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 & Education Hours >>>

| Regular Hours | 7:30 AM- 5:30 PM |
| Summer Hours | 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM, begin May 18th, 2020 |
| Center Closures | Mon., May 25th - Memorial Day Holiday |

Best Wishes to Michele

As you know, Michele Zwack has resigned her position in the Center for Child Development effective May 15, 2020. We wish Michele the very best as she is excited to spend time with her grandchildren, husband, garden, and sew. Michele will always be remembered for her delicious baking, wonderful smells of food in the hallway, cooking with the children, Scholastic Book Fair and her kind smile to greet the children and families. We wish you and your family the very best!

Welcome Tasha Neumiller

Tasha Neumiller, Student Assistant in the Infant room for four years, will be graduating in May with a degree in Human Development and Family Science and Social Work. She was interviewed, selected and accepted the Teacher Aide position in the Center for Child Development starting May 18, 2020. Tasha will assume Michele’s responsibilities with the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and educating children in all classrooms. A Warm Welcome to our new team member, Tasha!

May Menu Changes

Our May menu for lunches will be different from our regular 6 –week menu cycle as we are temporarily moving to cold box lunches. Our box lunches are based upon NDSU Dining Services weekly shipment of foods. Snack will remain pretty similar to what is on the menu.

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 etc. Parents will also indicate the brand name of the product teachers are given permission to apply. This form can be found on-line at www.ndsu.edu/childcenter/ under forms and documents. If we do not receive the completed, signed and dated form from you by May 22, teachers will not apply any of the above stated items.

On the Move with Gardening FUN!

The Center received a $300.00 ND Jr. Master Gardeners Grant to promote the love of gardening and eating healthy foods. An intern that works with Julie Garden-Robinson, NDSU Extension and Dietician, will help our teachers plan and implement the gardening curriculum Wednesday’s at 9:30.

Wish List

Children’s Lawnmowers
Fisher Price Farm Sets
Crayola Fine Point Markers

Summer Curriculum & Hands-On Learning

May 18-29   Health, Wellness and Safety
June 1-5   Gardening Begins
June 8-19   Sports and Dance Variety Pack
June 22-July 2   Food Adventures
July 6-31   Foreign Language-Chinese

THE CENTER PAGE

May 2020
Our initial curriculum plan for gardening is:

June 3  Kids in the Garden and Plant the Garden
June 10  Critters in the Garden and Composting
June 17  Seeds in the Garden
June 24  Roots in the Garden
July 8   Stems in the Garden
July 15  Leaves in the Garden
July 22  Flowers in the Garden
July 29  Fruits in the Garden

The toddlers will plant a Pizza Garden with tomatoes, peppers, tomatoes, onions, and basil and a Spaghetti Garden with tomatoes, pepper, onions, oregano, parsley and basil. The preschoolers will plant a Salsa Garden with tomatoes, peppers onions and cilantro and a Rainbow Salad Garden with lettuce, radishes, rainbow colored carrots, spinach, cucumbers, melons (thanks to Leif’s mom) and colored potatoes.

April 2020 Family Survey/Program Evaluation Results

Thank you for taking the time to complete our Spring Family Survey/Program Evaluation. We had a 58% return rate. Our goal is to work in partnership with parents to meet and exceed your child’s educational needs, while supporting parents. This is what you told us:

27 of 29 questions were answered agree or strongly agree

2 of 29 questions answered by one parent indicated disagree on the following questions:

1. If needed, teachers assist families in handling difficult separations during drop-off and pick-up times.
2. The Center classrooms provide a healthy physical environment for all children. Parent indicated it would have been nice to see COVID-19 screening happen earlier.

Director Response: On Tuesday, March 17 the Director attended a webinar for child care programs to help plan for COVID-19. Daily health screening began Wednesday, March 18 and an email sent to Center parents on our plan to keep children safe and healthy. Then on Tuesday, March 31 the ND Department of Human Services came out with more detailed information for Child Care Programs. These recommendations were used to immediately change the child health history screening questions asked each morning upon arrival. The ND Department of Health, ND Department of Human Services and the Center for Disease Control have provided childcare programs with the most up-to-date information with this ever-changing pandemic.

Parents stated they like/please continue:

- Monthly Newsletters
- Parent Survey Opportunities
- Opportunities for parents and grandparents to participate in classroom activities
- Center taking proactive measures to ensure child health, safety and security.

