DIRECTOR’S DESK

I don’t know how it has gotten to be October already. Maybe because it still feels like summer outside (or did when I started writing this!). It has been a very busy semester for us so far and things are moving along quickly. We hope everything is going well for you, including classes, work, life, etc. We know all of you have a lot going on in your lives so please remember that we are a resource for you. If we can help you with something, please don’t hesitate to ask, and we will try to at least point you in the right direction.

Thanks so much to those of you who assisted us by volunteering to work the Book Fair or those who supported us by purchasing books for yourself or the classrooms; and to those who attended the Family Program. A special thanks to Kristin, Diane, Amy, Bri and Klint for all their work to make the book fair such a success! Although we don’t make a lot of money from the fair (usually $800), we are happy to be providing an event that is, with no doubt, beneficial to children and families.

We are sorry to say that Klint will be leaving our program shortly; his last day is Oct. 2. We appreciate all that he brought to our program during this past year and wish him well in his new endeavors! We are very happy to welcome a new teacher to our program. Hillary Rosher joined us at the end of August and we are thrilled to have her. Hillary started the semester working primarily in the Toddler room and will now settle into Pre 4, with Christy. We genuinely appreciate Hillary’s great attitude and willingness to go with the flow since she’s been here!

As many of you are aware, CCC has participated in the NIU Homecoming Parade for the past two years—taking home a first place trophy each time! Thanks to our staff who have led this project enthusiastically in the past, as they will again this year. There are some significant changes to the parade this year in that it will be held in the evening so we will not be inviting families to ride our float. The theme this year is “Huskies Light the Way”. Barbara (Infant Room) is our contact person so feel free to talk with her if you would like additional information. Go Huskies!!

We encourage you to continue to talk with the teachers about your child’s growth, development and adjustment to CCC; and to any of us up front if you have other questions or concerns. Good luck on upcoming projects, assignments, tests, etc.

Chris Kipp
We hope everyone is having a great semester so far! It has been very busy in the infant room. Barbara and I have really enjoyed getting to know all of the children and their families and cannot wait to get to know each family even more. We both wanted to thank all of the families who came to Family Night. Thank you all who came and brought a dish to pass, we hope you enjoyed your night!

This semester we have really been enjoying our campus walks. During our walks we have been collecting many different items of nature that we find. We have collected different types of leaves, nuts, and pinecones; and have added these items into sensory bottles and placed them within the classroom. The children have had a lot of fun shaking and rolling the sensory bottles all while we talk about the nature that is inside them.

Also, on our campus walks we have been visiting many of the children’s family members. The children really enjoy seeing their parents while we are on our walks. We went all the way to the NIU Police Station and visited Connor’s mom. We have gone to Cole Hall, Watson, and we also went to DuSable to see Delassa’s dad before he taught a class. We will continue to visit parents during the semester so please let us know where we can meet you during our walk time!

So far this semester, we have done many fun activities, including finger-painting. At first the children were unsure what to do with the paint, and then they started to touch it. That’s when the fun began! The children explored the paint by squishing it in their hands. They soon realized what they could do with it, so they got very messy but had a lot of fun. This was a fun science lesson for the children. When they started painting, they only had yellow and...
blue on their trays. Once they were finished, they had made the color green. We talked to them about how they made a third color by mixing two primary colors together. Then we got a piece of paper and printed their artwork on the paper. The children’s artwork is now on display in the classroom so please make sure you stop by to see it!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to come to Barbara or I. We hope you have a great rest of your semester!

Katilyn Ostenson & Barbara Zeman

**TODDLER ROOM**

It has been an unusual beginning to the fall semester, with Kellie out for an extended period and me on a family vacation; but the children have responded amazingly well to the changes in the classroom. Toddlers are more resilient than we are as adults! And we have been fortunate that the center had made the decision to hire a professional staff member in the role of a floater this fall. Hillary has been a real blessing, entering into the classroom and getting to know the children and their needs quickly so that she could step right into the role of their teacher. Thank-you to all of you for your patience and understanding with all these changes. Fortunately, that is finally behind us and we are excited about moving forward with the fall semester!

We have a great group of toddlers who are forming a community as they get to know one another. We expect to do a lot of learning this year and to have fun while doing it! We have six children in our classroom who were infants with us last year, one toddler who joined us this summer, and seven who are completely new to the center this year! We have a few student workers who were with us last spring and a few more who are new to the center but are learning CCC rules and routines quickly. We are fortunate to have a strong staff of student workers who enjoy being with our toddlers and have quickly learned to know your children.

