March Already?? No doubt you are gearing up for midterms and mid term projects. Possibly annual reports and goal assessment for the coming year. We want you to know that no matter what project you are working on we are hear for you.

It is our mission to provide you with excellent care and a caring environment so that you can focus on your goals and get your work completed. When you arrive to pick up your child we will ask you about your day, we will ask you how things are going, we may even suggest resources to help you navigate NIU and the larger community. This is our way of getting to know you, supporting you as students and parents and helping you to learn and grow along the way.

We value the relationships we build with you and your children and we look forward to helping you. So, even though you might not be up for talking or you have some place to be, try and connect with your child’s teacher, Janene, Amy or I so we can help you fell connected and supported.

We are getting ready for Week of the Young Child (WOYC) a celebration of young children and all that they do to grow and learn. Special events are being planned now and a full calendar of events is to come in April.

For those of you who were able to attend Family Week we thank you for stopping by and spending your time with us. We had two successful parent trainings the first a lunch and learn about play presented by Kendra Nenia and Diane Mathison and the second a Kindergarten Readiness workshop presented by Jen Young in partnership with 4-C social worker Toni Leal. The last two days of Family Week were open invitations for parents and loved ones to engage in our world. We had guest readers, science experiments, cooking projects and tasting. We look forward to hosting these events, if you have some feedback we’d love to hear it. These events are for you, so let us know if you have an idea!! And how you liked or didn’t like the changes we made in this event this year.

Thank you for allowing us to care for you and your children. We are looking forward to the rest of the semester and a short break this month.

Good luck on midterms!

Kristin Schulz
INFANT ROOM

Hello infant room families!

Spring time is just around the corner, although we had a nice dose of spring weather early.

Last month we had our first Family Week in place of a family gathering evening. We are always trying to find new ways to include and welcome families into the classroom. If you haven’t had an opportunity already, please check out the photo display of our classroom from the week’s events. Feedback on the week is appreciated.

During the month of March, the infant room we will continue to focus on social-emotional growth with all of the children, from our youngest to our oldest. Now that we have almost reached the half way mark in the semester the children feel safe and comfortable with us and the student staff in our classroom. In turn both of us are comfortable with knowing the needs of each child. As floating student staff work in the classroom it is to be expected there will continue to be some stranger anxiety, which is developmentally appropriate and to be expected with the age of the children in our classroom.

As the children have grown and become more mobile there is more interest in one another as well as negotiating their own personal space. The children learn through each of the 5 senses; sight, sound, taste, feel, and smell. For most of the children this means a lot of physical contact with one another either intentional or unintentional. You may hear us using the words “gentle touches, soft touches, open hand” as ways to redirect and teach the children how to use their sense of touch in a gentle appropriate manner when wanting to feel the hair, skin, or clothing of a classmate. Spatial awareness is a concept that takes many years for children to fully develop. During the stage of infancy and early toddlerhood it is practically none existent. For this reason

REMINDEERS

- Full-time child care will be available during Spring Break, March 13-17. The registration has passed so if you still need care please see Janene ASAP for any space that may be available. At this point, extra care fees will apply.

- Please be aware that classrooms will be combined during Spring Break due to low enrollment; and teachers will take time off or spend time out of the classroom to plan the curriculum.

- For those who pick up at the end of the day, please remember that our building closes at 5:30 so we need you to pick up and leave the building by this time.

- 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.
we guide and direct the children frequently when their bodies or materials they are playing with are too close to another classmate. You may hear us using language such as “you are too close, go around your (name), (name) feels unsafe when you are that close, etc”. Children learn through consistency and repetition so it will take many experiences before the concepts are fully developed. In the meantime, expect there to be minor incidents and tears shed.

Next month we will celebrate Week of The Young Child (WOYC) April 24 – 28, which is sponsored by NAEYC. The center will have a variety of activities planned as well as individual classroom activities. More information will be posted closer to the Week of Celebration. In our classroom we plan to decorate t-shirts with foot prints of all the children as a keepsake for each child. We have some white t-shirts (Hanes/Fruit of the Loom) in size 2T left over from previous center projects; however we do not have enough for each child. We are in need of 5 more t-shirts and asking some families to provide a t-shirt either size 2T or a smaller size if your child requires a smaller size. We would like to get started on the project before the month ends.

Mark your calendars for Parent Conference days in May; Kellie on Tuesday, May 2 and Pam on Wednesday, May 3. This semester each classroom teacher is scheduling all parent conferences on 1 day. Each teacher in the center has been assigned a day to meet with the parents of her primary assigned children.

