The semester is up and running and everything seems to be going well. As promised, this month’s newsletter is a bit shorter. The monthly newsletters will now be available on our website (www.ccc.niu.edu) for parents and staff to access. Feel free to let us know if you want a hard copy and we’ll be happy to provide one. We hope you will take the time to read the newsletters; they are meant to keep you informed of center happenings. Also make sure you read the Daily Reflection sheets posted outside your child’s classroom for those day-to-day updates.

We recently sent out a survey regarding parent involvement in our program. Thanks to those who filled this out; there is still time if you want to hand one in. We will be going through these to see what types of opportunities you are looking for and ways you would like to participate in your child’s classroom or the overall program. We will be getting back to you, in some way, very soon.

We are going through a national accreditation process this fall so we will be asking you to fill out a survey in early November. Parent participation is key to our success so we look forward to working with all of you in different ways. Some of the teachers have already invited parents into their classroom. For example, Preschool Room 3 invited a parent to read a book in Spanish; what a great experience for the children (and teachers)! We look forward to making more connections like this.

Vision and Hearing screening was completed for preschool-age children in September. We will have a follow-up rescreen for those who missed it or did not pass. I will send letters out by the end of October for children who had difficulty with the screening, otherwise there were no concerns.

Although it’s not our intent to squash anyone’s enthusiasm, please remember that we do not celebrate holidays at the Center. As early childhood professionals, we believe the celebration of holidays belongs at home and is best left up to the family to decide which holidays to celebrate and in what way. This means the children will not be wearing costumes for Halloween or distributing / collecting treats. More information can be found in the Parent Handbook which details the type of curriculum our center provides.

Please look on the last page of this newsletter for an announcement regarding NIU’s new housing project for students with dependents.

I hope your semester is going well (and stays that way)! Please don’t hesitate to talk with any of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Chris Herrmann
Greetings to all Infant and Toddler families. It is the start of another new school year at Campus Child Care and we have been busy with getting to know all the new children and families. The children in the younger rooms seem to be getting more and more acclimated to their classrooms and teachers each week. The new children to the center are picking up on the routines and the teachers are learning more about them daily. It is fun to see all the personalities emerging!

I want to thank all the families who were able to come out for the Family Night. It was an hour full of conversation, fun, and creativity! The theme for the evening was a Math and Young Children “make and take”. Refreshments and the activities were self-contained in your child’s classroom. We hope everyone had an enjoyable evening, shared some fun time with your child, and was able to connect with other families in the classroom. For those of you who attended, Chris placed an evaluation for the event in your parent pockets. Please take a moment to fill this out and hand back. We appreciate any and all feedback.

Parents in the Preschool 2 classroom are aware of their child’s teacher Diane Mathison going on an early medical leave; however, I would like to let all families in the center be aware of this. Diane is pregnant and due in November and she had to go on bed-rest for a while. She will most likely be gone till the end of her maternity leave. We don’t know exactly when she will be returning but it is likely to be early in the spring semester. Some families in other classrooms know Diane, and the preschool children come in contact with her during different parts of the day, such as their outdoor time from 11-11:45 or when children are scheduled for care during the interim times (Diane has been scheduled at times in the younger classrooms). We are all thinking of Diane and wish her and her family well.

Book Fair time is just around the corner! Every fall Campus Child Care hosts its annual Children’s Book Fair. The book fair is the only fundraising event we do all year long. This year it’s going to be held on October 23-27. The book fair is in the large motor room and we always have a large selection of over 1500 children’s books, calendars, and some adult selections. We ask for parent volunteers to work this and a sign-up sheet will be posted soon on Janene’s counter. Without the parent volunteers, it would not be possible to staff this event as it is extremely time consuming through the entire week. We appreciate everyone’s assistance in making this fair a success. Have a great rest of the semester and my door is always open if you have a question, concern, or comments. Enjoy the rest of the newsletter!

