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

NDSU Face Covering Mandate Lifted

According to the email from President Bresciani on May 10, 2021, NDSU is now changing to a mask-optional policy, effective June 6. Every person should be comfortable continuing to wear a mask for their personal discretion if desired. The Center for Child Development employees will be removing their face coverings effective Monday, June 7, 2021. Parents may now enter the Center without a face covering to sign their child in and out. All COVID-19 Screening/Attendance Exclusions as posted in the main entry and in each classroom will remain in effect.

Annual Child Enrollment Forms Due June 25, 2021

North Dakota licensing requires child enrollment forms to be updated annually. Annual enrollment forms are available on our website at www.ndsu.edu/childcenter/ under the forms and documents tab. If you would prefer a hard copy, please let the director know.

Per parent request, we have streamlined the number of annual forms that need to be completed by parents by 50%. The 2021-22 Family Handbook and Center Closed Dates/Hours are also available on our website. All annual forms are due to the Director no later than Friday, June 25, 2021. An envelope will be placed on each classroom door to return your child’s forms or they may be emailed to Debra.Habedank@ndsu.edu. Your child’s file will be updated along with emergency information for the classrooms.

June Curriculum and Learning

We will begin our gardening curriculum the first part of June with planting and NDSU Extension educating children on gardens Wednesday mornings at 9:00.

June 7-18 -- We will celebrate warmer weather with Camping, Fishing, and the Great Outdoors. NDSU Wellness Center is very kind to share a canoe and kayak with life jackets for the children to experience. We are excited!!!!

June 21-25 -- The children will do a sand study using the Creative Curriculum study resources.
June 28-July 1 – Is Happy Birthday America celebration! On Thursday, July 1 at 3:00 PM the children will have a Happy Birthday Parade in the mall (next to our playgrounds) followed by Popsicles on the Playground. Parents are welcome to watch the children’s parade and then move to our playgrounds with your child for popsicles on the playground. Face coverings are optional for all. We are hoping for beautiful weather.

Results of April Parent Survey/ Program Evaluation (33% return rate)

Strengths of the Program:

- Parents have a good relationship with their child’s teacher.
- Teacher help children learn and grow with one another.
- Teacher shares information about what is happening in the classroom.
- Students interact with children positively.
- Parents are comfortable and enjoy what their child is learning.
- Parents are given the opportunity to discuss their how their child progress is measured.
- The center is effectively managed.
- Parents feel respected by the program staff.
- Teachers include materials/equipment that children are interested in.
- Staff communicates professionally with center families.

Items that you would like more information on:

- If I disagree with how the teacher works with my child, I feel comfortable working with Center staff to find a solution that works for both parties. Family Handbook page 15, Our team is committed to effectively negotiate and problem-solve difference as they arise. If you should have a grievance, please discuss the concern with the classroom teacher. If no agreement is made, please discuss the concerns with director.
- Parents understand how child’s progress is measured. Family Handbook Page 16, Children’s Curriculum and Learning and Screen/Assessment of Child Progress. The assessment tool used is Teaching Strategies GOLD which compliments the Creative Curriculum. Teachers also use child observation, art samples and language samples to monitor growth and development. Teachers plan the children’s curriculum and adapt the environment to provide learning challenges for the children.
- I always feel welcome to participate in program related planning. Family Handbook  Page 13, Parent Involvement Opportunities. The center believe parent involvement is one component of quality early education. With COVID-19 and modifies operating practices, parent involvement has been limited. This summer we are planning to bring back some outdoor parent involvement events! We are excited for this!
- Teachers adapt teaching strategies to best benefit my child’s learning style. The assessments results and parent input help the teachers to design individual goals for each child. If a child is sensitive or challenged in one aspect of development, teachers will use alternatives for the child to still be involved and feel successful.
- Providing parents with statistics on staff and students COVID-19 vaccination rates is protected under HIPPA regulations.

Like and Please Continue….

- Opportunity for children to get to taste test different foods.
- All the different arts and crafts offered.
- Planned activities the children and families can attend together.
- Professional and respectful relationships between teacher and parent.
- Conversations with teachers about child’s day.
- Gardening the children get to do over the summer.

You Recommended/Please Try:

- “Having a cap for sugar treats the children have when it is a birthday. Please have parents follow the Center’s birthday policy for treats.” (Family Handbook p. 33)
- “Allowing children to have more outside water play when weather permits.” As weather gets warmer, that is our goal also. Our outside environment and curriculum is an extension of our indoor learning environment. Bring on the warm weather!
- “More updates for parents on where child is cogitatively, physically, & emotionally.” Our daily Parent Report forms have changed! The teacher now identifies what the child has learned through play that day. Parents may also request additional parent-teacher conferences to discuss your child’s development throughout the year. Simply request a conference with your child’s teacher. We hope you also find value in the Individual Child Portfolio shared at Parent-Teacher Conferences that demonstrates your child’s learning in all areas of development over time. A developmental milestone 3-ring binger is found on the table in the main entry way. This includes developmental milestones in all areas of development for children 6-week-5 years of age. Please let a teacher know if you would like to check-out the Developmental Milestone Manual.
Warm Welcome and Goodbye

A warm welcome goes out to Connor (3 months) with parents, Laura and Stephen, and Melvin (8 months) with parents Wei and Yuxin. They will start in our classroom early June. Welcome to our youngest Bison Family!

Penelope and Linus will be joining the toddler room early June. We wish them the best in their new learning adventures and look forward to seeing them on the playground!

Breakfast Time

Please remember that if you wish to have your child eat breakfast at school, teachers ask that you have your child at school by 8:30 AM. Also, please make sure your child is not bringing toys and/or food into the classroom. Please leave it in your car at drop off time.