Have a wonderful month!
Kellie Fuss & Pam Yockey

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**Calendar of Events**

March 7— Parent Advisory Board Meeting 9-10am conference room of CCC.

March 13-17 — *Spring Break* (Interim care must be requested, extra care fees apply).

March 25th— *Teachers Participating in A.L.I.C.E Training*

*Parent Conferences* (Month of April): See page 3 for your child’s conference day!!

April 24-28 — *Week of the Young Child (WOYC) Guest Reader Program and Child Alumni Readers Welcome!*

May 5th — *Reading Day* (we are open as usual)

May 8 —12— *Finals Week*

May 15 - June 16 — Spring Interim
What a busy month we had. We started out the month by posting classroom expectations (otherwise known as rules) on our classroom door. At this stage of life, for many of the toddlers, having the words or social skills to say how they feel or what they want or don’t want (expressive language) just isn’t there. So they use or do whatever is the quickest and easiest way of communicating, they hit, push, or even bite. To help the toddlers through this stage we let them know in words and manner that this is not acceptable or safe. This typical behavior is a developmental phenomenon. It often happens at predictable times for predictable reasons tied to children’s ages and stages. This will not last forever.

All month we’ve been doing cooking activities. Twice we’ve made banana smoothies. This is a favorite cooking activity. I think it has to do with the blender and not with how good the smoothies taste. Watching the chunks of banana “disappear” into the yogurt and milk as the blender whirs is often mesmerizing for the children. We’ve also made pancakes several times this month. One time we made pink pancakes. We had so many we decided to share them with the other teachers and staff around the center.

As usual, art activities are also a lot of fun for the children. We did many different types of painting throughout the month. One time we used the corks from our sink and float activities for painting. The children have also used thick and thin handled brushes for fine motor control, their feet for sensory exploration, and rolled golf balls back and forth in box lids to move paint over their paper for problem solving. One week they had the opportunity to drive cars with markers taped to them or sheets of paper to practice drawing lines.

Gross motor movement activities have taken on several forms this month. For overhand throwing and release timing, we’ve hung hula hoops from the ceiling in the Infant/Toddler Room. By hanging the hula hoops higher than their heads, the children are more likely to throw the balls overhand. When they do this, they have to think about when to let go/release the ball from their hand, so it doesn’t drop behind them. We’ve also been reading and listening to the book Tony Chestnut. This book is about a shy boy named Tony who moves to a new school with his sister Eileen. On their first day of school Eileen is very sad. So to cheer her up Tony sings a song using his name and the names of the other children on the playground to act out and point to body parts.
In our media table, as usual the children love exploring water. One week we created an Arctic ocean, complete with giant icebergs and “snow”. Two weeks were spent on what sinks and what floats. Ping pong balls and corks float very well. Ping pong balls can also be very slippery between your fingers and can “pop” out, bouncing off the sides of the media table. Not only did this create much enjoyment/entertainment for the children, it became a problem solving/ fine motor activity for them as well.

Have a great month!
Barbara Zeman & Katilyn Ostenson

TWO/THREE

Hello 2/3-1 families,

We have been enjoying this warmer weather and we hope it will last. We will continue to wear boots and snow pants outside because of all the mud. We will let you know we are finished with them.

In the classroom we have had some fun and exciting projects. The airplane, ticket counter and radio control tower has been interesting for the children. They would pretend to be a passenger, or the ticket clerk, or the pilot. They would always make sure that they had a ticket before they went on the plane. We added a map of the United States so they could point to where they would like to go. We will be changing the dramatic play area to either a boat or a train- the children will be able to vote. We will have individual boxes for the children to pretend to have their own boat or train car.

We also have created a poster for the rules in the room. We have pictures for each one of the rules. It is important to set rules and expectations that are age appropriate. Rules allow adults to take an active role of keeping children safe. When a child becomes upset or unwilling to follow thru, the adult can simply just state the rule. The rules take the “emotional drama” out of the equation of following the rules. The adult doesn’t become the “bad guy” for encouraging the child to follow the rule. We simply say, “This is the rule, we have the rule to keep you safe.” If you feel that you are struggling to keep your child safe or you feel that they are starting to argue or fight back, I encourage you to create “house rules” together. House rules are rules that EVERYONE needs to follow. If you would like more information on rules and expectations, please let me know.

