



THE CENTER PAGE

April 2026 - V. 62, Is. 4

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Center Hours







Regular hours: M-F, 7:30-5:30

Center Closure(s)

April 3 – Easter Holiday

CCD Helpful Links

- Calendar: [CCD Monthly Calendar](#)
- Menu: [CCD Monthly Menu](#)
- Homepage: [CCD Homepage](#)
- Amazon: <https://a.co/dhdjbx>

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Wish List!

(See Amazon Wish List above)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring Family Survey/Program Evaluation

The survey will be sent via email to parents on April 20th and will close on April 24th. Please take the time to respond to the survey as it is valuable information for us at the Center to know what is working well and where adjustments may need to occur. We are making the change to an online survey based on parents' requests that they would like it online so we hope to get 100% return on the surveys this spring. The results will be shared at the PAC meeting.

Parent Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Time: 12:00-1:00

Location: Peace Garden Room-Memorial Union

The Center would like to invite all parents to participate in our last Parent Advisory Committee meeting of the year. As always, parents are welcome to attend in-person or online via Zoom. The meeting will be recorded and shared with families afterwards.

Week of the Young Child (WOYC) – Let's Celebrate!

WOYC is April 13-17 this year. It is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. The purpose is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. It is also a time to recognize that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later on in life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we

FROM THE DIRECTOR, CONTINUED

as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation will better meet the needs of all young children and their families. We are so excited for a weeklong celebration of our youngest learners!

Monday, April 13 – Music Monday

- Music Monday is more than singing and dancing, it is a way to encourage children to be active while developing their literacy skills and having fun with friends!
- The children will be painting and dancing with maracas. We will be having musical guests to play music for the children during the day.

Tuesday, April 14- Tasty Tuesday

- Tasty Tuesday is not just about eating your favorite snacks together. It is also about cooking together and connecting math with literacy skills and science while introducing ways to incorporate healthy habits into children's lifestyles.
- The children will work together to create a healthy, yummy smoothie for snack.

Wednesday, April 15 – Work Together Wednesday

- When children work together, they experience teamwork and develop their social and early literacy skills.
- At 10:00am, the children will join the Wellness Center children for gym time at the NDSU Wellness Center gym.

Thursday, April 16 – Artsy Thursday

- Art for children helps develop creativity, social skills, and fine motor muscles with open-ended projects that let them make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands.
- **Staff Appreciation Day!**

Friday, April 17 – Family Friday

- Parents and families are children's first teachers. Family Friday focuses on engaging families to support our youngest learners and thank parents for their partnership.
- **Parent Appreciation Day!** Please join your child between 7:45-8:30 AM for breakfast or enjoy your homemade breakfast to go if you are unable to stay.

National Student Employment Week

April 13-17 is also National Student Employment Week and we could not be the amazing program we are without our work study students! Their support in the classrooms help us to run efficiently and provide all the great developmentally appropriate activities that we carry out on a daily basis with the children. The children love the work study students and we are grateful for all that they do for us here at the Center! Please take the time this week to thank the work study students you encounter in your classrooms as we celebrate them here at the Center as well.



INFANT TODDLER / EML 161 HAPPENINGS

Stacey & Taylor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We are very excited for conferences this month. If you have not signed up, the sign-sheet is posted on the door. Teachers appreciate this conversation time with parents and look forward to helping each child achieve their new developmental learning goals!

FEATURED FAMILY

ARLO – Check it out!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

Check back next month for Celebrations!

INFANT TODDLER, CONTINUED

Field Experience Students

We will be saying good-bye to Jackie and Adriana at the end of the month or early May. They will have completed their hours with us. We will miss them, but wish them well in their future outside of NDSU!

What is Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Why is it important?

Infant and early childhood mental health refers to the developing capacity of a child to:

- *Form meaningful relationships
- *Manage and express feelings
- *Explore and learn within their family, community, and culture

When infants and toddlers have their needs met by kind and encouraging parents and caregivers, they develop a sense of safety and security. This trust provides them with the assurance to explore their world, try new things, learn and interact confidently with others. Early positive interactions are critical to a child's mental health and set the stage for lifelong success.

