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.

From the Director

Face Coverings in the Center

During the month of July, the Director has been in contact with the ND Department of Human Services, ND Department of Health, Center for Disease Control (CDC), NDSU Police and Safety Office and other University childcare and education programs. The Center Director has also informally surveyed parents upon dropping off their child off in the mornings on adults and children wearing cloth face coverings. Currently the NDSU COVID-19 Committee is reviewing our recommendations for face coverings. As soon as we have approval from the committee, the Director will email our families.

2020-21 Parent Advisory Committee Meetings

The Center would like to invite all parents to participate in our Parent Advisory Committee meetings scheduled for this year. The purpose of the Parent Advisory Committee is to advise and assist Center staff on implementation of our program and curriculum for children and their families.

The Parent Advisory Committee meetings are usually held three times per year or as requested. Based on your feedback from the Parent Involvement Opportunity form (completed with enrollment forms) you said Tuesday at 12:00-1:00 would be the best time for our meetings. This year we will tentatively plan to meet meet:

- Tuesday October 20, 2020
- Tuesday January 26, 2021

All meetings will take place in EML Hall room 269 or a larger room (to be determined) for social distancing. Please mark these dates on your calendar now. WE LOVE parent input and feedback, which helps us, best meet your child’s education and family needs.

Child Care & Education Hours >>>

*Summer Hours
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM, through Aug 23, 2020

Regular Hours
7:30 AM- 5:30 PM, begin Aug 24, 2020

Center Closed
No Closures for the month of August

Wish List

- Electric Fry Pan (to make Playdough)
- Crayola Thin Markers
- Jumbo Crayons
Special Thanks to Elizabeth

A special thanks goes out to Elizabeth, our Teacher Assistant, for her hard work and dedication to the children and families this summer! Her warm smile and interactions with the children are gifts she shared.

Growing and Learning Together

The children have grown so much this summer. Some children are saying new words, some are learning to take their first steps, and others are pulling themselves up and exploring all over the classroom. We enjoy playing and educating each child daily. Thank you for sharing your children with us!

We continue to go outside daily to do water play, read books, go on campus walks, explore the sandbox, and watch our garden grow.

Want to Visit with Your Child’s Teachers?

Please feel free to call the classroom anytime (231-8278) if you have questions or just want to see how your child is doing at school. We would love to hear from you and share updates!

“The Ants Go Marching” A favorite book and song right now!

The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching two by two, hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching two by two, the little one stops to tie his shoe and they go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain. Boom, boom, boom, boom.
The ants go marching three by three, hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching four by four, hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching four by four, the little one stops to shut the door. And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain. Boom, boom, boom, boom......!

Insect Repellent

Insect repellent can be applied one time per day, as needed for protection. If teachers apply insect repellent to your child, we will document the application on your child’s Parent Report Form taken home daily.

Child Transitions

Beginning on August 3, Maxine with parents Mike and Carly will start their transition to the preschool classroom. Ava with parents Ying and Gongyi will begin their transition in to the toddler classroom. These child transitions will be complete on August 14, 2020.

On the Move with Gardening FUN!

Our garden is growing “like a weed”! We have harvested tomatoes, zucchini, basil, oregano, and parsley. The pink and purple potatoes are growing very well. Unfortunately, we no longer have our bell pepper plants as the rabbits decided they needed them more than us. We look forward to making pizza, spaghetti with zucchini noodles and tasting water flavored basil and oregano.

Expanding Language Development

Encouraging language development, specifically communicating and speaking, in infants and toddlers takes many shapes and forms. Beginning in young infancy, language development is supported by listening and watching for different types of sounds, gestures or cries a baby makes. In older infancy, language development is supported in exchanges, which allow sufficient time for the child to process and respond to questions or suggestions. Young toddler’s language development is supported by modeling two or three word sentences that the child can imitate or responding to the child’s use of words to express needs or wants. Older toddler’s language development is supported by asking open-ended questions. Open-ended questions are questions such as “tell me about that tower”, “tell me about your picture”, “What do you think would happen if___” or after a child tells about an occurrence asking “then what happened”. Ideally, open-ended questions are a question that requires more than a one word response and one to which you do not know the answer to. Through open-ended questions we facilitate the child’s ability to process information taken in, assess the information and to express thoughts regarding that information. Through their answers, we can find out a great deal about how the child thinks and feels (expressed either verbally or non-verbally). The best part of this process is that any response is a correct RESPONSE. Always keep in mind, no matter what the age of the child, the process of expanding the child’s language skills by repeating what you heard the child say and expanding on that thought is a critical process in enhancing language development. This process broadens the child’s vocabulary and association skills, which interchangeably, enhance cognitive development.

