Welcome to ‘Spring’ semester at Campus Child Care. It is good to see so many returning families and we would like to welcome all of the new families as well. We hope everyone had a relaxing break and you are ready to start a new semester.

We are anxiously awaiting our NAEYC Accreditation visit. We did receive word that it will take place sometime between February 19-March 9. In the meantime, all of our professional staff have been working incredibly hard at getting their rooms prepared for the upcoming visit. We will be asking parents to take a minute to fill a new the parent survey. You may remember filling one out about a year ago. We used the information from that survey to help us with the self study process and to prepare for our upcoming visit. Your feedback is very important to us, and we thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey.

With in the next couple of weeks, two of our staff (Leslie P3 and Brianna Floater) will be attending an early childhood conference in Chicago. Hillary (P4) and Amy recently returned from the National NAEYC conference which was held in Atlanta. We even have several staff pursuing advanced degrees. We want you to know that we have a strong commitment to providing professional development opportunities for our staff and we are fortunate to have staff who love to learn and grow within their profession. They always come back with a lot of enthusiasm and great information to share with each other and parents.

We are looking forward to sharing in many shared experience with you this semester. Our parent program will be held on March 21st from 5:30-6:30p.m. We will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child in April and would like you to be a part of our learning community in any way that you can because strong relationships lead to meaningful learning!! We have the parent conference save the date chart on page 3 of this newsletter.

If you have not joined Teaching Strategies Gold yet, please make sure that your child’s teacher has an updated email for you. You don’t want to miss all of the amazing pieces of documentation the teachers observe on a regular basis. And share with you.

We are looking forward to a great semester. We take pride in creating shared experiences, connecting teachers and families, and learning more about building community so that you as families are supported and feel...
connected to our university community. Please let us know if you have any feedback for us or the center.

Have a wonderful start to your new semester. We wish you much success!

Kristin Schulz & Amy Lofthouse

**PRESC *H O O L R O O M* 1**

Ann and I are excited to begin our semester with our preschoolers. We would like to welcome two new children, Timmy and Rashaud. We are thrilled to have them. Ann and I have many fun learning activities prepared, such as, children drawing their own mini-maps showing how they get to and from school, dinosaur exploration, simple addition using animal counters, number-writing using salt trays, and letter recognition learning through games of BINGO and sign language.

This semester when entering the classroom, the children are finding their name mittens, and then using a clothespin to hang them on the string. This will encourage the children to use pincer grasp that involves a refined use of small muscles. With this type of fine motor development, a child is building muscle control so that eventually they can write, button and/or zip clothing. Next, the children will find their folder, print their name, and then wash their hands. After your child is done, he/she can explore the classroom. Each week the children have a job that is assigned to them. These are posted on the classroom wall in the quiet area. This is just one of

---

**RE M I N D E R S**

- Please be aware that we will not be celebrating Valentine’s Day at the Center by making or exchanging cards, so please do not bring valentines or candy to distribute. We prefer to maintain our typical routine, allowing families to choose their own way of celebrating these special days at home. We also want to avoid imposing any additional costs or burden on families. We appreciate your cooperation.

- Full-time child care will be available during Spring Break, March 12-16. An application form will be sent to your email be sure to hand it in by Friday February 9th if you need care during Spring Break.

- For tax purposes, our FEIN# is 36-6008480. We do not distribute statements regarding your child care payments. You need to track that information yourself, so we recommend for everyone to save your invoices as a way of documenting your annual child care expenses.

- All children will go outside when the ‘feels like’ temperature is above 15 degrees. They may go outside for a short time when this temperature is between 10-15 degrees.
the many ways we are building a classroom community.

The children have been “rocking out” performing on stage in the dramatic play area. During this sociodramatic play, the children have been imitating real-life people and experiences they may have had, while singing and dancing to their favorite songs.

If you have not already, please drop off a family photo or Ann and I will snap a picture of you and your child at drop off or pick up. We want all families to be a part of our classroom community.

We do live in the State of Illinois and the weather is truly unpredictable. Please make sure that your child’s winter gear is at school every day. Items needed are, an appropriate coat for outdoors, boots, snow pants, hats, and gloves or mittens. They will need shoes for the classroom, and boots for outside. Thank you!

Have a great month,
Jaquida Wynn & Ann Kuta

---

**Parent Conference Schedule - Save the Date!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2nd</td>
<td>Pam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jaquida</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9th</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>Kellie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16th</td>
<td>WOYC</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>Kendra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23rd</td>
<td>Barbara</td>
<td>Diane</td>
<td>Kendra</td>
<td>Hillary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30th</td>
<td>Sherie</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>Kat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7th</td>
<td>Make</td>
<td>Up</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each teacher is being given a full 9-4pm shift out of the classroom to conduct parent conferences. We do require families to meet with staff for a 20 minute conference and goals setting period. We value our relationship with you and the home school connection for your child’s benefit. We will remain flexible with families who have trouble meeting this time frame but ask that you keep to your day as best as possible to help us manage all of
Welcome back parents and families! We are excited to begin another semester in Pre-2. We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season and a Happy New Year. We will be welcoming a new member to our school family, Erick. We are excited to have you! We have lots in store planned this semester and look forward to watching your child’s intellectual toolbox expand.

