Welcome to ‘Spring’ semester at Campus Child Care. It is good to see so many returning families and we would like to welcome all of the new families as well. We hope everyone had a relaxing break and you are ready to start a new semester.

We welcome Leslie Dolan to our staff as a full time Child Development Supervisor. Leslie comes to us from The Kensington School in Naperville where she spent 13 years in a variety of roles from Master teacher to Preschool Program Director. Leslie will be working in 2/3’s-2 as soon as she finishes orientation. (See her intro on page 7.)

Two of our staff (April P4 and Jaquida 2/3-2) just returned from an early childhood conference in Chicago. Hillary (P4) and Jennifer (2/3-1) just finished up a 12 hour training on the Creative Curriculum. A few more staff will attend an early childhood conference in Wisconsin in mid-April. We even have several staff pursuing advanced degrees. We want you to know that we have a strong commitment to providing professional development opportunities for our staff and we are fortunate to have staff who love to learn and grow within their profession. They always come back with a lot of enthusiasm and great information to share with each other and parents.

We are looking forward to sharing in many shared experience with you this semester. We have changed up our parent program to include a full week in February of ways to participate (see schedule on page 8). We will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child in April and would like you to be a part of our learning community in any way that you can because strong relationships lead to meaningful learning!! We have the parent conference save the date chart on page 3 of this newsletter. It’s a little different so make sure you take a close look!

If you have not joined Teaching Strategies Gold yet, please accept the invitation that was sent to you and set up your account. You don’t want to miss all of the amazing pieces of documentation the teachers observe on a regular basis and share with you.

Since taking over Campus Child a year ago now, it has been my mission to create shared experiences, connect teachers and families, and learn more about building community so that you as families are supported and feel connected to our university community. Please let me know if you have any feedback for me or the center. We will send out parent surveys in April as part of our annual assessment and accreditation process. But feel free to send me an email or stop in!
Have a wonderful start to your new semester. We wish you much success!

Kristin Schulz

PRESCHOOL ROOM 1
Welcome to the Spring Semester! We would like to welcome Stacy, Lucy, and Ka’Tara to Pre-1! We are so excited to have them join us for the rest of the year. This semester we have an intern in our classroom from Kishwaukee College. Josephina will be with us every day from 9-12, and her introduction is below. She will be doing group times, observations, and some curriculum planning along with us as well as four weeks of lead teaching. We are excited to have her as part of our teaching team. We hope you all have a great semester, and if you ever have any questions or concerns please don’t hesitate to ask Bri or myself!

“Hi, my name is Josefina Pedraza, I am a student at Kishwaukee College. I am currently pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education. In the fall semester I had the opportunity to work with children ages 2 to 5 years old during my student teaching practicum at Kishwaukee Child Care Center. I have also worked with children in other places.

I am happily married with my husband George and have lived in De Kalb for the past 28 years with my husband and my three children, Ariana, Jason, and Ariel. I like to read, cook and spend time with my children.

I am looking forward to working with the staff at the center and to provide the best quality of care to your children.”

Josephina Pedraza

One day a few children were playing and I over-
Parent Conference Schedule Changes – Up and coming for April–

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 3rd</td>
<td>Sherie</td>
<td>Kendra</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10th</td>
<td>Jennifer</td>
<td>Diane</td>
<td>Hillary</td>
<td>Ann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17th</td>
<td>Jen</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Barbara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>WOYC</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1st</td>
<td>Katilyn</td>
<td>Kellie</td>
<td>Pam</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td>Make</td>
<td>Up</td>
<td>Week</td>
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</tbody>
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New this semester– Each teacher is being given a full 9-4pm shift out of the classroom to conduct parent conferences. We do require families to meet with staff for a 20 minute conference and goals setting period. We value our relationship with you and the home school connection for your child’s benefit. We will remain flexible with families who have trouble meeting this time frame but ask that you keep to your day as best as possible to help us manage all of the meetings we need to get through over 5 weeks.