Lisa Schmidt

**REMINDERS**

- All children who are well enough to be in attendance at the center will be taken outdoors on a daily basis. As the weather turns colder, please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play and walks.

- Please pay your bills in a timely manner. A reminder is sent out after one missed payment and child care is terminated after two missed payments.

- Remember that children who become sick during the day will be sent home. The guideline we follow is to send children home if they have a fever over 101 and are not well enough to participate in the daily activities.

- Remember to read the Daily Reflection sheets to get an idea of activities that occurred in your child’s classroom. These are posted on the bulletin board outside each classroom.

- It is important to bring children to preschool screening at your own school district one year prior to kindergarten, and earlier if there are developmental concerns.

- Please remember that we do not celebrate holidays at the center so the children will not be wearing costumes or distributing treats for Halloween.
Infant Room

Thanks to all of you who were able to participate in the Family Night. We hope you enjoyed the evening. Chris will be sending you an evaluation, please take the time to fill it out and return it. It helps us to plan future programs. If you were not able to make it we understand and hope that you will be able to join us for future events.

The semester seems to be moving along rapidly. We have become very familiar with the children and their routines. In return the children have become more comfortable and trusting of us. Since the start of the semester a short five weeks ago we have discovered many changes in the development of the children. Some of the children have begun being more verbal by cooing and babbling. Others have begun eating new types of foods. Several children have gotten new teeth. We have some children that have discovered rolling over, pulling up, sitting up, crawling, lifting heads up without assistance, and walking. Every child develops at a different pace but in a predictable pattern. Below is one of my favorite pieces on development taken from Prime Times written by Jim Greenman and Anne Stonehouse.

Development Is Not A Race

When did you take your first step? Were you a biter or a hapless victim of a biter? When did you start using words? And just for the record, when were you toilet trained?

Early childhood is a time when parents and caregivers watch development closely, caring intensely about many things. Unfortunately, often these are things that have no developmental importance. There is no future developmental advantage and rarely any significance to early achievement of most milestones. As parents, we cringe when our little Johnny’s same-age cousin Tommy is saying “Mom”, “Da Da”, and “pass the cookies” while Johnny is happily smiling and only infrequently producing nonsense words. Or when Jenny down the street is on a stroll while our Alice only creeps along. But Johnny may become the orator and Alice the track star because earlier is not better.

Normal development assumes many different forms and proceeds at a pace appropriate to each child. Albert Einstein hardly said a word before three, and Mohammed Ali began walking at fourteen months. Yes, we should look for signs of developmental delays that possibly signify physiological problems. But that alertness does not have to create a climate of comparison, competition, and worry.

Soon we will begin having take-home literacy bags for you to check out at your convenience. Each bag will contain a book with an activity to go along with the book. You may take the bag home and use the materials with your child. Included in the bag is a journal for you to report your experience with your child. We will let you know as soon as we have the bags available. Sarah and I would like to express our gratitude from all the kind words we have heard from many of the parents. It makes us feel good to hear you notice and appreciate what we do. THANK YOU!
Reminders:
- If you have not already brought in family photos for our display, please do so soon. (We do not have them on display yet because we are waiting for more laminate sheets to arrive.)
- For the safety of your child and others, please keep your child’s fingernails trimmed and filed.
- We do go outside everyday as long as the temperature with the wind chill is above 10 degrees. On days when the temperature is colder we will shorten the length of time we spend outside. Be sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather.
- Please be sure to wear shoes covers over your shoes or socks to keep the carpet in the play area clean for the children.
- We ask that you help your child wash his or her hands when arriving at the center.

Kellie Fuss
Head Teacher

**Toddler Room**

Hello Toddler Parents. The semester is off to a great start. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with Carol and I. We enjoy talking to all of you and want to be available for any questions that may come up. Our room has been very busy. The children have enjoyed the kitchen area for the last few weeks. Joe talks about the iron at home, so we found the pretend irons to have the children role play with. Joe often says “hot” when ironing a shirt. The children are also remembering to “pretend” to eat the food - we get to make great crunching sounds when we just pretend. This is a difficult task for some children because they know food goes in their mouths and this is the age when they are still very oral.

