DIRECTOR’S DESK

The semester is up and running and everyone seems to be adjusting well. Fall is here but it still feels like summer; I’m sure that will change quickly so be prepared to bring the jackets!

The Parent Handbook has been updated and is posted on our Web site (www.ccc.niu.edu). For those who are returning and already familiar with our practices and policies, I included a list of new or revised policies on the last page as an easy reference. All new families are expected to read through the entire handbook. Feel free to let Janene know if you would like a hard copy and we will be happy to provide it.

I want to highlight a few additions we have in the handbook this year. We are asking parents to stay off your cell phone as you are dropping off and picking up your children. This allows for better communication with the teachers and a chance to greet your child without disruptions. We are implementing a diaper fee of $.30/diaper for anyone in the 2/3’s classrooms. So, instead of replacing diapers when you run out, you will be charged for them instead (diapers are part of the infant and toddler rate but not part of the 2/3’s rate due to varying ages of toilet training).

A major change in billing has occurred for those of you who are faculty, staff, or community members. You are now being billed through Accounts Receivable and they have a very specific practice in place. They maintain a ‘Hot List’, so anyone who has a bill that is 90 days past due will be placed on this list. Once you are on this list we can no longer bill your account so child care will be terminated immediately.

Our annual children’s book fair is just around the corner (Oct. 6-10). If you haven’t done so already, please try to sign up to work a one-hour shift (the sign-up sheet is on the front blue counter). We encourage you to do some early holiday shopping at our book fair; it’s always a great selection. We will be giving each child a book as a way to kick off our book fair and celebrate our 30th anniversary. We will also be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, Oct. 7 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Please invite anyone who may be interested in our program to attend.

You will notice, later in this newsletter, we have 10 trivia questions to ‘test’ your knowledge of Campus Child Care. There will be 30 questions (to celebrate our 30th anniversary) spread out over three newsletters. Everyone who submits correct answers (which will be posted in the next newsletter) will be placed in a drawing to win a Campus Child Care coffee mug. Give it a try, it’s multiple choice so there’s nothing to lose!
Please remember that we don’t celebrate holidays at the center so the children will not be dressing up for Halloween or distributing treats. As early childhood professionals, we believe the celebration of holidays belongs at home and is best left up to families to decide which holidays to celebrate and in what manner. More information about our program philosophy and curriculum can be found in the Parent Handbook.

I hope your semester is going well. Please don’t hesitate to talk with any of us if you have questions or concerns. Go Huskies! Go Cubs! Go Sox!!

Chris Herrmann, Director

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings to all preschool 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 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 and friendships forming!

I want to thank all the families who were able to come out for the Family Gatherings. They were an hour full of conversation, fun, and food! It was interesting to see how each classroom did different take-home books. Some rooms used pictures of the children, some cut out pictures from magazines, and the themes of the books were unique and special for that room. 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. I am certain everyone had something tasty to eat as well – pot lucks are always a hit.

Book Fair time is here! 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 6-10. 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 still need parent volunteers to work this and a sign-up sheet is 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, Asst. Director

REMINDERS

- A late fee of $10 will be charged every 15 minutes as of 5:46 p.m. Our closing teacher is scheduled to leave at 5:45.

- 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.

- Children who become sick during the day will be sent home. The general guideline we follow is to send children home if they have a fever over 101 degrees with another symptom, or when they are not well enough to participate in the daily activities.

- Remember to pay bills by the specified due dates. A reminder is sent out after one missed payment and child care is terminated after two missed payments.

- Please remember to check your parent pockets each day; they fill up quickly!

- CCC does not celebrate holidays so the children will not be wearing costumes or distributing treats for Halloween.

