Volume 55
Issue 6

From the Director

Warm Welcome to Sarah Davis-Toddler Teacher

On Monday, June 3rd Sarah Davis, Infant-Toddler Teacher Technician, will be joining our team! Sarah has a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Special Education from Minnesota State University Moorhead. She has experience educating children from toddler through 18 years of age. Sarah will complete a Center orientation prior to working on floor full time with the children and Mary. She is excited to start and meet each child and family. Please help us welcome Sarah!

Kids in the Garden Curriculum and Garden Planting Party

Now that temperatures are warming up and the children are getting garden fever, we will be planting our gardens (weather permitting) on Wednesday, June 5. Our gardening curriculum is made possible due to a $500.00 Jr. Master Gardeners grant from NDSU Extension. We will be partnering with NDSU Extension Specialists Wednesday mornings at 9:30. The eight week curriculum for the preschoolers will include:

- **June 5** Kinds of Gardens; focus on Herbs & Vegetables
- **July 10** Stems in the Garden
- **June 12** Critters in the Garden & Composting
- **July 24** Leaves in the Garden
- **June 19** Seeds in the Garden
- **July 31** Flowers in the Garden
- **June 26** Roots in the Garden
- **Aug 7** Fruits & Preservations

Please help us to kick off the summer Kids in the Garden curriculum by joining our afternoon planting party on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 starting at 3:00 PM! We want parents and the children together to plant our garden, and embark on the gardening adventure together.

What Will We Do? In an effort to encourage family involvement and togetherness, we would love for you to join us and assist your child in planting our gardens.

- Each family will sign up for **ONE, 15 minute** planting time slot. During this time, the family will collaborate with another family to plant a fruit, vegetable, flower or herb.
- Parents will complete a Kids in the Garden Pre-Survey prior to their planting session. Once the survey is completed, the parents and your child will start their planting adventure outside in the gardens.
- After planting, the families will go inside to enjoy a black bean and corn salsa the preschool children made earlier that day.

How Do I Sign Up? You may sign up below in **ONE, 15 minute** time slot that works best with your schedule. The plant, appropriate garden tools, gloves, and planting area will be provided during the planting session.
Child is also welcome.

Sunglasses and sun protection clothing for your nap for afternoon protection. Sun hats, protection and teachers apply sunscreen after.

Thank you parents for bringing your child’s

Sun Protection

Ways to Use Fewer Chemicals in the Home, Adapted from Kimberly Hiss, Parents Magazine, April 2019

1. **Air Things Out**-Open the windows to dilute indoor pollutants such as paints, stains, new mattresses and furniture made with glue.
2. **Read Labels on Personal-Care and Cleaning Products**-Look for brands that don’t use parabens, phthalates, oxybenzone and triclosan. Made your own cleaning solution with equal amounts of vinegar and water, plus a little lemon juice.
3. **Remove Your Shoes**-“Taking off your shoes at the front door can make a documentable difference in the number and concentration of contaminants in your house,” says Jerome A. Paulson, M.D.
4. **Don’t Heat Plastics**—Heating weakens the plastic material allowing harmful chemicals to leach out.
5. **Renovate Right**-Buy paints with low or no volatile organic compounds (VOC’s). After you paint, set-up a window fan that blows in and out; and when possible sand and paint furniture outdoors.
6. **Cut Down on Dust**-Use a wet mop or a wet dust rag on a regular basis. Homes with carpets should vacuum with a HEPA filter to pick up smaller particles.
7. **Wash Those Hands**-Hand washing helps rinse off traces of chemicals picked up from household dust and playing outside.
8. **Stay Safe With Less Sunscreen**-Protecting your child from the sun’s UV radiation is a top priority, and it requires using sunscreen, even though it contains chemicals. You can minimize the amount your children need by wearing UV-protective clothing, including a long-sleeve swim shirt and wide-brimmed hat. Avoid spray-on-sunscreen because children can breathe in airborne particles.

Hand Washing

As an accredited center, a Nurse Consultant observes in our program four times per year. She provides a written report of her observations on our health and safety policies, hand washing, diaper changing, meal service, care plans etc. Based upon her last written report she indicated that parents were not having the children wash hands for 20 seconds upon entering the child’s classroom. We learned that hand washing needs to be:

1. Running over the hands
2. Removing your hands from the water stream and then rubbing the soap into the hands for 20 seconds
3. Rinsing all the soap off the hands
4. Taking a paper towel to dry hands
5. Finally turning the water off with a paper towel before disposing of it in the foot operated garbage

We ask for your cooperation with this hand washing policy.

Sun Protection

Thank you parents for bringing your child’s sunscreen. As a reminder, parents apply sunscreen to their child at home for morning protection and teachers apply sunscreen after nap for afternoon protection. Sun hats, sunglasses and sun protection clothing for your child is also welcome.
Squishy Bag Fun

Take any size Ziploc bags (large ones are the best). Fill with items your child is interested in, tape it down to the table or floor or even to your child’s high chair.