Parents stated they are concerned about:

- “Germs when children are crawling/playing in the main hallway.”
  Directors Response: When children are outside playing in the playground, in the hallway, room 319, at the Bentson Bunker Fieldhouse etc. there are germs everywhere. Children always wash their hands or have their hands washed for 20 seconds upon returning to the classroom, throughout the day and in the morning upon arrival.
- “Students verifying the correct parent is picking up the right child.”
  Directors Response: The Center has placed a picture of mom, dad and child above each child’s cubby to verify the right child with right parent. Staff also ask for a picture ID such as a driver’s license, to verify who the individual is when parents have given written permission to release their child to another individual.
- “It would be helpful if there was more information on developmentally “normal” behavior and when there are greater developmental concerns”.
  Directors Response: Center staff have provided developmental information to parents in our monthly newsletter, daily Parent Reports, Individual Child Portfolios, Family Conference Summary and have invited parents to contact their child’s primary caregiver for more information if helpful. If you would like to schedule a conference call with your child’s primary caregiver, please call the classroom and schedule a time to visit. We love visiting about the children!

Please try:

- “Continuing to take steps for a secure center.”
- “Adding a foreign language to the curriculum.”
  Directors Response: Planning on this as part of our summer curriculum!
- “Providing emailed bios of Student Assistants at the beginning of each semester or a featured student in the newsletter”.
  Directors Response: Each classroom displays a picture of our Student Assistants working in the classroom along with their first name, major, year in school, years worked in the center, hometown and hobbies. The Director receives written permission from the student to post this information in the classroom. Sounds like parents would like this information emailed to them instead of posting the student’s picture and biography in the classroom. Staff will discussed this at our next staff meeting.
These two recipes were made were prepared during Week of the Young Child for our Smoothie Samplers. Please try them at home for a cool treat.

Sunshine Smoothie
1 cup frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
¾ cup water
½ cup 2% mild (we used yogurt instead)
2 cups crushed ice cubes

Super Betty Smoothie
1 ripe banana
½ cup 2% milk
1 cup fresh or frozen mixed berries, thawed
1 tsp vanilla extract
½ cup yogurt

Place all ingredients into a blender. Blend on high until smooth. Serve.

Slice the banana into bite-sized pieces & place into blender. Add berries, milk & yogurt; blend until smooth. Add crushed ice & blend again on high speed.

The children looked at the orange juice & predicted what color our smoothie would be. They hypnotized why the shake was called sunshine smoothie. Together they decided it was going to be the color of the sunshine. We talked about the vanilla & foods we use vanilla in. We smelled it & all decided it was a good smell.

Together they decided it was going to be the color of the sunshine. We talked about the banana being cold & hard from being frozen, the color & different types of the berries, & tasted the together; it was a hit with all the children!

Stacey & Ariel

Infant/Toddler EML Happenings

A Sad Goodbye and a Warm Welcome
A sad goodbye to Mythri, with her parents Sudarshan and Ramya, as she moves to the toddler room May 1. We will truly miss you in our classroom, but will see you daily on the playground! A warm welcome to Penelope with parents Cory & Lauren. We are excited to collaborate with you in your child’s care and education!

Outside Play
We continue to go outside in the morning and afternoon. The mornings tend to be a little chilly, so please make sure your child has a warm coat or sweatshirt, hat and gloves.

Parent-Teacher Communication
The teachers miss seeing and visiting with our parents in the mornings. Please feel free to call the classroom anytime to talk with a teacher, ask questions or just check in to see how your child is doing! We would love to hear from you!

There was a Little Turtle Song (this is one the children’s favorite songs!)

There was a little turtle
His name was Tiny Tim
I put him in the bathtub to teach him how to swim
He drank up all the water, (make a drinking sound)
He ate up all the soap. (chomp, chomp sound)
He woke up in the morning with a bubble in his throat
Bubble, bubble, bubble
Bubble, bubble, bubble
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble in his throat! (Make puffy cheeks)
Pop the bubble! (tap your cheeks and blow out air)

Hand Washing Song (sung to the tune Frere Jacques)

Tops and bottoms
Tops and bottoms
In between
In between
All around your hands
All around your hands
Now they’re clean
Now they’re clean

Moon Dough (this is like playdough & slime combined)
1 cup cornstarch
½ cup hair conditioner
*Food coloring, optional
Total entertainment costs $2.00.

