

# zero to three news



Campus Child Care  
division of student affairs

## 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](http://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!



Jamie enjoying the beautiful fall day.

## October 2008

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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 . 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.

## INFANT ROOM



Carol and I would like to thank all of the moms (yes only moms could make it this time) who made it to family night. We all enjoyed some delicious food; then the moms constructed a texture book. For those of you who were unable to attend we sent the materials home. We hope you had an opportunity to make the book. A few parents said they are looking at the book at home. We will have a family night next semester and hopefully you will be able to attend.

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 six weeks ago we have discovered many changes in the development of the children. Some of the children have begun being more verbal cooing and babbling. Others have begun eating new types of foods. Some children have gotten teeth. We have some children that have discovered rolling over, "belly crawling", pulling up, sitting up, crawling, and lifting heads up without assistance. 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 development 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.



The AAP and NAEYC recommend beginning good dental health as soon as possible. For this reason we wipe the children's teeth and gums after drinking a bottle or eating food. You can begin this practice at home by using a soft damp cloth to wipe off your child's teeth and gums. Putting a child to bed with a bottle increases the chances of the child developing tooth decay. This occurs when a child falls asleep and leaves a pool of milk in his or her mouth. The sugar contained in the milk causes bacteria to form in the mouth that will eventually damage the teeth. Studies show children are more likely to continue the good dental hygiene practices through adulthood. Check with your pediatrician if you have questions pertaining to dental hygiene for your child.

We are still requesting family photos to display in the classroom. Each child will have an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper with photos displayed at their level in the classroom. Please remember to write the names of the family members in each photo so we can refer to them by name.

## Reminders:

- As the weather gets colder we will continue to get outside for walks. Please make sure your child has proper clothing for outside.
- You are welcome to check to see if your child needs extra clothing, formula or breast milk. As much as we try, sometimes we do not have the time to get the note written before you pick up your child.
- Please read the bulletin boards for information about your child's day, events in the center or the community, and articles pertaining to child development.

*Kellie Fuss*  
Head Teacher

## **TODDLER ROOM**

What a great start we've had to the Fall Semester! The children seemed to have had a smooth transition to being back, being in a new classroom, and getting to know all of our new student workers. The toddler room is a little more structured than the infant room, and the children seem to be getting used to the routine. We now do short group times before each meal, and the children have the opportunity to use the potty during diaper changes. Since most of the children have been with us through the summer it was an easier transition to add a few more children into the group and to help them to learn the routine when other children are already following it. I also made a picture schedule of our day to help the children know what's coming next.



Thank you for attending the family gathering! We really enjoy spending that time getting to know your family more and hope you can enjoy getting to know other families from our classroom. The children are really interested in animals and books – we hope you will get a lot of use from the books you created!

Toddlers are very active learners who change moment by moment! They are learning and wanting to be independent, while still needing help with many things. Our goal in this classroom is to

keep the children engaged and to challenge them without making learning frustrating. Check our weekly goal sheets on the bulletin board to see the many things that we will be learning and working on through play. One of our priorities for this age group is social skills – helping your child to be a member of a group setting and that includes self-help skills. There are many things that your toddler may be capable of doing that you may not realize. Give them the opportunity to help try new things, expect that there may be some difficulty or frustration, and help them through it.

We've been spending a lot of time in the bathroom as the children are showing more and more interest in toileting. ALL of the children in our room have shown some level of interest in toileting. Whether it's flushing the toilet, exploring the toilet paper, sitting on the potty, or actually going in the potty – they're all curious. In the bathroom, they help to take off their own diaper, help to pull their pants up or down, and help to choose a new diaper. Afterwards, they're learning to go to the sink to wash their hands. If you would like more information on the process of toilet learning there's a handout on the bulletin board and we would love to talk to you about it! The process of learning to use the toilet consistently isn't one that happens overnight, the children are learning here on their free will and at their own pace – we're just here to support the process!

Please continue to bring in family photos. We display these in the classroom so that your child has a sense of belonging and to help them feel at home. Seeing familiar faces throughout the day can help your child to feel secure when they are away from those they love. We also want to make you feel as though your family is important to our program and welcome in our room. The children are really proud of their family photos and will show them to their friends, teachers, and spend time alone with the pictures.

