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**

**I LOVE YOU Box**

During the month of February, three I LOVE YOU boxes will be placed in the main entrance to the Center, one for each classroom. Parents, teachers, students, and children are invited to write an I LOVE/LIKE YOU note to a child as frequently as you like.

- Blue hearts for the infants
- Pink hearts for toddlers
- Green hearts for preschoolers

Please place the child’s name on the note, name of person writing the note and your message. Then place your heart in the appropriate I LOVE YOU box. Teachers will read the I LOVE/LIKE YOU messages to the children on Friday of each week. At the end of February, all I LOVE/LIKE YOU messages will be sent home with your child. We want each child to receive I Love/Like You messages weekly. The children will be extra proud of themselves after the notes have been read!!

**ND Quality Improvement Program**

With the sudden closure of Lutheran Social Services, Child Care Aware, Growing Futures Professional Development and Bright & Early Quality Improvement Program have also been terminated. As the Center for Child Development is midstream for our four-STAR Quality Improvement Program Review, all has come to a halt. These programs are looking for a new home and hope to be up and running soon.

**Big Jobs at Home**

Young children love to help out, but many times we do not let them. Why? Because we think it is easier—and faster—to do everyday jobs ourselves. Your child might take 15 minutes to finish a job you can do in one minute. But in 15 minutes your child can learn a lot!

Big Jobs are indoor and outdoor jobs children do with their families (or others) that help the whole family. They include tasks like setting the table, planting flowers, and tidying up when visitors are coming. To adults they might seem like simple tasks, but Big Jobs carry big rewards—for your child and your entire family.

**Wish List**

- Electric Fry Pan (to make Playdough)
- Non-Poisonous Plants (Preschool Room, Big Jobs for children)
How are Big Jobs different from chores?

You assign chores. Children volunteer to do Big Jobs because they want to help out. Also, Big Jobs are done together with other family members. Teamwork is an important part of doing Big Jobs.

What do children learn from doing Big Jobs?

They learn to:

- work with other people
- solve problems
- compromise
- contribute to their family

What are some Big Jobs young children can do?

- Cooking and baking—washing and peeling vegetables, stirring muffin batter, tearing lettuce leaves to make salad.
- Gardening—digging holes, planting seeds, raking leaves, weeding, watering plants indoors and outdoors.
- Doing laundry—carrying the laundry basket, sorting, folding, delivering clean clothes to each family member’s room.
- Caring for pets—feeding, brushing, walking, cleaning the cage or aquarium.
- Cleaning—carrying dishes to the sink or dishwasher, dusting, emptying wastebaskets.

Tips for doing Big Jobs at home

- Keep your child safe. Show your child how to safely use equipment like a rake or a vegetable peeler. Stay close by.
- Try to find child-size tools. They make jobs easier and safer.
- Have fun. Remember, your child chose to help out. Keep it enjoyable and she will want to do Big Jobs all the time.
- Talk while you work together. Chat about what you are doing and whatever else your child wants to discuss.
- Show your appreciation for the work family members have done. Say, “Thanks for setting the table, everyone. We are ready for dinner now, and the table looks beautiful.”


Friendship Day

On Friday, February 12, our classroom will be celebrating “Friendship Day”. We encourage the children to wear red, pink, or purple. Children are welcome to exchange cards with the other children, but no treats please. Participation is optional. Our teaching focus will be on kindness, kind acts to others and turn taking. We will be making healthy fruit smoothies with the children, yummy!!!!

MSUM Practicum Students

We have two Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) students that will be starting their experiences in our classroom. Please help welcome Miranda and Lindsey to our classroom. They will complete 40 hours on-floor, along with planning and implementing developmentally appropriate activities for the children.

Teacher Planning Time

Below is a schedule of when teachers are out of the classroom for lesson planning:

- Ariel: Monday 8:30-10:30, Wednesday 8:30-10:30
- Stacey: Tuesday 3:00-4:30, Thursday 8:30-10:30, Friday 8:30-10:30.
- Our weekly room meeting is Wednesday from 3:00-4:00. Tasha will be in the classroom at that time.
Parent Reminders

*Please label ALL items brought into the classroom with your child’s name. This will prevent mix-ups.

* Teachers leave the Center at 5:30 to be home with their family. If you wish to visit with the teacher about your child’s day, please allow yourself an extra 10-15 minutes before closing to do so. Thank You!

Key Strategies for Promoting Emergent Literacy with Children

Ages birth to 8 months:

- Talk, sing, repeat rhymes, do fingerplays.
- Show babies pictures of family members or of other babies/young children.
- Provide cloth or cardboard picture books for baby to hold and look at.
- Identify and talk about familiar pictures or symbols on toys and household objects.