We would like to thank all of the families who were able to join us for our family night. We enjoyed talking with you, and learning even more about your family. These times of home/school connection will be important for you and your child as you continue through their school years. So, if you weren’t able to take advantage of these particular opportunities, please make sure you do plan to get into the classroom and the center to get to know your child’s classmates and teachers and other parents. If you are looking for ways to become involved, please let us know! The toddlers love having parents stop to read or play with us or to make a special visit to share a talent or an activity. Children like seeing their own parents in their classrooms too.

The children spend part of each day outdoors. We plan to be outdoors on the playground from 10-11 each morning and then again in the afternoon from approximately 4:30-5:30. The fresh air and exercise are invaluable to keep our toddlers healthy. Once the time change takes place, we will no longer be going outside in the afternoons due to it being too dark. As a heads up, we will continue
to go outside as the temperature changes and becomes cooler. If the playground is wet we will often go on campus walks. We have been practicing walking out to the playground using the rings so that when we go on those walks, the children will know how to use them. Our first walk was a big success!

Have a great month!

Carol Schroder & Kellie Fuss

TWO/THREE-1

Hello 2’s parents. We are off to such a great start to the semester. All the children are getting to know one another and the teachers. Jaquida and I are so proud of the growth many of the children have made transitioning into the daily routine of school. We love how they enjoy a variety of activities that occur in the room on a daily basis. At any given time you will see the children engaged in art, sensory exploration, blocks, vehicles, dramatic play, science discoveries, or looking at books. Our room is already colorfully decorated with artwork from the children, along with the hallway, so you may be seeing more and more artwork in the cubby. Please try to take all the artwork home on a weekly basis so it doesn’t start falling out or accidently get thrown away.

We have discovered the children love to be in the media table. The first few weeks we had bird seed, cups, funnels, and scoops. The children participated in counting how many scoops it took to fill a cup or just enjoyed feeling the seeds slip through their fingers. The next media table sensation was water. The children have really enjoyed this. We have been able to add and change the different tools for the water. Many of the children liked having the babies and sponges in the water for bathing, and of course we had to add bubbles too! We are not sure what will be next, but whatever it is we are sure the children will enjoy it!

We have had to restock many items on the art shelf in the last few weeks; the children can’t get enough of cutting, coloring, or putting stickers on paper. Jaquida and I have been amazed by the abilities these children already possess! Cutting with scissors is something we don’t usually set out for the children until later in the semester and some of the children have already mastered this skill!! We will continue working on and challenging the children with other fine motor skills but I have a feeling they will catch on very quickly.

The dramatic play area has been full of imagination, from cooking excellent meals to putting out fires...
in the block area. A few of the children have very active imaginations and you know if this is your child! We love how their energy and creativeness spreads to everyone else. The dramatic play area will always have babies and a variety of foods and dishware for the children to use, but other things may change, like firefighter gear. Whatever is in the area it will always be fun and educational. We love how children learn so much from the environment and materials that surround them.

The science area began with magnetic exploration, where the children had opportunities to fit things that the magnetic wands would stick to. We walked around the building to see what we could find. The children were eager to find out what was magnetic in our building, and what was not. The science area was then changed to items that focused on trees. Scott and Corinne helped set the area up and many of the children have enjoyed going over to the area to learn. We have a variety of leaves, tree samples, seed pods, books about trees, and posters that have leaves on them. Science is happening all around our room; not just in the science area. In fact we have a spider in the window that has become our classroom pet (which the children have decided is a boy spider) but we haven’t come up with a name yet.

Sensory exploration is one of the favorites in the room. The very first week we encouraged the children to help us make playdough for the room. They enjoyed rolling, squishing, cutting, using cookie cutters, and rolling pins. Soon the playdough had to be thrown away and Silly Putty then took its place; which was really fun. Since we kept the silly putty in the refrigerator it allowed the teachers to talk about things that were cold and hot. Some great conversation ignited from just having silly putty out for the children. The children have also had some Cloud Dough experiences. This dough is so much fun and so easy to make; all it takes is lots of flour (around 8 cups) and baby oil (about ½ bottle) and mix it together. We discovered our hands mixed it together better than a wooden spoon. This activity tends to get a little messy, so we took it outside!

The children are learning a variety of songs, thanks to our “veteran” children who have been here. Their enthusiasm and participation has helped the new children join in with singing and dancing. We are learning new songs too. Ask your children if they know the Octopus song—they might be able to sing it to you.

Thank you to all of our families who returned the ASQ’s and other forms in that were requested, we very much appreciate all your support.