Spring Time
It feels like spring is here! We are excited to be outside as much as possible. Please bring a light jacket for the morning outdoor time as mornings continue to be a bit cool. We will be exploring nature and talking about plant life while we observe the leaves growing, flowers blooming, and bugs crawling. Please bring sunscreen for your child as the sun rays are very strong even though the air temperature feels a bit cool.

Toddler FLC 113 Happenings

Mary & Sarah

Transitions
We are beginning our summer transitions at this time. We have three toddlers who are graduating to the preschool classroom. Vivienne, Huck and Lars (April) have moved up and are or will soon be “a preschooler”. We would like to welcome our new toddlers: Anuva (Mariam and Mohiuddin), and Mythri (Ramya and Sudarshan). We are looking forward to learning about your child and assisting you in their education.

Spring Time
It feels like spring is here! We are excited to be outside as much as possible. Please bring a light jacket for the morning outdoor time as mornings continue to be a bit cool. We will be exploring nature and talking about plant life while we observe the leaves growing, flowers blooming, and bugs crawling. Please bring sunscreen for your child as the sun rays are very strong even though the air temperature feels a bit cool.
Playground Safety

With spending more time outside, comes skinned knees. One step to insure safe play outdoors is to have proper fitting shoes. It is preferable that children wear tennis shoes for outdoor play. If sandals are to be worn please be sure they are closed toed as well as having a secure strap around the child’s heal. While children are running and climbing shoes which are not a good fit or that will not stay on can be the cause extra trips and falls.

Toddler Activities

1. Use a “My Plate” print out, below; together take pictures of foods from the five food groups & practice categorizing the pictures of the foods.

(2): Use printable Upper Case letters, tape or glue them to Popsicle sticks. Using a small container such as a Dixie Cup, paste the matching letter to the cup. Use the letter stick to match to the cup with the matching letter. An additional component would be to incorporate sand or soil or rocks if wanting to play this alphabet matching game outdoor.

(3): Liquid Chalk:
Mix together these three ingredients 1 cup Cornstarch, 1 cup water, and food coloring. Use a muffing time for an easy container. Brush liquid chalk on to sidewalk surface or use your hands for a varied affect.

Preschool Happenings

Monica & Robin

Sad Goodbyes & Warm Welcomes

This month we will begin saying goodbye to one of our dear friends as she begins a new adventure. Emma’s last day in the Center for Child Development is May 15. The very best to you and your family!

We will be welcoming a new friend into our classroom on May 18. A warm welcome to Jack and his parents, Megan and Ryan. We cannot wait to get to know them!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thanks everyone for taking the time from your busy days to look over your Child’s Individual Portfolio and Family Conference Summary form. We appreciate your flexibility in taking them home for review. Please feel free to add learning goals for your child’s growth and development. Remember to return the signed Family Conference Summary form so teachers can add your child’s goals to our lesson plans and then file for later reference.

Spring Has Sprung!

We have officially sent home (or bagged up) snow pants, winter boots and heavy coats for the season. The playground is dry and the weather is comfortable for a lighter coats. Please keep a hat and lightweight gloves in the preschool room for cooler mornings. We are so excited to ride trikes, play basketball, and draw with sidewalk chalk outside again!

At Home Learning Activities

1. Shape Search: Show your child the basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle) and see if they can find things in your home, on a walk, in your yard etc. that are that shape. Take a photo of the items and start a shape book with your child. If your child needs more of a challenge, add in oval, star, octagon, heart, hexagon, etc. Another option is to add in 3D shapes such as cylinder, sphere, prism, cone, etc.

2. Scavenger Hunt: Hide items around the yard or in your home. Make picture clues for your child to look for the items. (Ex. photo of special teddy bear, picture of sofa if bear is behind sofa). If you need to make it more challenging, have the hunt be 3-4 steps long (photo of bear, photo of closet where they find photo of bathtub, where they find photo of sofa.

3. Journals: Start a daily journal with your child. Staple several pages together and add a colorful cover. Let your child illustrate something he or she did that morning and dictate what they drew for you to write the words. Complete at the same time every day to make it a daily activity.