Family Vacations

With summer approaching, families are excited to take a vacation or just take a day off to play. We ask that you let teachers know in advance if possible. This helps teachers with our daily curriculum for the children, staffing, and ordering the appropriate number of meals for lunch. Also, if you are off campus for the day, please let the teachers know in case we need to contact you in an emergency.

Teacher Lesson Planning Time

Tasha - Monday 8:00-10:00
Stacey - Friday 8:00-10:00
Hayley will be on floor at these times.

Field Experience Student

Starting the first week of June, Morgan, our new NDSU Field Experience student, will be starting a 3-credit learning experience in the Infant room. She will complete a minimum of 123 hours throughout the month. Morgan will be getting to know your child along with planning developmentally appropriate activities for all children. Help us welcome her to our classroom!

Games to Play at Home

*Muffin Tin Games - Have a muffin tin and have your child put balls or small toys that can fit into the cups. For the older child, you can tape the toy inside and have your child problem solve to get the toy out.

*Water and Spoons - Have a bowl or tub of water and let your child explore with cups, scoops, etc. Water play always requires supervision of the child.

*Shoebox Game - Hide items in a shoebox and have your child find them. Then your child can take the toys out and put them back in the box and hide them themselves.

*Recycle - cereal boxes or tin cans for your child to stack or use with hiding toys. Also, clear Tupperware containers are great for putting objects inside to see if your child can open/close the containers. This is a great fine motor activity.
Warm Welcome and a Sad Goodbye

We want to welcome Penelope with parents Lauren and Cory to the toddler room. Penelope will be a full-time toddler on June 1st. Also, a warm welcome to Linus, with parents Joel and Erika, who will start full time in the toddler room on June 7. We are excited to have you play with us!

Emilia, with parents Jake and Brittany, will be moving to the preschool room! Linda and family are leaving the Center to travel and see their families! We wish both families the very best and please know you will be missed.

On the Move with Gardening

This month the toddlers will be planting their garden. They have been preparing the soil for planting by digging up the soil and pulling weeds. Some of the plants they will be planting are tomatoes, green beans, zucchini, melon along with mint, rosemary, basil, and oregano in the raised garden.

Toddler Teacher Lesson Planning Times

Mary - Monday and Tuesday 2:30-3:30 PM
Ariel - Thursday 8:00-10:00 AM
Hayley will be with the children when teachers have lesson planning time.

Annual Leave

Ariel will be taking annual leave Tuesday, June 1. Her substitutes are Hayley, Maddie, and Manny.

Music, Music, Music

The toddlers have been very involved in music development and movement. Their favorite song to sing is “Farmer in the Dell” which is not generally sung in the typical progression. Three songs from the soundtrack “Frozen” have been the highest requested songs by the children specifically “The Stomp Song”, “Let It Go”, and the “Other Let It Go”. The toddlers have also enjoyed the CD song “Rock-a-Bye Baby” by finding a stuffed animal and calmly rocking it back and forth. Music is so much fun!!

Summer Fun

The teachers have many fun and educational activities planned this summer. Please take note of special events on the June calendar. In addition to what is listed on the calendar, the preschoolers will be having many opportunities for outdoor play such as campus walks including the soccer park (north of T lot) and sprinkler play.

To prepare for sprinkler play, teachers ask that you bring and keep in your child’s cubby throughout the summer a swimsuit or shorts and tank top, water shoes (with straps), and towel labeled with your child’s name. We often have outdoor water play spontaneously depending on the weather and this way everyone can enjoy it. Please do not forget to apply sunscreen to your child each morning if you wish them to have a morning application. We will re-apply sunscreen after rest time if we go outside.

Summertime Changes

Just a reminder that our breakfast time changes slightly with our summer schedule. We will be eating breakfast 8:15-8:45.
Sad Goodbye & Warm Welcome

This month we will say goodbye to one of our friends as he begins a new adventure. Jeric’s last day in the Center is June 4. We will miss him and his family!

We will be welcoming a new toddler friend named Emilia, along with parents Jacob and Brittany. Welcome to our Preschool Family!

June Events

June 3rd       A special snack to celebrate our preschool graduates - 3:00 PM
June 17th    Field trip to the Babbling Brook and campus walk - 9:30 AM

Family Style Eating

Due to Covid-19 modified operating procedures, family style dining was suspended at mealtimes in the center. We are excited to begin family style meal serving once again!

What will I see for family style eating? Family style dining is when all the food is placed in serving bowls on the tables. The children serve themselves and pass the food bowl to others at the table. They put some of everything on their plate and are encouraged to try all foods. The adults sit at the tables and eat with the children as a role model. This is different than the “cafeteria style” eating where food is placed by the adult on each plate.

What are the children learning during this process? The children are active learners during mealtimes. The following are some of the benefits for family style eating:

- Responsibility and personal hygiene -- by washing hands, serving their food carefully, cleaning up own dishes.
- Promotes nutrition -- by encouraging children to taste new foods, letting them decide the amount to eat and seeing all food groups represented on the plate.
- Socialization – participating in conversation, using manners, patience and turn taking.
- Motor skills – passing dishes, serving oneself, using eating utensils, and pouring.
- Cognitive concepts – open-ended questions regarding foods, colors, shapes, amounts/numbers, food groups, categorizing, how foods grow.

How does the center and teachers promote child success during family style eating? We follow the USDA Child and Adult Food Program guidelines and incorporate standards set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation. Teachers will serve foods that is too hot for children to safely serve. We use appropriate size serving bowls, utensils, and pitchers that are plastic and light weight for easy handling. Spills happen, so we have clean up materials available for the child and teacher. Finally, if the children need help serving a food or pouring from the pitcher, the teachers use a hand over child hand guidance method, so the children learn how to successfully serve themselves. If you have questions regarding our mealtimes or family style eating, just ask a teacher!