Jen Young  
Head Teacher

## **TWO/THREE'S—ONE ROOM**

Hello to all! We are having such a great start into the fall semester. It is hard to know where to begin, so let me just say, it has been "FUN"!

Outside play is really special. Why? We seemed to have spontaneously come up with a new explorative adventure. 2/3-1 and 2/3-2 children run to the trees on our little hill to "go on a bear hunt." This game was recreated from a rhythm/action chant, "Going on a Bear Hunt". Children are pointing to trees where they are seeing, "two beady eyes". Then one will say, "Run"! Of course they are very happy to do this. We have now added binoculars, flashlights, plastic lanterns, a stuffed bear, and a blanket for more imaginative play.



Our group has many budding artists. Stefanie and I have been surprised to see them actually printing with paint, blocks, sponges, and other tools. They are smearing glue on paper with brushes and putting on artificial flowers, feathers, large star shapes, and anything else available. Naturally, finger painting is often available for getting hands into. We are usually offering creative art experiences in the early morning, midday, and afternoons. We do this because it is so popular.

Babies are being fed, dressed, wrapped in blankets, put down for a nap, read to, held, and carried all over the room. I believe that this dramatic play will stay for awhile. We may have to have baby dolls in other areas of the room, too.

Please take time to explore the room with your child at drop-off or pick-up so that you can see first-hand the types of experiences available. It may help connect your child's verbal description of school to what they are talking about. It can give you a basis of discussion for you and your child about the day.

As we move into fall we will begin talking about and searching for more physical signs of the changing season. We plan to go on nature walks. Stefanie and I have discussed several new experiences to introduce to our group. One such experience will be a "Tape Walk". Stefanie will be wrapping tape around each child's hand. The sticky part will be facing the outside. Then, as we walk, the children can find natural materials to put on their wrist. Parents are welcome to join us. We will have a sign-up sheet on top of the cubbies about a week before we go. Join us if you can. We understand that many of you are working or in class. This may not work for you. However, we will continue to invite you to some of our planned events.



Since two and three-year-olds are naturally curious and learn through their senses, we want to continue to change and add a variety of tactile materials to our media table. Your child may be experimenting with shaving cream, colored water, rice, and much more. They will have the opportunity to pour, measure, squeeze, lift, weigh, and touch, touch, touch.

## Reminders

- Please make sure to help your child wash his/her hands upon arrival. You can help us limit the spread of germs in and out of the classroom. You may want to make this a practice before leaving for the day.
- Children may not wear necklaces to school. These are easily lost or broken. Necklaces are also a potential choking hazard.
- We put cameras on the cubby for our parents to take some pictures at home. Please return them. We are ready to print them and use them for a variety of creative literacy experiences. Thanks!
- We tend to use about 4-6 diapers a day when changing children at school. We change them about every 2 hours, when they have a BM, and when individual children request a diaper change. Please send diapers in bulk (rather than a few each day) and check the message section by your child's name on the sign-in sheet to know when to bring more. We will also leave a brief note in this spot when your child needs diaper wipes and extra clothes. Thanks!

## Thank You

- Dana Gautcher brought an individual poster for each child. We are going to use them and hang them around the room. Our children will really enjoy this. It was nice of you to think of this.
- Our parents have been very patient and supportive in helping the children make the big transition from home to school. Your efforts have paid off. We have hardly a teary eye in the mornings now.

*Kathy Cregier*  
Head Teacher

## **TWO/THREE'S—TWO ROOM**

Hello 2/3's parents! What a whirl-wind of fun in our room. The semester has started out wonderfully and I can't wait to see what the next few months bring!! All the children are beginning to build relationships with one another and remembering everyone's name. We have encouraged this through group times by having picture name cards for the children. They love having their pictures displayed throughout the room!! For our artistic friends we have had many projects that have been challenging and fun. We have used glue and glitter together, paints with colored sand, a variety of painting tools; such as Q-tips, sponges, golf balls, and of course hands! We have glue and collage materials out for the children to use on a daily basis. Sometimes it is just interesting to watch the glue come out and make a big puddle on the paper. We then intervene and encourage them to put something on the glue. Art is such a fun process!!! The children helped make our classroom playdough. They love to play with it. The recipe is so easy; maybe you would like to make it at home. Here's the recipe: 4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 2 Tbl. cream of tarter, 4 cups water, 5 Tbl. oil and food coloring. Mix everything in a large bowl and pour into a medium sauce pan and cook over a medium temp. Continuously stir until the playdough is solid. Allow to cool before using. To add pizzazz to your playdough, you can add glitter and food extract.



