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 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 Bri 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 5:30-6:30 p.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 7 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

INFANT ROOM
Welcome back to the Infant Room for the spring semester! We are ready to start this New Year strong! We want to welcome back all the returning families. We were sad to see Danah leave, as we will miss her.

This semester is already off to a great start. It seems as though several children accomplished many “firsts” over the break. We have so many children who are now crawling, sitting up on their own, walking, and even eating table foods, and many more. All of these milestones leads us to have a very busy room this semester; and we could not be more excited! Also over the break, Harrison and Alina turned 1! Happy Birthday!

This semester, we will be focusing a lot more of our time on curriculum in our classroom. We will begin implementing simple group time activities that include stories, finger plays, nursery rhymes, and even movement. We will also continue to explore our creative sides by implementing art activities, and sensory play.

We are looking forward to spending a lot of time outdoors exploring different nature objects. We are patiently waiting for the weather to get warmer so that the infants are able to consistently play outside, and explore the world around them. In the meantime, we will continue to bring nature items from outside inside so that

REMININDERS
- 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 children still have an opportunity to explore them.

As a reminder, we plan to go outside daily as long as the weather permits. With this being said, please remember to bring appropriate clothing for your children such as, hats, gloves, winter jackets, snow pants, etc.

We are looking forward to another fun and exciting semester. It really is a great opportunity to be able to watch your children grow and learn.

Have a great semester!
Alex McAnally & Sherie Newman

TODDLER ROOM

Happy February! We are looking forward to the new semester in the Toddler Room. Our room is just bursting with growth and development in the children! Kellie and I have seen language explode; children are learning new words every day. This is so helpful in relationship building, play, interactions become more meaningful, and the communication eases the frustration, as children are able to express their wants and needs.

We have had a few more birthdays, Happy Second Birthday to Ryan, Isabel and Genevieve!

Playdough is becoming a daily activity; they are exploring colors and building fine motor development. The children are learning about turn taking, patience, and impulse control (not eating the playdough). They are squeezing the playdough and rolling it out and are learning to use rollers, stamps, cookie cutters and other playdough tools.

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 on-line 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.).
Focusing on the future, this semester, we will be fostering more independence in our children. We will encourage the children to be responsible for putting their personal items in their cubbies, coats, hats, boots and winter gear. You can help by continuing to encourage them to find their cubby and hang up their items with you at drop off. We are also working on independent hand washing. Most of the children can get their hands wet, soap, scrub, rinse and dry with just a little assistance. At mealtime, we will be encouraging self-serving, drinking from open cups, and using utensils to eat. Mealtime is a great time to encourage speech by asking for more food and mealtime conversations. We will be providing cooking experiences that allow measuring, pouring and tasting opportunities. The use of manipulatives in our room such as puzzles, beads and pegboards will help with fine motor development and spatial awareness. Sorting and classifying material will give the children opportunities to sort using one or more attributes such as colors and size.

Kellie and I have sent home the Welcome Back forms and ASQs; please return it as soon as possible. Let us know if we can schedule a time for us to meet and go over Welcome Back Forms.

- Remember to label clothing, including all outerwear.
- We will be going outside as much as the weather will allow us to, above 10 degrees with wind chill. This time of year, it is important to air out the room and ourselves, killing the germs that bring on all of the illnesses.
- This also means many tissues so we welcome any donation of softer tissues!
- Winter weather brings on dry air and dry skin; we use dye and fragrance free lotion but feel free to bring in lotion (labeled) for your child if you want to.

Have a great February!
Pam Yockey & Kellie Fuss

TWO/THREE-1

Happy New Year! Welcome back to a new semester. We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. We are excited as we have two new friends joining our class this semester. We would like to welcome a new friend to our classroom, Delilah!

Over the course of the semester, we will continue to work on helping the children develop their social skills. At this age, children may not have the words to express themselves in certain situations, and because of that, the children may result in other forms of expression like hitting, biting, kicking, etc. To help with this, we continue to help the children by giving them words to say. We have also been sharing social stories about how biting hurts and how using our words are helpful, so our classmates, teachers and parents can help us. Please let us know if you would like copies of these books sent home. We will also have a few visits from Slow-Down Snail and Impulsive Puppy to help show the children what they can do in a challenging situation. More information will be sent home about Slow-
Down Snail and Impulsive Puppy. This is a great way to help the children develop their language and their social skills.

Also, during the semester we will be introducing basic math concepts like counting- connecting the name of the number to what they look like visually, connecting a number to an amount of a certain item, one-to-one correspondence, etc. We will be learning about shapes and what they look like. The children have been very interested in cooking activities and measuring out the different ingredients we will need for what we are making. We hope to continue to offer even more cooking activities throughout the spring semester. This is such a great and simple way to incorporate math skills.

Please send your children with winter weather gear, as we will be going outside if the temperature is above 10 degrees with wind chill. Please make sure to label your child’s clothing items-jackets, mittens/gloves, hats, boots, and snow pants. The tags, if present, are a good place to write your child’s name.

We recently made mango pineapple salsa, and it seems to be the kids favorite cooking activity thus far. I have included the recipe in case you want to make it at home.

Mango Pineapple Salsa

2 Ripe Mangos
1 Pineapple
1 Bunch of Cilantro
1/2 -1 Red Onion
1-2 Garlic Cloves
¼ to ½ of a Jalapeno (Optional)

Instructions

Peel the mangos and the pineapple. Cut the pineapple and the mangos away from the pit. Cut the pieces of pineapple and mangos into small pieces (dice). Separate the cilantro leaves and cut into small pieces. Peel the onion, then, dice it into small pieces. Peel the garlic and dice it up into small pieces. The jalapeno is optional but if added, cut off the stem, cut it in half, and remove the seeds. Dice up the jalapeno. Put all of the ingredients into a bowl and mix them together. Let stand and put in the refrigerator for fifteen to twenty minutes.

We look forward to a wonderful spring semester full of learning and fun!

Kat Dolan and April Kaiser

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.

It is amazing how much happens in only 2 weeks! The children are off and running, full of exploration, and ideas. We began our semester with a few goals we felt the children would be interested in. One of which was painting with brooms. Every child had the opportunity to use an adult or child-sized broom to paint with. We spread a very large piece of paper on the floor, taped it down and poured puddles of paint on it. Then the children got busy manipulating the paint with the brooms. We did this for two days so that we could include as many children as possible.

Since returning from winter break, several of the twos have been interested in volcanoes. We watched 3-minute videos of volcanoes exploding. With that came a lot of dialogue and conversations. The children were interested in how the lava slowly creeped across the land the plants would burst into flames. That led us to talk about how hot lava is. We looked at pictures of volcanologists at work and the special protective clothing they sometimes wear. The children wanted to see a volcano in person, so I explained to them that there are no volcanoes in Illinois. We checked on our globe to see where volcanoes are. We found out that there are some in Japan, Alaska, Hawaii, and Mexico. Therefore, we made a small volcano. This took some thought and steps on my part as well as the children’s. I had them help me look on Pinterest for ideas about how to make a paper mache volcano, we found one with a pop bottle in the center, and the volcano was built around the bottle, which is what we did. Different children were involved with each step of the process.

We then painted our volcano with colors that the children chose, brown and black. Later we will paint streams of lava down our volcano. This could easily be our next study! Stay tuned...

Just some reminders...
- The weather is crazy inconsistent! One day the temperatures are below zero the next it is in the 50’s. Please do your best to dress your child accordingly.
- Flu season is still upon us, so wash hands regularly! This will help reduce the spread of germs.

Kendra Nenia & Barbara Zeman
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 the meetings we need to get through over 5 weeks.