, Pediatric Partners will provide a free developmental screening for the children in the areas of gross motor, communication, fine motor, cognitive and social-emotional development. A qualified, trained professional will administer the screening in each classroom to measure the child’s present level of functioning. The screening results will be shared with you and the Center teachers through written documentation. They will be screening at 9:00 AM.

If a developmental concern is noted, please know there are many community services available for your child and family including your child’s pediatrician. Center staff can also provide you with community and developmental resources to support your family.

FREE Vision Screening by Lions of North Dakota

When: Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Time: 9:00AM
Where: Toddler Napping Room

The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention states that vision disability is the single most preventable disabling disease among children. Preventive screening is part of the mission of the ND Lions. With parent permission, they will come to the Center and complete a non-invasive mobile screening with no discomfort to a child. Their screening measures:

- Anisometropia-compares refraction of both eyes
- Astigmatism-check corneal curvature
- Myopia-checks nearsightedness
- Hyperopia-checks farsightedness

If a child is identified as having a vision concern, the parents will be notified and encouraged to see an eye care professional for a comprehensive eye exam.

Introducing New Foods

*Adapted from Feeding Infants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Babies are born with feeding skills that allow them to drink breastmilk or formula. As babies get older, they develop new skills to eventually help them feed themselves with supervision. Offering babies new textures of foods as they get older helps them learn or strengthen different feeding and eating skills.

Did you know that babies begin to lose iron after birth and have a significant lower amount by six months of age? For breastfed babies, it’s especially important to introduce iron fortified cereal and meats when the baby is ready to eat solid foods.

Remember babies may not like a particular food the first few times it is served. Sometimes babies need to be offered a new food 10 or more times before they might like it. Don’t give up! As babies develop, it is important to give them a chance to try different textures, moving from pureed foods to those that are mashed, ground, or finely chopped. This helps the baby develop feeding and chewing skills.

Stacey & Ariel

Infant/Toddler EML 161 Happenings

Welcome Families

Please help us welcome Linus with parents, Erika and Joel and Morgan with parents, Brad and Kristen. These little babies will be starting sometime in September. Welcome to the Infant room!

Featured Family

This month we will be starting our Featured Family Board again. It is located under the daily sign in and out sheet. In September, we will be featuring the teacher families. If you are interested in being a part of our Featured Family Board, please add your name to our sign-up sheet which is located next to the sign in and out sheet. We look forward to learning more about your family and the children love looking at the pictures!

Sign Language

The teachers will continue to do baby signs to help communicate with the children. The following are the signs we do now with the children: (this will increase as they learn and show interest with the signs)

- eat
- more
- sleep
- milk
- change your diaper

More information on sign language will be in the October newsletter including the benefits of sign language for your child.

Fall Clothing

Please remember to have a sweatshirt, socks, and a hat for the cooler fall temperatures coming our way. We will plan to go outside to the playground or on campus stroller walks daily. Remember to label all clothing items as well. This helps teachers know which clothing items go to which child.
Transitions and Routines

A joyful welcome to our transitioned toddlers (Clara, Azalea, Uyum, Natalie & Linda) and their families. We have all settled in to our routines which include:

1. Picking up toys when finished playing and before moving to another area.
2. The post-lunch transition which is when the children dump unwanted food from their plate into a pail and walk to the bathroom for hands and face washing and tooth brushing.
3. The children’s next learning opportunity for transitions will be putting coats on independently before going outside. Teachers encourage independence in self-care skills and will patiently support each child through this learning process. Practicing putting on a coat at home will help your child be successful in all environments! Here is how it works:
   - Have your child stand or sit at the collar/hood part of their coat.
   - Help them put their arms into the sleeves, as deep as possible, then encourage them to swing their arms up and back. We call this “up and over”.

Featured Family Bulletin Board

There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the Sign In/Out Sheet for families to sign up to be the “Featured Family” for a one month period. Participation is voluntary.

Each month one child and their family is highlighted on the “Featured Family Bulletin Board”. Family pictures are posted below the classroom telephone. Families can gather 8-10 pictures with a caption on the back of the picture. Teachers will post the pictures for the children and other families to see.

This is a wonderful way to learn about one another’s family and for the children to learn about how families are the same and different.

Garden Update

The children have been picking produce from our garden especially cucumbers and green peppers. We will be preparing various types of foods with our produce as the harvest continues through September. Watch for pictures, notes and charts indicating the children’s food preferences as well as recipes to try at home.

The children made this salad using ingredients from our garden!