- Read the Daily Reflection sheets, on the classroom bulletin board, to learn about activities that occurred in your child’s classroom.
We are now at the point in the semester where the newness has worn off and everyone is feeling quite comfortable. The children have all settled in and have been keeping themselves very busy. The block area has been in continual use with the children usually building a rocket ship, although lately they have been building roads and ramps for the matchbox cars. We have been encouraging the children to use the smaller unit blocks to make structures, as they tend to only use them as props with the big blocks. We have noticed that they seem to like building on the table more than the floor and are beginning to show a lot more creativity.

They have also been very engaged with the toys on the manipulative shelf. The magnet tiles have continued to be very popular. The children have been using them to build houses, garages and barns for the animals and cars. The Legos have also been used quite a lot. They are making some very creative vehicles. Part of the fun with Legos is all the little accessories such as steering wheels, hair for the people, windows and flowers that are part of the set. Since all those small pieces fall right to the bottom of the container David and I spend most of our time trying to find them for the children. I’m not quite sure why they make Lego people with removable hands and heads; the children always seem to take them off and then can never find them again.

We have been presenting a lot of math concepts to the children at group time. We have been sorting, categorizing, and counting a variety of objects. We used our basket of animals and sorted them according to size, color, and habitats. We did several fun estimation activities as well. I filled two containers with plastic bears. One container had large bears and it was filled to the top, the other had small bears and it was only half full although it actually had more bears than the full one. I first asked the children which container had more bears. Every child said the one with the large bears. I asked them why and their answer was because it was full. We then counted the large and small bears and found out that the half full container had more than the full one. The children were very surprised. The next day I filled a container with plastic vehicles and asked each of the children how many they thought were in it. I got a wide range of estimates from 3 to 60. We then counted them and found 63. It can be hard for children to think in large quantities at this age. These activities expose them to larger numbers and it helps them with their counting as well.

David did a very fun sink/float activity one morning. He collected a variety of objects from around the room and filled a large clear container with water. The children each got to choose an object and before they placed it in the water they had to decide if they thought it was going to sink or float. Most of the children were pretty accurate but even the teachers were surprised by some of the results. He also presented a color mixing activity one morning where he brought primary color paints along with white and black to group time. He asked the children what colors they thought it would make when he mixed the primary colors together and also what would happen if he added white or black. Don’t forget to check the parent info board behind the classroom door. We often have pictures of our activities and we write them up in our daily reflections.
It was nice to see so many people at our fall family gathering. I hope everyone had fun making the My Day at School book with your child. Some of you finally got the answer to your question – “What did you do at school today?” It is always enjoyable to be able to sit down and talk with all of you in a more relaxed setting.

If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to talk with either David or me.

Diane Coleman
Head Teacher

NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL ROOM 2

The month of September has flown by. The new and returning children have adjusted well to their new surroundings. The children have been busy getting to know the classroom, teachers and their peers. During group time the children have been learning a variety of name songs, playing games, reading books and participating in science activities. An activity that has helped us get to know one another would be when we ask each child and their peers to talk about what we do well. We are learning empathy skills and a lot of positive things about each other.

I wanted to share a favorite science activity we did recently, The Pencil Experiment. This would be a great activity to try at home with your child. Supplies needed: baggies and twist ties, sharpened pencils, bowl, cup and water. The children first helped fill the baggie full of water. We then closed the baggie with a twist tie. The children then pushed one pencil at a time though the plastic baggie. We discovered that the pencil acts like a plug. When we did this experiment as a group we were able to place 30 pencils into the baggie. Wow, were the children amazed!

The children have shown a great deal of interest in the block area. With teacher guidance, the children are capable of playing constructively. We have noticed a lot of children dumping all the small blocks into a large pile. They are having fun but when it is clean up time no one wants to help clean up. After some thought, Kendra and I have made some changes that will help the children gain appropriate block play skills. They include the following:

- Limit the number of children in block area (4)
- Getting involved in the children’s play and encouraging them to build different structures.
- Placing the children’s pictures on the blocks, so they can use them as people in their pretend play.
- We will be taking pictures of the children’s structures and displaying them around block area.
- The children become very excited to see their work and like to show their peers what they have created. We have real life pictures of buildings and bridges that are found around the world.
- We have real life pictures of buildings and bridges that are found around the world.
- We have taken the large hollow blocks out of block area so we can focus on building with the small wooden blocks. Once we have mastered this we will add the hollow blocks.
At group time the children helped come up with some rules that we should follow while playing in the block area. You can find these posted in our block area.

