Welcome to the summer semester at Campus Child Care. With the hot and humid weather, there is no question that summer has arrived! As long as it is not too rainy, the children are sure to have lots of water play outside this summer. We would like to welcome all new children and families along with those who are returning. It’s great to see all of you!

This is a transitionary time of year when most children have moved to a new classroom, some of our teachers have switched classrooms, and five teachers are off for the summer. So, many children have at least one, if not two, new teachers. We recognize this is an adjustment for them (and you) so the teachers will be working to build new connections with each of you. Please be sure to have an intake meeting with your child’s teacher. Also, you will also notice fewer student workers in your child’s room because we do not need to employ as many during the summer months. We have just three classrooms open this summer — Toddler/Two’s, Pre 1 & Pre 2. We are also lower on Mondays and Fridays this summer so you will notice that some teachers will be taking these days off.

No sooner is it summer than we have opened enrollment for the Fall semester. We give priority to returning families but you must get your application in or we have no way of knowing that you plan to return. These are past due so please talk with Janene right away if you intend to return but have not submitted an application. Also, remember you need to return the contract (which follows the application) each semester, to secure your spot.

During the upcoming August interim please note that the entire center will be closed on Friday, Aug. 14 & 21 for professional development and new student orientation.

We will be planning a Family Gathering (probably during an afternoon) this summer, so watch for more information coming soon.

This will be our only newsletter for the summer session so please read everything thoroughly and don’t hesitate to ask if you have any questions. We will send out email updates if there is anything that you need to be aware of. We will keep you posted on our progress with our new teacher hires as soon as that process is complete. Enjoy the summer; it goes by quickly!

Chris Kipp & Kristin Schulz
Toddler / Two’s

Welcome to summer!! We are excited about our summer schedule and group of children. You may have noticed our newest and youngest addition to the room, Heaven. She has an older brother in a preschool room. We also want to give a warm welcome to Egypt, she will stay in the Toddler room when Fall semester arrives. We are having a great time getting to know all the children. The older two-year-olds have been wonderful helpers to the teachers. They will often find toys for the babies to play with or even sit next to them and share a book.

We will attempt to provide water play every day for the children—whether in the media table inside or in areas outside. Please bring in a swimsuit, water shoes and a towel, all labeled with your child’s name or initials. You may also want to make sure we have plenty of extra clothes too. This age group LOVES to splash!

While your child is playing in the water we will encourage them to pour and dump the water. Some of the manipulatives may sink or float, we will bring attention to many scientific terms and observation during this play.

We cannot have the children drink the water from the media table or outside areas. We will encourage the children to ask for a drink of water. This is for your child’s safety as well as the other children. If you notice your child drinking water from a public pool or water play area please discourage this. If toys are mouthed and then placed back into the water the area has to be closed immediately. Setting safe boundaries for your child is an important expectation for you to provide. Providing boundaries does not make you a “mean” parent but allows the child to understand what is acceptable and what is not. We all have to live with expectations and children as young as one year of age can begin this lifelong lesson.

REMINDERS

- The last day of summer semester is Aug. 7. Full-day care is available during Interim (Aug. 10—20); applications are due by July 10. Anyone who requests care after this date will be charged the ‘extra care’ fee of 10%.
- We will be closed on 2 Fridays to provide time for professional development, classroom prep and new student orientation. These dates are Aug. 14 & 21.
- If you find that you need to withdraw from Fall semester, you will need to let us know by July 24 or you will be billed for the first 2 weeks of the semester.
- Please bring gym shoes for your child to wear during outdoor play to protect their feet!
- We are in need of some infant pants sizes 6-18 months. Pull on pants are preferred!
- The Center will be closed on Friday, July 3.
- Please let your child’s teacher know if s/he will be absent or arrive late on his/her scheduled days. It is easier for us to make decisions regarding staffing or on-campus walks when we know who will be here each day.
- Child care rates for the fall semester are posted on the CCC web site.
If you have any questions about appropriate boundaries or expectations for young children, I would encourage you to go to the following website [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org) this site has many articles and discussions that may be beneficial to you and your child.