Ages 8 to 18 months:

- Repeat favorite songs, stories, or rhymes on a regular basis.
- Make photo books or picture books with favorite things (We have a “What do you See book?”)
- Choose books that have clear, true to life, colorful pictures with simple text.
- Provide opportunities to explore and use writing materials, such as crayons, markers, and paper.

Adapted from the North Dakota Early Learning Standards-Birth to Kindergarten.

Welcome New Students!

Mid-January two NDSU Field Experience students, Jenny and Manny, began their experiences in our classroom. Jenny and Manny have had a couple weeks to learn about our classroom routines, develop relationships with the children and have learned about individual child caregiving practices. Beginning in early February, they will plan and implement developmentally appropriate lesson plans and set-up hands-on learning centers for the children. Jenny and Manny will have regular hours and be a part of our classroom through finals week.

Beginning February 5th, we welcome two EECE 430 practicum students from Minnesota State University Moorhead. Kendra and Brandy will complete their practicum requirements and their last day will be April 30th. They will each choose three children to observe development and plan developmentally appropriate activities to promote learning. They will also establish one learning goal for each of the six domains: fine motor, gross motor, cognitive, language, social, and emotional. Mary will notify the parents of the children chosen for this course assignment.

Friendship Day

Friendship Day will be celebrated on Friday, February 12th. Our curriculum will focus on kind and unkind acts and how to be a helpful friend. The children are welcomed to bring Friendship cards signed with their name to share with classmates. The toddlers will be creative and design individual Friendship containers. The children will place their friendship card in each of their friends’ container. Please do not attach any type of treat or toy to the cards. We will make a snack together in the morning to be shared at afternoon snack.
**Movin’ & Groovin’**

Beginning February 3 - April 14, the HNES 257 class will plan and implement developmentally appropriate physical/movement activities for the preschoolers in EML 319. This will take place Wednesday mornings from 9:10-9:50. The students (with face coverings) will have hands-on experiences with 10 children at a time. As weather becomes warmer, we may go to Benson Bunker Fieldhouse gym to participate and for variety. A preschool teacher will walk the children to and from room 319 and stay with them during this movement time.

**Reading Your Child’s Favorite Book**

Does your child have a favorite book he/she would like to share with friends? We are welcoming the children to bring their favorite book/story to school for Robin or Hannah to read at story time during February. Please sign up for a day on the calendar by the sign-in sheet. Teachers ask that the book has your child’s name written in it to prevent any mix-up.

**Friendship Day**

On February 12th, we will be celebrating Friendship Day. Teachers will focus on what makes a kind and unkind friend, why we need friends and how to show acts of kindness to others. Teachers will bring to the children’s attention, kind acts of others in the classroom. We will play cooperative games that day and….

- **Wear Pink, Red or Hearts** - Please have your child wear red, pink or heart clothing this day.
- **Exchange Friendship Card** - We will have a Friendship Card exchange, although it is optional. Each child will personally place their friendship card in their friends’ collection box. Please do not place a treat in the card.
- **Prepare a Friendship Fruit Salad** - We ask each family could bring one whole fruit or can/packaged cup of fruit for your child to add to our “friendship fruit salad.” We will make the fruit salad in the morning and eat it together at snack.

**Daily Parent Report Form Changes**

The Daily Parent Report form (1/4 size paper) will look a little different soon. After feedback from a few parents on what they liked and wish could be improved, teachers will focus more on what the child has learned from the curriculum. The form will also reflect on how the child ate for all meals instead of just lunch. Thank you to the parents who provided feedback for improvement!

**Favorite Winter Activity**

Teachers have read many books about winter to the children. During one story time the children were asked, “What is your favorite winter activity?”

Here is what they shared:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child</th>
<th>Favorite Winter Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huck</td>
<td>Make a snowball and sled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivienne</td>
<td>Make a snowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janosik</td>
<td>Play with frozen snow-that’s ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia</td>
<td>Do snowmans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayden</td>
<td>Throw snowballs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blakely</td>
<td>Build snowmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>I like to sled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everly</td>
<td>Staying inside during a snow blizzard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Building a snowman and filling a car with snow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leif</td>
<td>Throw snowballs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inga</td>
<td>Ice skate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lars</td>
<td>Slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edison</td>
<td>Doing snowballs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milo</td>
<td>Snowball fights, sledding and having hot cocoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozalyn</td>
<td>Ice skate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyle</td>
<td>Building snowmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meredith</td>
<td>Building a snowman and having a snowball fight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeric</td>
<td>Go sledding, have a snowball fight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxine</td>
<td>Go sledding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Let’s Celebrate --*
*Jayden turns 4 on the 4th!*  
*Jeric turns 5 on the 15th!*  
*Janosik turns 4 on the 17th!*