The launcher could also be used to move the balls without touching them. We talked about the launcher being a simple machine that could easily be made. We talked about the materials we could maybe use drawing from our own experiences and knowledge. Some children had seen things launched with a sling-shot or rubber-band. Someone mentioned they had even seen a spoon launch food before! We gathered some materials – plastic spoons, rubber-bands, wooden pieces, popsicle sticks, and tape. We used the iPad to look up some ideas to help us understand how a catapult or a launcher might work and then they started to create.
their own designs! We had some single, double, and even quadruple launchers! It was a busy day that we spent on this, but while we were investigating we saw other machines, so stay tuned for the next project!

We will be celebrating Family week in February. We hope that you will be able to spend some extra time with your child in the classroom, and maybe even share a special talent with the class! Stay tuned for more information, or please don’t hesitate to ask.

Please make sure that your child has winter gear here at school every day. They need shoes for the classroom, and boots for outside. We ask that they also have snowpants, a hat, and water-proof mittens or gloves for playing in the snow! Thank you!

Jen Young and Bri Wicker

PRESCHOOL ROOM 2
WELCOME BACK! There are many changes to our room, come on in and look at what we have done!

Some changes in the room include a new floorplan; when you first walk in you will find the writing area. Children can move their first (older children Last name too) from the class list to I am at school

Child Care Fees/Billing

We bill parents for child care services four times per semester (at the end of 4 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks, and 16 weeks). The exact dates will be included on the semester calendar, as well as on your invoice. We add the fees for student parents to your MyNIU account so you can access them on-line and pay through the Bursar's Office. We will also provide a monthly statement for your convenience. We cannot accept any type of payment at our office.

Faculty, staff, and community members will be billed through Accounts Receivable. They send us your monthly invoice, and we place this in your parent pocket. All payments must be made to the designated location on your statement, not to our office. We encourage parents to keep their invoices throughout the year. We do not provide statements regarding your child care expenses for tax purposes – it is up to you to track this. Our tax number is 36-6008480.

All accounts must be paid in full before child care can be secured for a future semester or interim period. Keep in mind, in order to eliminate a balance due, you may need to go to the Bursar’s Office / Accounts Receivable and request for your payment to go directly toward child care (otherwise, we are considered low priority, and your payment will go to pay other outstanding debts such as tuition, fees, books, etc.).
today. Or they can choose to find their folder and write their name first. After doing both the child can wash their hands and begin exploring the classroom where they will find.

The dramatic play area which is now a home with some ethnic foods to make a fabulous meal. There is a chore chart on the closet and every child will be responsible for a different chore each week. The block and science area have opportunities to build tracks and ramps to experiment with motion, force and friction, and a cool interactive family collage in group area where the children can move their picture to their families to help with name recognition (please make sure we have a family photo).

We have also ramped up the learning opportunities in the classroom. We are still using a play based curriculum. “Play is the most important way that young children learn. Through play, children learn about the social, physical, emotional, and cognitive worlds around them.” (Sandra Waite-Stupiansky, PhD, is a professor of early childhood and reading at Edinboro University, in Pennsylvania) but we are adding to our classroom curriculum what is called project based. “ A project is an in-depth investigation of a topic worth learning more about. The investigation is usually undertaken by a small group of children within a class, sometimes by a whole class, and occasionally by an individual child. The key feature of a project is that it is a research effort deliberately focused on finding answers to questions about a topic posed either by the children, the teacher, or the teacher working with the children”. (Katz, 1994, p. 1 taken from Teachers College, Columbia University)

Our first project we chose came from the children’s interests. Motion is experienced outside on the slide, in the room, dancing and walking, and from several games and toys. Diane and I have come up with two activities to start with and from the children’s questions, interest and exploration will determine where we go from there. LOOK for what
we will be doing on our Weekly Goals. How we have applied it to the classroom on our weekly Ref-
lections, Project Posters in the Hallway, on the Documentation bulletin board in the classroom. And
how it directly pertains to your child on Teaching Strategies.