In our dramatic play area the children have been experiencing the kitchen, tool benches, and now a laundry room. The children will iron clothes and change a baby's outfit so it can be washed. It is wonderful to see their imaginations grow and explore. By the way, if you need anything hammered the children do a wonderful job!

The media table has been a popular spot for some. The children have enjoyed water play, a mixture of beans and now leaves that we gathered on our walk around campus. We tried to find some forest animals to put in the leaves but we ended up with dogs! The children seem to be enjoying the dogs. Sometimes in life it doesn't need to make sense; it's just has to be fun!!

We have rotated our musical instruments and the children love to make noise. They dance and march around the room with their instrument and when they have had enough they find a new one to try. We try to build the children's vocabulary by telling them the name of the instrument. We en-

courage them to listen to the sound the instrument makes and how to change the sound.

We experimented with fresh vegetables one afternoon. I was very impressed with the children's eagerness to try the vegetables. When I held up the cucumber and asked everyone what they thought it was, Matthew was quick to answer "green bean." I told him that was a good guess and to try again; his next response was "pickle." I was very impressed!! The tomato was the most popular vegetable to eat. JR was determined to eat a seed from the green pepper. I tried to explain to him that they were hot. He kept pointing to the seeds and saying "It okay." So I gave in and let him eat a seed. The part about JR eating the seed was that he blew on it to "cool it off" before eating it because I had told him it was hot!! I LOVE MY JOB!!!!

Our Take Home bags are almost ready. We have literacy bags, a shape sorting activity, a number flip book, and a socialization game. Please remember to sign the bag out and fill out an evaluation form. We will have about five bags so please be considerate of others and return the bags promptly. If your child has a difficult time wanting to return the bag, you can explain to them that they just borrowed the activity for a few days and other friends would like a turn too. We love your input about the Take Home bags so please share the good and the bad with each activity.

Barbara and I would like to say thank you to all the parents who came in for a quick and important meeting with us. We really appreciate the time you give us to help your child grow and develop. Keep in mind we will have Parent Conferences in the near future.

Thank you to all of you who came to our Fall Family Gathering. It was nice to see some many families getting to know each other. I hope your child is enjoying the book they put together. I would guess the only thing they thought was fun was when they were jumping off the mats!!

## A few reminders

- October 6-10 is our annual Book Fair. This is a great way to get wonderful books many people and there is NO TAX! Come in and check out the vast selection and tell a friend or two. The Book Fair will be set up in the Large Motor Room.
- The weather is getting a little chilly. Please rotate any clothes in your child's extra clothes box and you may want to have a light jacket for the morning.
- Remember to sign in and out on your scheduled days.
- PLEASE remember to come at your scheduled drop off and pick up times. There is a charge if you come too early in the morning or come late to pick up. If you have any questions please ask myself or Janene about this.



Sherie Newman  
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:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wednesday, Oct. 8	East side of parking deck off of Carroll Ave.
Wednesday, Oct. 22	Northern View
Wednesday, Nov. 5	Corner of Lucinda and Garden
Wednesday, Nov. 19	University Circle
Wednesday, Dec. 3	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.**

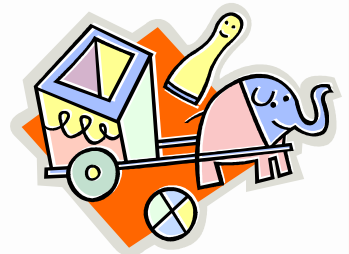
**STUDY BREAK:** take a little time off, have some free lunch and get a free ten-minute massage the week before final exams. **Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 11:30am - 1:30pm, lower level of the Holmes Student Center.**

Please stop in and visit our office and lounge space, call us (815.753.9999), drop us a line at [CommNonTrad@niu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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!!**