We also want to say thank you to everyone who joined us at our Family Gathering. The food was wonderful and seeing the families get to talk to one another was our goal. We hope you found some books at the book fair. We truly appreciate your support with our only fundraiser for the center.
Reminders
- Call the center if you will not be coming in.
- Check your child’s cubby for notes, dirty clothes, and artwork EVERY day.
- If you receive an “EXTRA CLOTHES NEEDED form, please replace items quickly.
- You MUST come into the room to help your child wash their hands and touch base with one of us. We like to take this time to connect with you and your child.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or stories please don’t hesitate to let us know.

Sherie Newman & Jaquida Wynn

TWO/THREE-2

Hello families! It has been so wonderful having the opportunity to meet with each family for intake meetings. We value the opportunities we have had and we will continue to get to know each of you more through our daily conversations and meetings.

Since our semester has begun, the children have enjoyed doing a variety of activities. We have provided several sensory and art based activities, and the children have really enjoyed them. Some of the activities we have explored has been shaving cream, painting on foil, and painting with brushes, play dough, silly putty, cocoa bean shells and sand. Providing these materials is not only fun for the children, it also provides a variety of learning opportunities as well.

Our Emergent Curriculum allows us to support the children’s interests throughout the classroom. Through observations we noticed how the children were making birthday cakes using the pegs and peg boards and with the play dough. They would repeatedly sing “Happy Birthday” to each other; so we changed our dramatic play area to a birthday party. There the children can engage in birthday role playing using authentic props similar to what they may have experienced at birthday celebrations. Donavan, Audrey and Odyssia spend a lot of time serving birthday plates with pretend cake on them to one another.
Another popular area has been the block area. Cameron and Divine have been stacking the blocks in tall tower like forms. Children have been using the magnatiles to create cube shaped structures and paths for vehicles. Teddy and Kaysan have been using the farm props, driving them around, filling the trailers with a variety of toys, and lining up the variety of trucks and tractors as they play. The children’s interest have started to shift so the tractors have been recently replaced with reptiles. It will be interesting to see how each child engages with these new props in our room.

We want to thank the parents who have contributed to our classroom book titled, A Million Words or Less. These words have deepened our love and understanding for the children. This truly helps us to get to know you and your children even better! Thank you. If you have yet to submit words about your child, feel free to send us what you want us to know about your child to: kkirkham@niu.edu.

A set of strategies and tools Pam and I have been utilizing is called, “I Love You Rituals”. If you are wondering what these rituals look like we invite you to talk with us or observe our interactions with your children. A great explanation from the website consciousdiscipline.com is this “[A series of] interactive activities based on positive messages, each interaction is based on the latest in brain research. All activities help children increase their attention spans, reduce hyperactivity, build self-esteem, and facilitate language development. The interactions teach children how to be kind and caring using gentle touches.” We have done a lot of deep breathing exercises with the children when they are feeling angry, upset or stressed. Pam and I have also used story hand, and other songs and stories to connect with the children, to help them feel secure, confident and loved. Have a great month!

Kendra Nenia & Pam Yockey

As the flu season approaches, I want to remind everyone of the health practices we have in place. First and foremost, I would encourage all of you to get a flu shot. Even if someone gets the flu, symptoms could be lessened if they had the vaccine. As a parent, it is a good idea to conduct a quick health assessment of your child each morning before bringing him/her to the center. Look for signs such as: crankiness; fatigue; decrease in appetite; temperature over 100.5; headache; sore throat; vomiting; diarrhea. Children need to remain at home until they are no longer sick, but that doesn’t mean they have to be completely symptom-free to return to school (a runny nose or mild cough may last a long time). If the flu becomes a concern, we will implement a stricter policy, such as remaining home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Sometimes it’s hard to distinguish between a child who is mildly ill and OK to be at school versus a child who needs to stay home. Things to look for include multiple symptoms, and the child’s ability to function throughout a normal school day. Also watch for the recurrence of a fever with a worsening cough; this is a significant indicator of the flu. Overall, you should monitor your child to see if s/he is feeling worse, rather than better. If a child cannot get through a regular school day or needs considerable comfort or extra rest, we will not be able to provide care for them in a group setting.
**Time Management**

Tuesdays from 4:00-5:30 p.m.  
November 9th

Toni Leal the 4-C social worker will be here to conduct a life changing workshop on Time management and building routines.

This workshop is open to all parents of CCC children and will be a great opportunity for you to learn more about how you can get the most out of time!

Workshop is FREE! Sign up at the front desk or via email to kschulz@niu.edu if you will be attending or have questions.

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Dear Parents and Families,

Campus Child Care will be participating in the Homecoming parade on Thursday, October 22nd from 7:00-8:00pm. But, due to the timing of the event we will not be inviting children and families to participate on the float this year. I’m sorry if you were looking forward to joining us. However, if you are able to watch the parade it should be beautiful as all entries will be illuminated in some way.