To begin, we have planned a school family activity that will take place throughout the entire semester. We will be welcoming Hayes the Huskie as a traveling friend to visit your family, home, and outside school life. Hayes is a small stuffed animal Huskie that will come equipped with its own backpack, books, and coloring materials for you and your family to read to, draw with, and follow you on your daily adventures. If your routine is to brush your teeth before bed, then make sure Hayes watches you brush your teeth. If you have a family dinner, invite Hayes to come along. We ask that you either draw a picture about your weekly adventure or snap a picture and write a description of the fun activities Hayes was involved in. Make sure to send the picture to either Diane or Hillary’s email, which can be seen below.

We asked that Hayes be returned on Fridays or your child’s last school day, to ensure that we can get

### Child Care Fees/Billing

We bill parents for child care services four times per semester (at the end of 4 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks, and 16 weeks). The exact dates will be included on the semester calendar, as well as on your invoice. We add the fees for student parents to your MyNIU account so you can access them online and pay through the Bursar’s Office. We will also provide a monthly statement for your convenience. We cannot accept any type of payment at our office.

Faculty, staff, and community members will be billed through Accounts Receivable. They send us your monthly invoice, and we place this in your parent pocket. All payments must be made to the designated location on your statement, not to our office. We encourage parents to keep their invoices throughout the year. We do not provide statements regarding your child care expenses for tax purposes – it is up to you to track this. Our tax number is 36-6008480.

All accounts must be paid in full before child care can be secured for a future semester or interim period. Keep in mind, in order to eliminate a balance due, you may need to go to the Bursar’s Office / Accounts Receivable and request for your payment to go directly toward child care (otherwise, we are considered low priority, and your payment will go to pay other outstanding debts such as tuition, fees, books, etc.).
Hayes cleaned and ready to go on his next adventure. We hope Hayes will inspire the children to spend quality time with you and your family.

Last semester our Pre-2 friends have become more confident in gaining letter and number knowledge. We have also seen a growth in learning letter sounds. With this, we will encourage the children to develop their reading readiness skills through using an interactive word wall located in our book area. We will begin teaching each letter and their sounds through engaging group games and activities, catchy songs that repeat letter sounds, and using the letters in our names as a visual. Daily recall and practice are necessary to encourage phonological recognition and awareness. Please review with your child the letters in their name and letter sounds.

We have created an inviting environment and have designed the classroom to make each child gain confidence and feel successful. We have been intentional with how many friends can play in one area at a time to encourage new relationships with peers.

Please remember that we are required to go outside everyday if weather is permitting. Please make sure your child has adequate clothing. We ask that each article of clothing be labeled with your child’s name due to many children having the same gear.

As always, we maintain an open door policy. If you have any questions or concerns, we would be more than happy to discuss anything you wish.

Sincerely,
Hillary Rosher and Diane Mathison
hrosher@niu.edu
dmathison@niu.edu

PRESCHOOL ROOM 3
Welcome to the spring semester! We would like to welcome Teddy, Colin and Riley to Pre-3! We are so excited to have them join us. We are looking forward to a fun semester of learning. We will take advantage of winter and the cold, snowy weather by bringing it into our classroom and into our learning. Our block center has polar animals
and photos of winter activities and machinery. The students will learn new vocabulary from our winter word wall. We have enjoyed building winter homes and habitats. As you all know, the semester began with temperatures that were too cold to go outside so we bought the snow into the classroom on large trays and we have done science experiments with the snow. The favorite activity so far has been the tissue paper and snow experiment. The children used their fine-motor skills to separate small pieces of tissue paper and placed them onto white construction paper. We then asked them to guess what would happen if we placed snow on top of the tissue paper pieces and recorded their responses. We heard predictions that the snow would melt, change colors, and even explode. We watched and made observations and ended up with some very beautiful artwork.

The children have expressed quite an interest in learning letters and the sounds the letters make. We will continue learning Jolly Phonics actions and jingles that will introduce the children to the 42 letter sounds. In our writing center, we will be talking about mail, mail delivery, and how to address a letter. *It Came in the Mail*, a book by Ben Clanton, will help encourage us to write and send a letter to our house. We cannot wait to see if we receive any letters in return. Our hope is to visit the NIU mailroom as soon as the weather gets a bit warmer.

Our community worker discussions have us talking about restaurant workers and their responsibilities. We have a pizza parlor in our dramatic play center, which has sparked interest in making different types of pizza. There may be some cooking in our future.

Please make sure that your child has winter gear here at school every day. We will go outside if the feels-like temperature is 10 degrees or higher.

---

**Myth: Cold Temperatures Zap Your Immune System**

**Truth: Cold weather might make you shiver, but it won’t make you sick.**

In various studies, researchers have exposed volunteers to cold temperatures and cold viruses while the subjects stood around in wet hair, minimal clothing, and damp socks. On the whole, they were no more likely to get sick than people who were exposed to cold viruses while wearing dry, warm layers. Still, you should bundle up to prevent frostbite.

We have been working on the self-help skills of knowing how to dress ourselves for outdoor play. First, snow pants, then boots, then jackets, then hats and last but not least gloves/mittens. Please allow your child to do as much for themselves as they are able. Research shows that when preschoolers are given the opportunity to practice self-help skills, such as dressing themselves, they practice their large and small motor skills, gain confidence in their ability to try new things and build their self-esteem and pride in their independence.

We are looking forward to a great semester of fun, play and learning. If at any time you would like to visit our room to read, do an activity or to just play, you are always welcome.

Have a great month,
Leslie Dolan & Jen Young