Kendra and I have been reading, Block Play: The Complete Guide to Learning and Playing with Blocks, by Sharon MacDonald. In this book, Sharon talks about the stages that children go through when playing with blocks. I thought I would share the stages, so it could give you an idea of what stage your child is in.

Stage One (Ages 2-3) – In this stage, children carry, move, touch, hold, pile, knock down, drop, and feel the blocks. Children do little or no building. Instead, they explore the properties and characteristics of the blocks.

Stage Two (Age 3) – In this stage, children stack blocks vertically, lay them down and line them up, or configure them horizontally. One block may be laid across another. Children will often repeat a pattern over and over.

Stage Three (Ages 3-4) – This stage is known as bridging. It is the stage when children begin to make structures. Bridging is when children form a space between two blocks, and then place a block to span the space.

Stage Four (Age 4) – This stage involves making enclosures. At this stage, children can close up a space between blocks with other blocks. Children begin problem solving by planning ahead how they will close up spaces. They discover and begin to understand the meaning of inside, outside, perimeter, and boundaries. They also observe balance and symmetry.

Stage Five (Ages 4-5) – This is the stage where children begin making elaborate, decorative structures. For example, the child may incorporate a bathtub, store, farmyard, and swing into the same structure. Often, children name their structures (although the names rarely define the building function). Children start to classify, sort, and match shapes and sizes.

Stage Six (Ages 5-6) – At this stage children work cooperatively to build a structure, deciding in advance what they will build. The children will assign roles, and they use a variety of materials to achieve desired effects. At this stage, children excel at sorting, matching classifying, and arranging patterns.

Thank you for a wonderful Family Night, we had a great turnout and the food was delicious. We hope everyone had a great time. We also want to send a special thanks to Joseph’s dad for making crepes for everyone, they tasted great!

Kendra and I also want to thank you for the wonderful posters you have been decorating with your child for their special week. The children really enjoy sharing them with their peers. Show and Tell is also a favorite activity during their week. Please feel free to come and have snack, read a book, or anything of your choice during your child’s special week.

Reminder: Please check your child’s extra clothes bin to make sure they have appropriate clothing for the changing season.

Diane Mathison, Head Teacher
Hello families! We have had a great start to our semester in Pre 3. We were very excited to meet new friends and to see the returning friends. The children who were in the classroom last year seem to be building very strong friendships and the new children seem to be blending right in.

Kristin and I are working very hard to be consistent with our classroom expectations. We are encouraging the children to talk to the child directly when they are concerned about something. For example, if a child is sitting on their knees during group time, a child will usually shout out, “I can’t see!” We are then encouraging the child who can’t see to talk directly to that child by saying, “(Name of child), please sit on your bottom so I can see.” If a child comes to us and says another child has done something inappropriate we will ask them if they have discussed it with that child first before we intervene. This skill of problem solving is a lifelong skill necessary for effective communication. Ask your child about the classroom expectations to see how well they know the expected classroom behavior. These are posted in the classroom in the book area on the back of a shelf.

Since the beginning of the semester, Kristin interviewed each child by asking questions about their favorite things, family, and emotions. She then created a book and the children frequently choose to read it. They are really excited to see their picture and read about something they have said. It also gives everyone a chance to get to know one another. Seeing themselves around the classroom helps the children to feel welcome and a part of the classroom. Please remember to bring your family pictures so your child’s family can be represented in the classroom as well.

