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 8.)

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 experiences 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 7). 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 8 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

**INFANT ROOM**

Happy February! A New Year and new semester is underway! We want to welcome our new children, families and student workers to our room. Our new children are, Jacob, Elena, Isabel, Genevieve, and Malakhi. Student workers, Cecilia and Maggie are new to our room and Raven and Jazmin are new to the center, welcome to all of you. We are excited to have you with us!

**FYI for this month include:**

- We will continue to go outdoors, as long as the temperature is above 10 degrees, including wind-chill. Please bring outside clothing for your child, including gloves, coat/snowsuit, boots, and hats. As the children become more active we will be spending more time on the ground in our playground area versus campus walks.
- Don’t forget to schedule Intake Meeting /Welcome Back meeting with either Kellie or myself.
- ASQ forms are due back by February 20th. Thank you to those who are already returned them.
- Family Week Celebration will be Feb 20-24. Be on the lookout for more information.

**Here is a quick look at our classroom goals for this month:**

**Social Emotional**

**REMINDERS**

- Please be aware that we will not be celebrating Valentine’s Day at the Center by making or exchanging cards, so please do not bring valentines or candy to distribute. We prefer to maintain our typical routine, allowing families to choose their own way of celebrating these special days at home. We also want to avoid imposing any additional costs or burden on families. We appreciate your cooperation.
- Full-time child care will be available during Spring Break, March 13-17. An application form will be sent to your email, be sure to hand it in by Friday, February 10th if you need care during Spring Break.
- For tax purposes, our FEIN# is 36-6008480. We do not distribute statements regarding your child care payments. You need to track that information yourself, so we recommend for everyone to save your invoices as a way of documenting your annual child care expenses.
- All children will go outside when the ‘feels like’ temperature is above 15 degrees. They may go outside for a short time when this temperature is between 10-15 degrees.
Our first few weeks back we focused on establishing routines and patterns in our classroom. The daily structure of our room aids in the children's social and emotional well-being and allows them to feel safe and secure in knowing what will be happening next. Establishing relationships has been very important to the success of our children at Campus Child Care. We will continue to assist the children with identifying feelings and emotions and provide them with social interactions between peers and adults.

Physical
The children will be challenged physically with materials and opportunity to grab, sit, crawl and walk as their physical abilities grow. We have push toys, weighted toys, climbing mats and tummy time mats.

Cognitive Development

Literacy
Our library center is and always has been one of the most visited center and this month we have expanded it by adding books to every center in our classroom to allow more hands on, more experiences with peers, and individual and small group reading. Stop by our parent share board for a copy of a few of our classroom favorite songs and finger plays.

Science, Math, Creative Expression
Sensory and basic shape material are all over the classroom however a focus on directional phrases and patterns with color mixing, mono prints and using various tools in the creative process.

Social Studies
Our family board has been relocated down to the children's level and pictures of peers together will be added around the room as we talk about our families and our school families.

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.).
Here’s to a good semester!!!
Pam Yockey & Kellie Fuss

TODDLER ROOM
Welcome back to the toddler room for the spring semester! We are excited to see our returning toddlers back and to meet our new toddlers. This semester we welcome Jack, Jax, Bria and Olivia and we cannot wait to get to know them and their families more. We were sad to see Heaven, Javanna, and Da’nyla leave as we will miss them.

We have already been busy playing with new toys and exploring the classroom. The toddlers have been enjoying the “gum ball machines.” They have figured out that if you press the blue button the balls will fall out, cause and effect! The children like to run after the balls and put them back in the top. The returning children are showing the new toddlers the routines in the classroom. They have been showing them how to wash hands and put their things in the bucket after meal times. The toddlers have also been enjoying the media table. We have been counting pom pom balls and sorting the different colors that we see.

We are excited for this semester. We will be focusing on more cooking activities with the children to work on their math, fine motor, and turn taking skills. Our first thing we will try to make is fruit smoothies. We will also be focusing more on letters in our names, numbers and counting. We will expose the children to many different types of letters and numbers in and out of the classroom. This semester we want to focus on our families’ culture and heritage. We have many different cultures in our toddler room and want to learn more about them. Feel free to tell us different words or bring in books in the language you speak at home. A perfect time to show many things about your family is family week. This semester we are going to do a week-long of family events. Family week will be February 20 to 24. We invite you to come in our classroom and spend time with the toddlers and your child. We hope to see you for morning snack on Thursday of family week and Friday on the playground to play.