We are hoping to give the children many age appropriate experiences throughout the next six weeks. Some of the activities the older children will be able to do independently, while the younger ones will need more guidance. You may notice some of the artwork in the room. Many of the pieces will be kept until the end of summer semester; be sure to ask your child about their artwork. Simply asking what colors they used and what type of medium used can promote a healthy self-image for the child.

The older children have had a little experience with scissors and at times ask for them to experiment with again. The younger children are not ready for scissors, so they will not have this opportunity but can observe the older children. The children of course have crayons, chalk, markers, and pencils to draw with throughout the day.

The very first day of the semester, the children helped make play-dough. When they were asked what color the play-dough should be, we of course heard a variety of colors; fortunately, all the combined colors created purple! The children have had an opportunity every day to squish, cut, roll, and model the play-dough. They are always discouraged from eating it!

We have been enjoying our outdoor time in the sand box and riding the trikes. On days when it was raining so much, the children had an opportunity to go into the large motor room to slide, jump on the trampoline, kick the balls, play basketball, and practice using the stairs.

We will be having a fun family gathering later in the summer, so please watch for information by the cubbies. We hope everyone will be able to attend and enjoy a few hours with your child at the center.

Some of you have been given an ASQ to fill out, please have this returned to us as soon as possible. An Intake/Welcome Back form was also handed out to **ALL** families, please return that as well. If you would like to sit down with your child’s primary teacher, please let us know so we can arrange a meeting time. Remember you are always welcome to talk to us about any concerns, questions, and strategies to help your child have a successful day.

Sherie Newman, Carol Schroeder and Pam Yockey
Hello summer Pre-1 families! Katilyn, Klint, and Jaquida have many fun activities planned for this summer. We are excited to get to know the children who are new to the center and classroom. Pre-1 has been asked to help take care of a garden across the street. The children will be weeding, watering, and learning all about the plants in the garden. Then when the vegetables are ready to be picked, we will be able to take them back to the center!

Pre-1 received 5 caterpillars this summer as part of our science investigation. The children are really excited to watch them grow and change. As a class, we talked about the different stages a caterpillar goes through. We also looked at pictures of what the different stages look like. The children will be drawing pictures of the caterpillars and observing their transformation as they change into butterflies. When they are ready we will let them go on our playground! We have a wide variety of native flowering plants for them to eat!

A fun summer activity is playing with chalk. We decided to make chalk ice cubes to play with outside. The children and Katilyn mixed water and cornstarch into a bowl and stirred it up. Then, the children told Katilyn what color they wanted the chalk to be. We made blue, purple, and green chalk. After it was all mixed together we poured them into ice cube trays and waited for them to freeze. The next day they were ready and we took them on the playground and made many different pictures with them!

Just a few reminders:

- Since it is getting warmer we will be having water play outside. Make sure to bring a swimsuit, towel, and water shoes to keep at the center.
- Make sure to check your child’s extra clothes bin to see if they are in need of more clothes.

Have a great summer semester,

Katilyn Ostenson, Klint Mathey and Jaquida Wynn
Preschool Room 2

Welcome everyone to Pre 2! We are looking forward to lots of water days, art, gardening, exploring natural items, and the life cycle of the ladybug.

During the first week, we found a conductor baton. The children enjoyed conducting songs as others sat on the bench with their instrument of choice. They made up rules of when to start and finish based on if the baton was facing up or down. The conductor chose the song and the orchestra played to the beat. We later discovered that Hannah’s grandfather is a conductor and her mom emailed a video of him conducting a concert that both Hannah’s parents performed in. She sent a video and we watched it. She also sent a picture of Hannah posing with her grandfather in his conductor’s suit. We added a listening center with books on cd with headphones for the children to listen to a story during free play.

We have been doing lots of art and decorating our classroom and hallway frames. Please take a look and enjoy the creativity.