Books are always a favorite in our room. If a teacher doesn’t have a child in her lap reading a book then a student will. The art projects have been interesting. We are trying new kinds of mediums and techniques. The glue tubes are by far the most popular. Every time we have used them, Fiona will say “sticky.” Most of their art has been displayed throughout the two rooms and in the hallway. It is so amazing to hear Vanessa ask for “Group time.” She will go to the cabinet where we have props and other group time activities. Most of the children will sit and try to sing along. Most of the songs have motions with them and they try to do them - which is exciting!

Thank you to all of you who came to Family Fun Night. We hope you are able to find new ways to play the matching game. Check your parent pocket for an evaluation on Family Night as we would really appreciate your input.

Carol and I are making new Take Home Activity Bags. Hopefully they will be out soon. We will let you know when they will be available.
Please note - starting in October we will no longer be applying sunscreen to the children when we go outside. We will be throwing out the old sunscreen UNLESS you specifically tell Carol or I to keep it and give back to you. You may come in to apply sunscreen to your child if you wish before our outdoor time of 10:00. FYI all sunscreen has an expiration date, so new will need to be bought for next year.

Reminders:
- Please label all outside clothing.
- Please keep fingernails trimmed and filed.
- Remember to pick up your child at the scheduled time. This is important because our staffing drops at the end of the day.

Sherie Newman
Head Teacher

Two/Threes - 1 Room
Welcome families! It has been a smooth transition so far and the children are really getting to know each other. It was so great to see you all at the Family Night! I hope you all enjoyed your activities and snacks. Thank you again for taking time out to meet with us for a few minutes to discuss your child. This has provided us a great start to individualizing your child’s learning at Campus Child Care.

We have been playing in all the areas of the classroom as well as enjoying the outdoors. In the manipulative area, the magnetic toys and Y Connectors are the most popular. In dramatic play, we took care of the babies and then planned a camping trip where we fished and cooked delicious food on the grill. We even slept in a tent. The block area was always busy with the matchbox cars, yellow track and train set. A few built with the blocks and played with the dinosaurs. Many pictures were made at the easel of cray-pas and paint. The media table had string with animals and shapes to sort. We used tongs and tweezers to sort the string into bowls. Then in came the GOOP! This is a mixture of water and cornstarch. This amazing mixture is solid when you pick it up and melts to a liquid in your hands. Now there is super sand which has ground coffee beans, dirt, and sand. These ingredients provide the children with a softer texture and scent. Art is displayed all around the classroom and frames in the hallway. They also have wasted no time in practicing with scissors, stickers, and glue. Our math toys have created such interest as children experience gravity with the long clear tubes and watch the items move back and forth as they tilt it from side to side. Also, the matching games, magnets, and discovery tubes fill their time as they explore.

As many of you are new to the center and have now been here for a few weeks I would like to encourage you to reread the Health and Safety and Policies and Procedures sections of the parent handbook. You have all done a wonderful job in keeping your child’s supplies full of extra clothes,
diapers, and wipes. Keep up the good work. Please label all of these items so we can better locate them if they get misplaced. Please let us know if your child will not be attending that day and if you will be coming late. We will be going on walks during our outside time which can range from 9:30-11:15. If your child arrives when we are on a walk they will have to go to another classroom until we can get back to get them. If you let us know we can either wait or be back before you arrive. Also, if you are coming in after a mealtime please make sure your child has eaten before you enter the center. We can not allow food or drinks in the cubby area and you child can not come into the classroom as they finish their breakfast. If you will be here after the mealtime has started but before it ends please call so we can save some food for your child. Please bring appropriate clothing and outerwear. Also, we have started to show the children the flip technique to put on their coat. This can be done by placing the hood of the jacket at the feet. Then put both hands and arms into the arm holes. Then lift it over your head and let the arms slide in. This is a technique that is easier for the children to do until they have the skills to do it the other way. It also gives them a sense of pride when they can do something themselves.