Creating a stage with blocks, and singing, has been a favorite activity. We have used microphones that project their voice through the radio, real instruments, and blocks to pretend and imitate. Children have created their own drum sets using blocks and pencils and the teachers have helped by setting up cymbals that were hung from the ceiling. We have used a variety of listening games focusing on inside and outside sounds, as well as feelings, and letter sounds. We are also pretending to use an instrument as we hear it in the music we listen to.

Please take a moment to notice our daily reflections and bulletin board outside our classroom. We will be making displays documenting what is happening in the classroom. We try our best to get a mailbox note into your child’s box daily but if we are not able to do so, reading the daily reflection will give you things to ask your child about, as well as provide more information about something we have included in the mailbox note. I also put mailboxes up for Kristin and myself for you to leave notes if you choose to do so. Please let us know of any feedback you may have about this process. Please let us know when you would like to be involved in a classroom activity or event. Also, feel free to talk to us about any questions or concerns you may have. We are here for you as well as your child. We hope you have a wonderful semester!

Kristi Hayward, Head Teacher
Hello from Pre-4! We are getting the new semester well under way! We are staying quite busy with all our activities in our classroom!

Thank you to those families who participated in our family collages. They look great on our closet doors and the children love to share them with each other! Thank you to those who could join us for our family night. Thank you for the wonderful yummy food and spending time with us!

We will be working on the goals you set for your child on the in-take forms. We will be spending one-on-one time with each child during free play to help your child achieve these goals. We will discuss your child’s progress at parent teacher conferences coming up soon.

We have been focusing on the classroom environment, routine, and getting to know one another. We want all children to feel comfortable in our classroom and to begin to develop friendships. We have taken a few walks around campus to encourage this by holding friends hands, talking to each other and exploring the NIU campus together. The children recognize the castle building (Altgeld), the fountains, the revolving door at Dusable, and the library. We will be taking walks to the NIU library and checking out books for our classroom. The children will get to choose a book to check out!

The children have shown great interests in painting! We try to do an art activity everyday and there is always some type of paint at the easel. The children can do free art during free play and use the variety of materials we have available on the art shelf. Be sure to check out the artwork in the hallway outside our classroom. We will change these every couple of weeks to showcase all of our budding artists!

Favorites on the playground have been the climbers. They are not just climbers!! They transform into space ships, castles and even underwater submarines! They children love to pretend! And this helps us to create friendships with others who are in other classrooms. The children are learning to take turns and share ideas as well as taking other’s thoughts and ideas into consideration-compromising!

We have been spending time on gross motor skills. We have broken down the steps of jumping. The children have been practicing and have done a great job remembering the steps in order. We try to do several movement activities every day. We incorporate movement with math, science, and even reading! The children love these activities!

We have been focusing on name and letter recognition using name cards and one of our favorites, “We just got a letter”. We have learned silly songs that help us with letter pronunciation, alliteration, and sounds!
We have our Tasters Club, Nifty Nappers and Super Friend charts in full force! Our purpose for each is to encourage children to try new foods, be kind to one another and learn to rest quietly! Check out the charts on the classroom closet doors.

We are continually working on social skills, building relationships and becoming comfortable in the classroom. The more time we spend together and working on these skills together the stronger we will become! If you even have questions, concerns or would like to join us in the classroom to do activities, share a skill or just hang out with us please let us know.

April Kaiser
Head Teacher

Welcome from Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Services:

While we will assist anyone that contacts our office, our focus is on commuter (any student living off campus) and non-traditional students (any undergraduate who is 24 years old or older, someone who has a dependent, or military veterans) at Northern Illinois University. We understand that the life of commuter, and/or non-traditional student can be very different from that of the typical college student. We realize that you often have many responsibilities outside your role as a student. Many of you work, have families and other obligations you have to balance. You certainly have unique challenges and we are here to help make your college career a little smoother.

Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Services is here to provide you with programs, services, referrals and a home away from home during your time at Northern Illinois University. Located in the lower level of the Holmes Student Center, room 23j (next to a large computer lab) we offer comfortable sofas, study tables, and great resources. If you need a place to take a break or eat between classes, come to our lounge to store your food in our full-sized refrigerator and use our microwaves. If you need a place to stash your books throughout the day, sign up for a locker in the basement of the Holmes Student Center.

As a non-traditional student, we know that you need to plan ahead to balance your schedule. Please save the date for the following events sponsored by Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Services:

GOOD MORNING HUSKIES!: Free continental breakfast to students in commuter parking lots or high commuter traffic areas. Good Morning Huskies begins at 7:15am and ends at 9am on designated days. Simply show up and we serve you breakfast on the go:

**Date:**
- Wednesday, Oct. 8
- Wednesday, Oct. 22
- Wednesday, Nov. 5
- Wednesday, Nov. 19
- Wednesday, Dec. 3

**Location**
- East side of parking deck off of Carroll Ave.
- Northern View
- Corner of Lucinda and Garden
- University Circle
- West side of parking deck off of Carroll Ave.
GREEK FEST & APARTMENT FAIR: Get an early start and find an apartment for next year before they’re all gone! Meet local apartment landlords and learn about what they have to offer interested in Greek Life? Come and meet representatives from Greek organizations and learn about their philanthropies! **Wednesday, November 5, 11am - 4pm at the Chick Evans Field House**

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION: A chance to celebrate our NIU student military veterans. **Tuesday, November 11, 2008.**

STUDY BREAK: take a little time off, have some free lunch and get a free ten-minute massage the week before final exams. **Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 11:30am - 1:30pm, lower level of the Holmes Student Center.**

Please stop in and visit our office and lounge space, call us (815.753.9999), drop us a line at CommNonTrad@niu.edu, or better yet, join our Facebook group (Commuter & Non-Traditional Student Services: What’s the 411?). Any way you chose to contact us we would be happy to assist you.

Hope to meet you soon!

Jill Zambito  
Director, Commuter & Non-Traditional Student Services  
815.753.0100  
zambito@niu.edu

The NIU student organization for the Red Cross will be collecting new and gently used toys to send to the hurricane victims in Texas. A bin will be near the blue counter up front for anyone who would like to make a donation.

Do you need helping figuring out how to access your child care bill on My NIU? One of our student parents figured it out so we’re happy to share this information with you. Go to ‘Self-Service’, then ‘Campus Finances’ and then to ‘Account Inquiry’. Click on the ‘Charges Due’ tab at the top and you will see your billing statement!!
30th Anniversary Trivia Questions
Those with correct answers will be entered into a drawing
to win a CCC MUG

Put an 'X' by the correct answer:

1. Who has worked at CCC the longest?
   ___Diane Coleman (Pre 1)
   ___Chris Herrmann (director)
   ___Janene Boyer (secretary)

2. What did CCC use as its original parent pockets?
   ___Fabric pockets sewn onto large piece of fabric
   ___poster board with library book pockets
   ___pantyhose display case

3. What year was the Center originally accredited? ___1985 ___1992 ___2001

4. CCC moved into this facility in what year? ___1999 ___2000 ___2001

5. Where was the Center originally located? ___Gabel Hall ___Graham Hall ___Wirtz Hall

6. What were the ages of children enrolled in the program prior to the expansion in 2000?
   ___2-6 yrs ___3-5 yrs ___2.5-5 yrs

7. When the Center first opened in 1978, how many classrooms were there? ___1 ___2 ___3

8. Chris is the ___1st ___3rd ___5th) director of CCC.

9. What other early childhood program did CCC share a kitchen with in Gabel Hall?
   ___Child Development Lab (FCNS) ___Speech & Hearing Clinic
   ___Early Childhood Lab (Education)

10. What unique feature was a part of the old center?
    ___lofted book area ___fire pole ___indoor sandbox

Name: ___________________________________________ Child’s Name: ____________________________

Please return this form to the drop box on the front blue counter by October 10. Good luck!!