We are continuing to practice naming shapes, colors, first letters of their name, and numbers. All of these activities are geared to be learned and retained through play. One of our number games, which focuses on one to one correspondence, is about looking for school buses. When the children see a
school bus out the window, they can add a school bus to the Velcro board. At the end of the small group time or at the end of the day, we will count how many we saw. This activity is fun and educational all in one.

Jennifer and I would like to say “Thank You!” to everyone who was able to come during Family Week. We loved having you come in to play, read, and do activities with us. Please remember you don’t have to wait for the center to create a special event, you are welcome any time. The only thing we would like to know in advance is what kind of activity you are doing and when. This semester the center will be trying out a new schedule for parent teacher conferences. Jennifer and I will have ONE DAY to complete our parent conference. They will be about 15 to 20 minutes in length, just enough time to review goals and talk about the assessments that were completed. There will be a sign up for you to pick a time that works best for you. Please communicate with us if you have any questions or concerns.

Abool, Mary, Nora, Lucas, Omar, Kaleb, and Aidan are Sherie’s primaries and your conference date is April 3rd from 9:00 to 4:00

Celina, Julian, Kingston, Herbie, Emma, Nayeli, and Brooklyn are Jennifer’s primaries and your conference date is April 10th from 9:00 to 4:00.

Please note that even if you do not have care scheduled for that day it is okay to bring your child and we will watch them while you are in the conference. You will not be charged for the conference care. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sherie Newman & Jennifer Weber

TWO/THREE-2
We have had a wonderful time getting to know Leslie! The children have already begun to develop a strong and loving relationship with her. They greet her with lots of hugs and offer a great deal of smiles and affection as they interact with her and me both. I am so excited to have her in our room!

I hope you are all enjoying the warm days we have had! There’s been many opportunities to get outside and play. Speaking of opportunities, Leslie and I have taken the opportunity to use the ASQ scores to plan areas of our curriculum. We noticed that nearly all the children needed support in fine motor development, so we have provided a multitude of activities to encourage that area of development. We have been playing with table toys such as lacing beads, stacking pegs, drawing and...
painting, doing many puzzles and using rubber bands to stretch over cans. We are hoping all the fine motor practice will show a rise in ASQ scores.

Our study is under way! The children have shown some interest in wind and air, so we have used many opportunities to explore this property. It started when I showed the children a blow dryer; they were confused by this prop in dramatic play so I found one that worked, plugged it in and demonstrated. While it was out I thought to bring our ping-pong balls, this was extremely exciting to some of the children. They then tried to see which of our toys could be blown by the air from the blow dryer.

A week or so later I brought in a box fan and Leslie brought in an air mattress pump. We used both to blow items such as sheets, scarves, tissues and pom-pom balls. We spent a group time using the air mattress pump to blow large scarves all the way to the ceiling. Sometime later Leslie took the children for a walk and they carried pieces of streamers in their hands. The children could see how the streamer reacted to the wind. The children have painted with air and wind too. If you'd like to see what we have done so far come look at our documentation board in our book area. I know we will be providing more experiences with wind and air with the children, and I can’t wait to see where it leads.

Recently, I proposed the information I gathered during our insect study from late summer/early fall to Projects in Practice, and I was approved. After it is edited, it should be posted on the website, I will share information when it is posted. Thank you for signing the permission slips so I could provide pictures of what happened during our study. That was very helpful to me!!

Thank you to those of you who attended our Family Week! I hope you felt like it offered opportunities to learn and feel more connected to your child’s experience at Campus Child Care. As a center, we offer events such as Family Week to strengthen school and family connection. There is a great deal of research that supports the benefits of parent and family involvement! For example, one of many articles that shares a little of this research is education.com. The article *The Benefits of Parent Involvement: What Research Has to Say* states, “Researchers have evidence for the positive effects of parent involvement on children, families, and school when schools and parents continuously support and encourage the children's learning and development (Eccles & Harold, 1993; Illinois State Board of Education, 1993). According to Henderson and Berla (1994), “the most accurate predictor of a student’s
achievement in school is not income or social status but the extent to which that student’s family is able to:

- Create a home environment that encourages learning
- Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children’s achievement and future careers
- Become involved in their children’s education at school and in the community.

We see it first-hand at Campus Child Care. If you ever want to visit, play, join us for lunch or snack, just let us know. We’d love to have you!!

Have a great month!
Kendra Nenia & Leslie Dolan

Parent Conference Schedule Changes– Up and coming for April–

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<td>Diane</td>
<td>Hillary</td>
<td>Ann</td>
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<td>Jen</td>
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<td>Kellie</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.
Family Week 2017
Thank you for your Engagement