We took a campus walk where we looked for living things. We saw flowers, trees, butterflies, birds, spiders, and a dragonfly. We talked about the ripples we saw in the water under the bridge by Cole Hall.

Campus Child Care has been invited to participate in a gardening experience with four raised garden beds across the street between the Glidden Home and the NIU Alumni Visitors Center. Children who are interested will participate in activities that could spur on their existing curiosity. For example, we will pull some weeds and experiment with safe ways to slow or eliminate weed growth. We plan on measuring the plants, tracking their growth, and adding a couple of new plants to the garden. We will also be cooking with the produce the children and teachers gather from the plants. Hopefully enough of the children will show an interest in this fun and rewarding gardening opportunity! We will keep you informed.

The children have been learning about the lady bug life cycle over the past few weeks. The lady bug larva kit arrived, and the children have been observing the larva eating, and watching their bodies molt their skin as they get ready to transform into the pupa stage of their life cycle. We have been taking turns placing water into the “lady bug land” so that their environment is humid enough for them to grow. We have also been learning how to be gentle with living creatures and respecting their habitats. The children will have the opportunity to feed the ladybugs raisins after the pupa stage and watch them continue to transform into adult lady bugs! We plan on
releasing the lady bugs into the gardens we are taking care of this summer. We learned that ladybugs are beneficial to gardens because they eat pests like aphids. Be sure to check out our documentation board in our classroom over the next few weeks to see the progress of our ladybugs!!

Since many of the children have been searching for and collecting rocks outdoors, we decided to try to make our own rocks using small pebbles, sand, and glue. We learned that the rocks we made are called sedimentary rocks since they are made out of different materials found on the earth’s surface. We learned that real rocks take several years to form as minerals and different types of matter are compressed together over time. We also learned that sedimentary rocks are usually formed at the bottom of lakes and oceans. We plan to compare our rocks to real rocks using our five senses. We plan to measure and weigh the rocks as well.

Please remember to bring extra clothes as needed. We are looking forward to a wonderful summer of fun and learning!

Kristi Hayward, Kendra Nenia, & Christy Pelikan
Summertime, just like any other time, is a wonderful time to be outdoors. Despite the heat and the bugs, we’ve taken a chance to stop and notice the many plants that grow on our playground that we see every day. There are many, many plants that people call ‘weeds’ that actually can be very useful in our everyday lives.

First and most prevalent on our playground, we have the common “Plantain” weed. Little known to the general public, the leaves of this plant can do much more than take over your lawn. When blended or chopped up with water, steeped like a tea, or simply chewed up, the poultice—or chewed up mess of leaves—can be applied to small abrasions and cuts to relieve pain. And even more useful during this time of year, it can be applied the same way to mosquito bites, stinging nettle, and even poison ivy to relieve itching. On top of all this, they can also be picked (as long as they haven’t been sprayed with a weed killer) and added raw to a salad.

These plants are quite easy to find, and can be identified by their five main veins down each broad leaf, and by their tall stalks of seeds. The older leaves can get to the size of an adult’s hand, and will sometimes become wrinkled. The younger leaves, up to the size of a half dollar with a lighter yellowish shade of green, are the ones that taste better, or can be chewed more easily, but older tougher leaves will still get the job done.

Many parents, upon pickup, may have noticed children picking the berries from our Juneberry Tree. The children have enjoyed harvesting the berries to make pretend pies and soups, as well as feeding them to birds and squirrels. We have used their interest in the berries as an opportunity to teach about safely finding and picking berries without harming the plant or other plants close by.

Juneberries are completely safe to eat and are actually loaded with antioxidants. However, in the interest of teaching, we have decided that since it’s not a berry that we (the children) readily recognize, or one that we know is safe to eat, we are exercising caution and refraining from eating them because there are many berries in nature that are not safe to eat.

Since many plants can be dangerous or harmful when ingested, safety has been our top concern when learning about the plants around us. If you have any questions about what the children have been learning regarding the plants on our playground, feel free to ask Klint.