Some of you might be wondering what to expect from this age group and center care. Please keep in mind that every experience helps them to grow and be prepared for the next. In this classroom, your child may become toilet-trained, learn self-help skills, and social skills all while gaining their independence. This may also be a time when they get sick or hurt. They may also be exposed to inappropriate behavior. Please keep in mind that “Challenging Behavior are Opportunities to Teach”. Children usually will exhibit these behaviors because they don’t know what to do or say. It is our job to model the appropriate behavior and discourage the inappropriate. It is at this time you must teach the morals and values you want your child to possess. If a child hears inappropriate language, use that as an opportunity to think of other words they could have used in that situation. If your child is hit by another child use this as an opportunity for your child to show assertiveness in telling that child they do not have the right to hit them and also have your child model appropriate words. Your child does not have to hit the other child back to show assertiveness and should not be encouraged to do so. If your child stands firm with their words and walks away the child is not going to continue to hurt them.

Often times a child may become a target if they are giving a response that is getting attention. This is a time when children are learning their social skills. Empower your children to help others learn appropriate skills. Talk about feelings and emotions with your child. If you are angry, let them know and say it instead of doing something inappropriate. Talk about the need to calm yourself down if you are upset etc. If you would like to talk more about this or any other topic please feel free to talk with us.

Have a great semester and Go Huskies!!

Kristi Hayward
Head Teacher
Twos/Threes – 2 Room

I hope everyone’s semester is off to a good start! We have been very busy in Two’s/Three’s – Two. We’re all getting to know each other a little better and the children seem to be getting more comfortable in the room every day! We would like to thank everyone who was able to come for the parent night, and appreciate your feedback. The children enjoyed showing you their classrooms and friends!

At this age the children are very curious about their environment and into exploring everything. The two’s room has structured play areas so our large motor activities primarily come from the large motor room or outside. With so much energy we try to get outside as much as possible. The children really look forward to this time and will even ask when we’re going out. We’re very fortunate to have a wide variety of playground equipment! We have many different cars, trucks, and bikes for the children to choose from, as well as the option of playing in the sandbox or on the climbers. Large motor activities such as climbing on the climbers, riding in the Little Tikes cars and trucks, riding bikes, and just running around are very important to help develop their large muscles as well as hand-eye coordination. The fresh air and exercise we’re getting out there is very beneficial too. It’s also important to do these activities so that when we’re in the classroom we are more able to sit and read a book or play with a manipulative at the table. Social skills grow as children share equipment such as tricycles and shovels, work together to build in the sandbox, and follow safety rules.

We have been spending a lot of time in the block area this past month. Some of the popular items we had were cars, people, animals, and dinosaurs! The cars were driven up, down and all around. We built a track for them to drive on and garages to park in. The children also filled up the school bus and blue van full of people! With the animals we have been grouping them by families and learning baby names such as a baby lion is called a cub. The dinosaurs have been our latest addition and they spend a lot of time roaring loudly! We try to encourage them to build homes for their dinosaurs with the blocks, allow them to drink the water and take a hike through the grass props! There are many learning opportunities in the block area. With the items being so popular we’ve been working on taking turns and using our words with our friends. We understand that it’s very hard to share at this age so we try to have multiples available. We are learning about social interactions and some of the words/strategies that we use with our friends are “I’m using this.” “Choose one from the box.” “Can I have a turn?” “Please give it back.” “Stop!” We’ve been encouraging them to use their words first with friends and if it doesn’t work to ask a teacher for help. The children are learning to explore cause and effect by building with the blocks and knocking them down. They are forming creative thinking skills as they’re building new and different structures with the blocks. And, they are learning about safety rules and how to follow them. We talk about how tall we can build a tower – if it’s too tall it could fall on our heads, and how to use the blocks appropriately so that we or our friends don’t get hurt!