Here are a few ideas that you can use:

* Oil & colored water
* Flour, cornmeal, sugar & you can add some small animals or shells or I Spy games
* Colored water and small items
* Paint (this can be a mess free finger painting experience)
* Magazine pictures or photos of your child or family members
* Ice cubes & water for outside on a hot summer day
* Shaving cream with food coloring

Toddler FLC 113 Happenings

Mary, Sarah, Jennifer & Michele

Welcome to Sarah

Our new Assistant Teacher, Sarah, will be joining us on Monday, June 3rd. During her first few days Sarah will be completing her required NDSU trainings as well as becoming familiar with the Center for Child Development Policies and Procedure Manual along with spending time in the classroom. Mary will be working with Sarah to help orientate her to our classroom, the end of the day procedures, the children and parents. We are excited to have Sarah working with us here at the Center for Child Development.

Thinking Skills ~ Matching, Sorting and Classifying

Your child’s two year old brain is continually forming new patterns of connections. Your child’s brain can find tiny details on objects which help him/her identify similarities and differences between objects. Matching, sorting and classifying all require your child to notice how things are alike or different. Practicing these skills lay the foundation for learning reading, math and science.

Here are some fun and mobile ways to practice these emerging skills at home or in the car.

Matching -- Place identical stickers on index cards, cut out identical pictures from a magazine, junk mail, or buy pairs of post cards to make a matching game.

Sorting -- Sorting silverware as it is put away, sort the laundry according to what item is worn by each family member. When putting away the groceries let your child sort the food packaged in cans from those in boxes.

Classifying -- Many children are close to three years old before they begin to classify objects. Exposing your child to the relationships between objects can be explored by: showing him/her three objects, two of which belong to one category, such as a crayon, a marker and a spoon. Ask them which one does not belong with the others and listen to his/ her reasons for his choice. Talk about how the objects are used in a similar way. Try presenting objects in the same category and ask your child why they go together. Their answers will give you great insight in to how they think.

Sunscreen!

We have started putting sunscreen on the toddlers. Our routine to apply sunscreen after nap and before snack to provide protection from the afternoon sun. Please remember to apply your child’s sunscreen in the morning prior to arriving at school.

Vacations

Please give Mary and Deb dates of any upcoming days your child will not be attending school. This helps with staffing as well as helping control food costs by limiting the number of lunches we order.

Reading Together

During the Month of June, we would love to have parents come in and read a favorite book from home or choose one from our bookshelf. We have had a couple parents who have read with the toddlers and the children love to listen to a friends’ parent read to them. This experience will enhance to love of reading for the children and also will help our newly transitioned children, parents, and teacher become comfortable with “who is who” in our classroom. You can let Mary know the day and time that works for your schedule. Our goal is to have at least one parent of each child read to the children by the end of June!
Finding An Agent That’s Right For You

Developmental Portfolios

I hope you had a chance to look at your Child’s Individual Developmental Portfolio shared with you at parent-teacher conference. Portfolios are available to parents at any time for your review. Please just ask a teacher and they would be happy to share it with you.

The Portfolios are designed to represent all areas of development. These areas are Social/Emotional, Cognitive, Physical, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science/Technology, Literacy, Arts, Health/Safety, Nutrition and Language Development. By saving creative artwork, writing samples, taking photos of your child “in action” during the day (using the Center camera) and logging developmental observations, teachers are able to show you evidence of your child’s learning progress.

The Portfolios can also help your child’s future kindergarten teacher. By sharing this developmental record with your child’s kindergarten teacher, the teacher learns of your child’s strengths, needs, and areas of interest. These are important tools a kindergarten teacher uses to maximize the learning for your child. You can give your child’s next teacher an extra boost by sharing this developmental portfolio. Past families have stated that this developmental record of their child’s years at the Center for Child Development has become a treasured keepsake that they look through often together as the child grows. We hope this is the case for you and your child too.

Summer Vacations

This summer there will be some days that Robin, Monica or Kayla will take vacation. We will post an advance notice of our substitutes. Will your family be taking vacation too? Please let us know dates in advance so we can have appropriate staffing and meal counts for the classroom.

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Summer Fun

Teachers have many educational activities planned for the children this summer. Please review the June calendar included in this newsletter. The children will also be taking campus walks, playing at the Soccer Park (north of T lot) and enjoying water sprinkler play.

To prepare for sprinkler play, we ask that you keep a swim suit or tank top and shorts, water shoes (with back or a back strap), and towel here at all times labeled with your child’s first name. We often have water play spontaneously depending on the weather. Don’t forget to apply sunscreen to your child each morning if you wish for them to have a morning application. We will re-apply after rest time if we go outside in the afternoon.

Summer Schedule Changes

Just a reminder that our breakfast and PM snack times change slightly in our summer schedule.

- Breakfast is served 8:15-8:45. Please have your child here by 8:30 if you wish for them to eat breakfast.
- Snack will be served at 2:45. This allows more time for afternoon activities.

Another change we will have this summer is 8:45 AM Story Time and 9:00 AM Small Group activities. Having a greater time together for child choice will allow us more time to be outdoors for gardening, water play and exploring the campus.

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