We already have three toddlers that are two years old but the rest of them will be turning two soon. A lot of our toddlers are showing interest in using the toilet. One of the milestones that is typically reached during the 2-3 age range is toilet training. Toilet training is an ongoing conversation in our classroom. A child is considered to have reached the stage of toilet trained when he or she stays dry most days during the wakeful hours of the day. It is harder
for children to stay dry at night during the long hours of a night sleep (8-10 hours). Some children continue to have accidents in his or her underwear into the preschool years. As a reminder here are a few signals that your child is ready to begin the potty training process. Your child’s diaper is dry for long periods during the day. Your child begins to recognize when he or she has wet the diaper. Your child wants the dirty diaper removed. Your child can remove the dirty diaper independently. Your child can tell you he or she wants to go potty. Here is a link to an article on toilet training that is on the CCC website on Toilet Training, feel free to reference it for more information.

http://www.niu.edu/ccc/resources/ToiletTraining2.pdf

Have a great semester!
Katilyn Ostenson and Barbara Zeman

TWO/THREE-1

We are very excited to be starting a new semester in the 2/3-1 classroom. We have 4 new students in our classroom this semester. We welcome Lucas, Nayeli, Emma, and Kaleb to our classroom.

We are working on getting to know everyone and learning our classroom routines. We are practicing the idea of sharing materials and toys. The children have been working hard on taking turns while creating and playing. During this time Sherie and I continue to model and practice our words while interacting with others.

We started out our semester making new playdough where each child was able to add a color of their choice. We will

Myth: Cold Temperatures Zap Your Immune System

Truth: Cold weather might make you shiver, but it won’t make you sick.

In various studies, researchers have exposed volunteers to cold temperatures and cold viruses while the subjects stood around in wet hair, minimal clothing, and damp socks. On the whole, they were no more likely to get sick than people who were exposed to cold viruses while wearing dry, warm layers. Still, you should bundle up to prevent frostbite.

continue to work on sorting by shapes and colors. The children will work on counting and identifying numbers also this semester.

You might have noticed that our documentation board is focused on transportation. We have begun working on a project with transportation and learning how trains, cars, boats, and airplanes work. We are learning what goes on a road, what goes on water, what goes in the air, and what goes on a track. The children are becoming very interested in bridges. We have provided soft large blocks to build with in our block area to create bridges, and continue to be amazed by the creations that the children have been building.

**Reminders:** Please return the intake meeting form as well as your child’s ASQ as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact myself or Sherie. Please make sure that all clothing and outside materials are labeled with your child’s name or initials. It can become confusing when you have multiple materials as we are dressing and preparing to go outdoors. We do go outside, even in the winter months, so please bring snow pants, boots, hats and gloves.

We are looking forward to celebrating Family Week, which will be held February 20-24. We would like to invite you to come into room and play with us. If you have an activity that you would like to do- just let us know. Cooking, art, reading a book, playing an instrument or anything that is age appropriate is welcome. More information will be coming in the next few weeks.

Have a great month!
Jennifer Weber & Sherie Newman

**TWO/THREE-2**

Welcome back after winter break! It’s great to have all the families in the 2’s-3’s/2 room back in attendance. Jaquida has been working as my co-teacher and Leslie Dolan will begin working in the classroom on February 6th. You may see her around as she began orientation on January 23. It’s very helpful to have someone as fun, hardworking and helpful as Jaquida in our room-she’s been amazing!

Our semester is off to a fun and busy start. We are only a week in but there is already so much happening! The children have jumped back into the semester like they never left. They have been busily exploring the materials - the things I observe being used most are the items in dramatic play and the train set in block area. Children have been doing a lot of socio-dramatic play using large and small dolls- I hear children saying things like,
“Honey! I need you to come eat now.” Dramatic play provides an opportunity for children to use and repeat the language they hear in everyday life from adults and their parents. As the children are participating in dramatic play they are practicing and perfecting use of language, as well as an array of other skills.

As the children have been playing and exploring I am observing where their interests lie so I can choose an area to focus on for our first study of spring semester. Thursday January 19th we took a walk, looking for colors when we noticed a service dog walking with a person. I told them that we have a toy “helper dog” in our dramatic play area. As soon as we got back to school I pulled out our dolls that have tools to help them; leg braces, wheelchair, hearing aids, crutches and a helper dog. They seem to be interested in this topic, but we will see if it’s an appropriate topic for a study. Can’t wait to see what our topic ends up being.

January 28th is Chinese New Year and Leon’s family will be coming in the 27th to share some things about this special Chinese holiday. Look for documentation in our hallway about this very special visit! We have some great family involvement opportunities this semester; February 20th - the 24th we will be having a family week where parents can learn about what is happening when children play, and then come in and play in their child’s classroom. Toni will be coming to present on Kindergarten readiness too.

**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!!
Welcome to Campus Child Care...

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.

Parent Conference Schedule Changes - Up and coming for April-

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<td>Kendra</td>
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<td>Diane</td>
<td>Hillary</td>
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<td>Jen</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
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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.