**Cucumber-Mint Salad:**

2 Cucumbers, large  
½ c. Red Onion or Chives, minced  
1 c. Plain Yogurt  
1T. Olive Oil  
2T. Vinegar  
2T. Mint Leaves, chopped  
Salt and Pepper as desired

Chop cucumbers, mint leaves and red onion or chives. Combine yogurt, oil and vinegar to make a dressing. Add dressing to cucumber mixture and your salad is ready… enjoy!

Insect Repellant

It is common for mosquitos to remain out during warmer days in September and October. Teachers will post a notice to parents on the sign in and out sheet when we have applies insect repellent to your child. As a reminder, we cannot apply insect repellent more than once per day.
A Warm Welcome to Families

Welcome to the Preschool Room. We are excited to have new friends and their families in the preschool room. Thank you for trusting us with the care and education of your child. Teachers will work hard to make your family and child’s learning experiences positive.

Classroom Routines

To start the year out right the teachers would like to share information on classroom transitions to help your child feel successful.

*Pick Up Time: Our academic year hours are 7:30-5:30. At pick up time, please arrive by 5:15 so your child is able to make a smooth transition from school to home, has time to clean up their play materials and parents have a few minutes to discuss your child’s day with the teacher.

*Sign Your Child In/Out Daily: Sign your child in & out each day. We use the sign in sheet to verify attendance as well as for our emergency safety drills. When your child is signed in, teachers are able to accurately complete a head count of all children. When you sign your child out for the day, your initials are necessary to verify who picked up the child. Your child will enjoy moving their name from the Home to NDSU sign, also “verifying” that they are here today!

*Items from Home: Please help your child keep their “home toys” in the car or at home. When a special car, airplane or animal is in the cubby, other children are curious about it and may want to play with it. This often makes for upset friends. Snacks for your child should be kept with you also. Our cubbies are not sanitary for food items. A cuddly animal or doll for rest time is always welcome for your child and can be kept clean in their nap bag.

*Nap Bag: As children learn and grow, independence in self-care skills is one of our eventual goals. The children are very proud when they can complete tasks with minimal help from teachers. We ask parents to please have a zipper nap bag (labeled with your child’s name) that is a backpack or small duffel bag. This allows your child to fit everything inside easily and begin to learning to zip. Nap items such as a small pillow, crib size sheet and light blanket will help keep your child comfortable and should fit easily inside their nap bag. Teachers always help your child as needed to pack items up after rest time, but they are so proud when they finally do it alone!

Classroom Primary Care Groups

Our classroom has 20 children learning and growing together. Monica, Robin and Michele work and play with all the children daily and get to know them on an individual basis. To complete developmental observations and assessments on all children, Monica and Robin will each have 10 families that they work closely with and do parent teacher conference. You can direct questions to either teacher at any time and we will be prepared to discuss information with you. Your Child’s Primary Care teacher will meet with you on occasion to share detailed information on your child’s learning, strengths and developmental progress. The following are our primary care groups: Monica – Daenerys, Emma, Everly, Katalin, Kate, Lucas, Lyle, Meredith, Rozalyn, Simon and Robin – Abram, Alex, Eliza, Ephrem, Inga, Isla, Jeric, Milo, Ruby, Teo.

Daily Contact with Parents

Have a question or concern about your child or their classroom? Sometimes it is difficult to talk privately with a teacher at drop off or pick up times. Please remember teachers can always call, email or meet with parents to discuss your child’s learning experiences. Just let us know. No need to wait for fall parent-teacher conferences to discuss your child with us.

Garden Harvest

Have you noticed our garden lately? The children have been harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers! They have enjoyed eating them with our lunch and snack meals. Some children have begun trying new vegetables! The squirrels have been taste testing our tomatoes, but we have plenty to go around! We are anxiously watching the zucchini plants grow and hope to eat them soon.

Monthly Learning Focus

This month our learning will be focused on families. Everyone has a family, but not all families are the same? The children and teachers will explore what we know about families and learn new details about your families. We are asking every child to bring in family picture from home to help us in our educational experiences.

September Events (the 11th & 25th) – Hope you can join us!

Grandparents Snack/Program, 9/11 - We would like to honor some very special family members-grandparents! At 3:00 PM on Sept.11th the children will be inviting grandparents (or other special friend) to join us for a snack and short program. Invitations will go out soon.

Soccer Park Field Trip, 9/25 -If weather permits the children and teachers will spend the morning at the Soccer Park behind T lot. We will walk to the park at 9:30 and return around 11:00.

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Monica's Vacation

Monica will be on vacation Sept. 27th– Oct. 4th. Robin and Michele will be working daily in the classroom along with our awesome students. Substitutes will be posted for parents next to the sign in and out sheet.