Resources: North Dakota Early Learning Standards: Birth to Kindergarten; Family-Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs by Deborah Diffily and Kathy Morrison, pg 10.
Sad Goodbye & Warm Welcomes!

As the summer comes to an end and a new semester is soon upon us, the preschool room will have new faces joining us and familiar friends leaving. Katalin and Abram will be starting kindergarten soon and their last day in the Center is August 14. Good luck to you as you start a new adventure of learning. We will miss you!

The preschool room have two new children to welcome. Maxine will transition from the toddler room, with parents Carly & Mike. Edison, with parents, Kylie & Eric, are new to the Center for Child Development. We are excited to get to know and play with you!

Modified Operating Practices: Divided Room

Has your child talked about the wall in our classroom? Current ND Department of Health Childcare Modified Operating Practices limits group size to 15 people, adults included. This has required us to place a divider through our room and divide the children into two groups. When we are at more than 12 children, we will have the wall up and the children will stay in their designated group. They are doing activities with both Robin and Monica by switching teachers daily. All children will participate in the activities on the lesson plan, but the day they participate may be different than is on the lesson plan posted in the front entryway. The children have adapted to this room arrangement very well. They seem to remember which group they are in better than the teachers! If you have questions about our room division and curriculum, please send Monica an email at Monica.Nicklay@ndsu.edu.

On the Move with Gardening FUN!

The preschoolers garden is growing and producing vegetables and herbs! The children have been busy weeding and watering. We have tomato, pepper, and carrot plants all getting big, large flowers on the melon and cucumber plants as well as some fruit growing on some of these plants. We have been harvesting some spinach, radishes and peppers for our meals. Yum!

NDSU Extension has been visiting each Wednesday morning, teaching us how we can be healthy by eating a variety of foods. We have learned about the various parts of the plants that we eat and taste tested some new foods. They have helped us be better gardeners & healthier eaters! I hope your family has had a chance to try some of the recipes in the parent newsletter. Thanks Stephanie & Julie for educating us on gardening and different ways to eat vegetables!

Vacation Time

Please continue to keep teachers informed when your child will be absent. This helps us plan our environment, the curriculum and have accurate meal counts. Teachers will continue to post on the entryway bulletin board days we are taking annual leave and our substitutes.

Healthy Practices with the Preschoolers

The preschool room has been talking a lot about germs and keeping our bodies healthy. The children are washing their hands whenever we notice they are getting germs on them (nose or mouth touching, etc). We thought a reminder of all we can do to keep those germs away would be timely.

- We wash our hands lots during the day! When we come into the room, after we sneeze, cough or blow our nose, before and after we share the sensory tables, after toileting and before and after all of our meals.
- We brush our teeth after our lunch meal, keeping the sugar bugs away.
- We keep our napping items enclosed in a zipped up bag so they do not get germs from others’ nap items. We do not share nap toys. If we want to cuddle with an animal at naptime, we bring one from home and keep it in our zipped up bag.
- We never share chap sticks or food with others.
- We eat healthy meals by trying new foods on our plates. This keeps our bodies strong.
- We take a rest during the day so that our bodies can get its energy back.
- We exercise every day by moving and dancing in the room and climbing, pedaling and running outside. Our muscles are getting strong!

*Mom and Dad, you can help me stay healthy too by:

- helping me remember my zippered bag with my blanket, pillow and soft rest toy on Mondays.
- keeping me home when I’m not feeling well so I don’t get worse or spread my germs to my friends.