Another very popular area in our classroom is the book corner. In this area the children have their picture books that they spend a lot of time looking at and sharing with their friends. We also have beanbags that the children are able to play with. We read a lot of books. Some of our favorite books that we read over and over include Brown Bear Brown Bear, Everyone Asked About You (Nora, Nora); We all Sing With the Same Voice; Peanut Butter and Jelly; and The Three Billy Goats Gruff.
Those particular ones also have songs on CD that go along with them. We spend a lot of time singing and dancing! They have been asking for certain songs and will do the motions as we sing along. As well as being great for language development, we’re getting some large motor activity in our classroom by dancing and jumping along. This area of our classroom is important because it strengthens literacy skills. When children hear stories, they learn new words and meaning, and their comprehension grows. When we read a story over and over they begin to realize that the story is the same every time, and eventually will realize that the words (symbols) have meaning to them. From books, children also learn about people who are alike them and who are different. They also develop social skills from this area of the classroom through sharing books, reading together, and interacting with each other during group times.

Just a few reminders: Please help your child to wash their hands upon entering the classroom. Licensing regulations require that everyone wash their hands upon entering the classroom and before playing with the toys. This helps to minimize the amount of germs that are coming into the classroom. Please label your child’s clothing and jackets; with 14 children it can be hard to remember what belongs to each child. We try our best to get items back to the right cubby by the end of the day, and labeling will help us to do a better job of this. As many of you are new to the center and have now been here for a few weeks I would like to encourage you to reread the Health and Safety and Policies and Procedures sections of the parent handbook. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to talk to Jenn or I. Any information that you share with us about your child or family is always welcome. We hope you have a great rest of the semester!

Jen Young
Head Teacher

For only as we ourselves, as adults, actually move and have our being in the state of love, can we be appropriate models and guides for our children. What we are teaches the child far more than what we say, so we must be what we want our children to become.

From: Teaching Children to Love, introduction.
Joseph Chilton Pearce
Housing for Students with Dependents

NIU is planning to replace the existing University Apartment facility with a newly constructed 120-unit facility to house students with dependents. These apartments will be configured as one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. These will include modern amenities such as academic support programs, technology lab, playground, and social gathering areas. The facility will be located on the far northwest section of campus, west of Stevenson Towers and north of the Convocation Center.

The Office of the President is planning a groundbreaking ceremony for this new facility on Thursday, **October 12 at 1:00** and they are inviting our preschool families to participate in this very exciting event. We are asking parents to attend with their child. Please contact Chris if you need more information and/or plan to attend. Parking is available by the site, but for your convenience, an NIU Bus will leave from Campus Child Care at 12:30 and 12:45. Let’s give our full support to this very important project by attending the groundbreaking ceremony!!

Children’s Book Fair

We will be holding our annual Children’s Book Fair the week of October 23rd. Our books are provided to us by Anderson Books in Naperville. Every year we have a variety of books for all ages of children – ranging from board books, preschool soft covers and hard covers, holiday, early readers, school age reference, sports, poetry, and some adult selections usually including cook books, books surrounding parenting, and some recent releases. The book fair is located in the Large Motor Room and we fill at least 15 tables full of books! The books are sold at regular price (however we don’t charge sales tax) and typically we make about a 25% profit for the center. Every year we ask families to donate at least one hour of their time during this week – your time would be spent selling books, helping customers select books, and straightening the books as needed.

Another way you can help us with our book fair is to promote it - tell everyone you know about the book fair and encourage them to stop by. Feel free to ask for extra fliers to take back to your offices or classes to pass along to others. We often get customers in here who were directly invited by someone else – by one of our parents or a staff member. We understand how busy all of you are but this is a great way for you to become involved in our program and help raise money for essential equipment and program supplies.