Reminders:

Events coming up:
• February 20 -24 - Family Week look for Special Activities that will be going on that week.
** Family Pictures Please – bring in or email to Dmathison@niu.edu or Akuta@niu.edu
• We go outside daily Please bring in snow boots, snow pants, hats and gloves/mittens Don’t f
get to label everything!
• Just a reminder please do not bring toys from home. When the children get their coats som
children are moving toys from one child’s cubie to theirs. We would hate to lose a beloved toy.
Please be sure to check the extra clothes bins in the bathroom to be sure they have weather appro-
priate clothes.

Ann Kuta and Diane Mathison

PRESCHOOL ROOM 4
April and I are excited to kick off another fun filled semester in Pre 4! I would like to give a warm wel-
come to April and two of her friends from Pre 3. We are excited to have you all! April and I have
many fascinating activities planned, such as new science activities, math and number skill building,
and group games with rules to practice working as a school family.

To begin this semester, we will continue encouraging bucket filling. Each child will have a bucket lo-
cated in the classroom and when certain acts of kindness are noticed a gem will be placed in their
bucket. Each Friday, your child will count how many gems they received that week! We hope this
visual will promote kind acts and an overall happy class-
room.

Once your child arrives at school, make sure to point out
the sign in sheet located next to the child sized sink. This
tool will encourage fine motor and pre writing skills. Also, it
is a great way to learn name and letter recognition. We
believe this will motivate your child to develop their pre
writing skills. Also, we will be adding name cards and sto-
ries related to the alphabet to our classroom library. Going
along with literacy, we will be introducing an author of the
month. This month we are featuring Laura Numeroff, who
wrote the classic “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.”
Hi! My name is Leslie Dolan and I am extremely excited to be joining the NIU Campus Child Care team. I come to CCC with over 20 years experience in the education field. My degree is in Elementary Education from the University of Arizona, but my experience and love are in the early childhood field where I have understanding and knowledge in directing, curriculum development and most importantly teaching.

I live in Aurora with my wonderful husband, Chuck, whom I have been married to for over 26 years. I have two children; Kat, 23, who graduated from NIU in 2016 and is now pursuing her master's degree in Applied Family and Child Studies and Lance, 19, who attends College of DuPage and is planning to transfer to NIU in the future.

I am looking so forward to working with Kendra and learning all I can about Campus Child Care, but most of all I am looking forward to working with you and your children and building a strong relationship.

We have introduced simple patterning and measurement using colored cubes. The children are encouraged to find the length of an item in the classroom using the cubes. The children then count the cubes to find out the length of each object. Make sure to check out our inviting discovery center. This area is complete with nature items, reflective gems, mirrors, lights, and forest animals. The children enjoy setting up their own habitat!

To celebrate dental month in February, we will be focusing on proper dental hygiene and healthy eating habits. We hope to have a classroom visitor that works at a dentist office to encourage positive hygiene and tooth brushing skills.

February 20th through the 24th, CCC will be hosting a Family Week! Throughout the week, parents and families are invited to join the center in a number of activities. There will be more information to follow.
As always, feel free to ask us questions at any time. We look forward to a fun semester!

April Kaiser and Hillary Rosher

Parent Week– February 20th-24th

**Tuesday 2/21 @ 12:15-1:15- Lunch and Learn**– Come for some soup and stay for a great learning topic- "From Play to Practice"- Presented by Kendra Nenia and Diane Mathison

**Wednesday 2/22 @ 4:00-5:30pm**—Kindergarten Readiness– Presented by Jen Young and Toni Leal. (Child Care and snacks provided!)

**Thursday and Friday 2/23 and 2/24 from 9 to 11am and 3-5pm—Classroom Engagement**– We Invite you and your family to join us during our routines and daily activities. Come and play, eat a snack, read a book and spend time in your child’s environment.

We will have sign up sheet posted and look forward to an amazing week of learning, celebration and fun!!