How can we nurture your child's mental health?

- *Respond to their needs and cues
- *Comfort and reassure them when they are scared, angry, or hurt
- *Develop routines to promote predictability and security
- *Talk about feelings
- *Help children calm when excited or angry
- *Provide consistent care giving as much as possible



TODDLER / FLC 113 HAPPENINGS

Mary & Ariel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are a wonderful time to share goals and objectives regarding your child's education. We look forward to sharing observations, interests, and goals with you.

Weather Changes

Please bring warm coats for morning outdoor play and a lighter jacket for the afternoon. The temperatures are still a bit cool in the mornings. A light hat and gloves/mittens may also help keep them warm.

Staffing Changes

Mary will be taking annual leave April 22nd - April 29th. Ariel will be working 7:30-4:30. Various students and Sheyenne will be rotating closing the classroom. Ariel will be taking annual leave the afternoon of April 10th.

Cute Quotes

One child, leaning against the door, foot crossed over the other says "I miss my Dadda".

Children are playing in home living, one child says they are making "egg bake". Another child said "I'm blending my eggs, making egg bake, and cooking my eggs".

FEATURED FAMILY

PACITA – Check it out!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

Check back next month for Celebrations!



PRESCHOOL EVENTS

April 1, 15 & 22: Movin & Groovin continues

April 13-17: Week of the Young Child (look for special events in the front page of the newsletter)

April 22: Earth Day – have your child wear **blue** or **green**

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

As your child grows, he or she is learning new information each day and you find yourself marveling by how much your child is learning. Before you know it, he or she will be ready to start kindergarten and enter the world of school. So how can you as a parent prepare your child for the new adventure of kindergarten? An important thing about preparing your child for kindergarten is slowly shift your child into it. How is this done? There are things, you as a parent can do to help this process.

One important process that children need when it comes to kindergarten is the ability to socialize with children their age. Involving your child in activities that have children his or her age group is a great way for them to develop social skills. They are learning how to play with others. Summer camps are a good example of this. Encourage your child to play during birthday parties that involve other children. Often children can be hesitant when it comes to playing with others and practicing these games at home can help remove the shyness.

When it comes to literacy, children love being read to. When you read out loud you enhance your child’s skills by building your child’s vocabulary, print knowledge and left to right progression. Parents can help children prepare for kindergarten by teaching them how to write their name. “For writing their names, let children practice (*first letter uppercase and all the others lowercase*) in sand, a small tray of rice, shaving cream, pudding, (*Yum!*), finger paint, glitter, crayons, write it big with sidewalk chalk, shape play dough into the letters, etc. Have fun!” (Hubbard, 2009). You can also play I-spy with your child. An example of this is if you see a sign somewhere you could say I spy the letter H. Then show your child where the letter is and have your child make the sound of the letter H. Having magnetic letters for your child to play with at eye level on the refrigerator also helps your child expand their knowledge.

To develop math skills, you can have your child help in baking by letting them help you measure out ingredients and encourage them to count and recognize numbers everywhere in their world. Take them shopping with you to point out shapes or numbers there.

To sharpen fine motor skills, try activities such as making a string of Cheerios or Fruit Loops to make necklaces. Puzzles are also another fun activity to help develop motor skills. Other things that children can work on before entering Kindergarten are: write numbers from 0-10 (or higher), learn colors, count objects, draw shapes and learn your home phone number and address.

All children learn at a different pace, but slowly preparing your child for Kindergarten now will help the transition not be so difficult for them. They’ll be able to learn and have fun doing it with their favorite teachers – YOU!

Works Cited

Hubbard, M. (2009, November 14th). *Preparing for Kindergarten*. Retrieved from Hubbard's Cupboard: http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/kindergarten_prep.html

FEATURED FAMILY

ELLIE & ELLA – Check it out!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

*Ronen turns 4 on the 7th!
Beckett turns 4 on the 29th!*