DIRECTOR’S DESK
Happy Fall Everyone,
It was so great to see you visiting with each other and taking part in our CCC community during family night! We enjoyed the opportunity to get everyone together. We had a successful Book Fair too!! The Scholastic book fair is the only fund raiser we do as we value literacy and getting children access to books for expanded vocabulary growth and problem solving practice. If you didn’t have the opportunity to get a book this time, watch for the flyers to be out on a table soon for future orders. We will be using the money raised to replace the CD players in each classroom. These are used throughout the day to help enhance our curriculum through; story telling, showcasing a wide variety of diverse music for dancing and playing, and to set the tone for relaxation at nap time.

October is another busy month for us and we want to make sure you know what’s going on. Starting this week the older twos (2.10 and up) and preschool children will have a vision and hearing screening. If your child misses a day that the screening will take place a rescreen time will be offered. Parents will get the results of the screening only if follow up is needed. Your child’s primary teacher will be in the screening and can give you an update about how they did over all.

The second week of October, CCC will be partnering with early childhood for the assessment screening. Parents will get the results from this screening as well and may reach out to the professor if you’d like a more formal meeting. We will also be partnering with Nursing and Nutrition this month. Check the weekly reflections for all of the fun learning opportunities the children have encountered.

All of you had the opportunity to see the email from me last month about the merger between our department and the Child Development Lab. This merger is on a two year time line with rooms changing as soon as Fall 2018 depending on the planning process. This month the teaching staff have an opportunity to be part of a few focus group discussions about what they see are the possibilities, strengths, stressors and benefits. Families will have an opportunity to voice their opinion too. A parent focus group has been scheduled for Thursday, November 2nd from 10-11am. We’d like no more than 9 families to attend during this time. If we have a lot of interest from families we will schedule another meeting to make sure all of you have the opportunity to share your ideas, concerns and possibilities with us as we move forward. Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of this process by emailing kschulz@niu.edu.

Thank you,
Kristin Schulz
Hello Pre 1 families!

I cannot believe a month of the semester has gone by already. Ann and I are excited about our group of children. The children were excited to start the new school year.

The first couple of weeks of school we planned activities to get the children familiar with their peers and teachers. For example, we sang a song *Look Who Came to School Today* and introduced the children to a face to name bingo.

If you are interested in the words of the song, it goes like this:

Do you know this friend of mine, friend of mine, friend of mine?
Do you know this friend of mine?
Whose name is (inserts child name)?

To get to know the children better we discussed families, asking the children who are in their families. The first week of school, the children made families using their fingertips. If you would like to see the display, it is located on our documentation board inside the classroom. If you have not already, please bring a picture when you drop off/ pick up your child or email Ann or I a picture of your child’s family.

We have also been working on identifying colors, making patterns, classifying, counting and name recognition. Name recognition has played a huge part in our classroom. In the morning at drop off the parents are encouraged to help their child find their picture/ name card, then match and place it into their folder. Another activity the children are completing in the morning is writing their name inside their folder. The children are encouraged to write their own name. We want you to see the progress the children are making. At the end of the school year, the folders will be sent home for you to see the progress that has been made. Here are the appropriate developmental steps that a child must go through in order for them to successfully write their name.

- Controlled linear scribbles

**REMINDERS**

- Please call the Center on days your child will be absent or in after 10am. Our number is 815-753-0125.

- Children should arrive by 10:00 a.m. Infants, toddlers, and twos are going outside at this time, and preschoolers are fully engaged in learning activities. They can still come after but you must call.

- Child care fees need to be paid on time to avoid the potential for termination of child care services.

- Please save your invoices so you can track the amount you are spending on child care (for tax purposes).

- CCC does not celebrate holidays so the children will not be wearing costumes or distributing treats for Halloween.

- 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.
Mock letters or letter-like forms
Letter strings
Partially accurate name
Accurate name

Another opportunity that we give the children to be successful at identifying their letters in their name is during lunchtime. Every day before the children begin to eat, they are asked to point and say the letters in their name using their lunch name tag.

The children have been excited to receive apples! The apple represents us reinforcing good behavior. For example, if we see that a child is helping a peer to clean up an area, then the child will be given an apple. The apple will be placed on a board in the classroom.

Ann and I would like to thank you all for coming in to meet with us for intake meetings, bringing your families out for family night and purchasing books from the book fair for our classroom. We look forward to having a great rest of the semester.

Reminders:
- Bring in wipes for your child if they are toilet training
- Take artwork from the bin above the cubbies located by classroom door
- Closed toe shoes should be worn outdoors

If you have any concerns or questions please communicate with us, we are here to support you!

Jaquida Wynn & Ann Kuta

During our Family Night last week a few members from Military and Post Traditional Student Services came over to mingle. I invited them as a way to help connect the student parents to resources on campus. If you didn’t get a chance to talk with them, here is a little bit of information about their program and a link to their newsletter too!!

Preschool Room 2

Can you believe another month has flown by? During the month of September, we were able to become more familiar with our school family, the expectations of the classroom, and an insight to each child’s unique personalities. Thank you to all of the families that came to our Family Night and for purchasing books for the classroom and for your child at home! We greatly appreciate it!

With the cooler weather approaching, please make sure your child has long sleeved pants and long sleeved shirts to replace the summer clothing in your child’s bin. As always, please send your child in closed toed shoes so they can play safely with the bikes and outside climbers. Please make sure you and your child are signing in when entering the classroom after hand washing.

We have noticed an improvement in your child’s handwriting and letter recognition. If you need to leave in a hurry, Diane and I have no problem sitting down with your child and helping them sign in. We would love parent and family volunteers inside the classroom. If you would like to come in to Pre-2 to read a story, help with a cooking activity, or help with an art activity, please talk with Diane or Hillary to set up a time!

After the children felt comfortable navigating the classroom, we decided to change the dramatic play into a fire and rescue station. The children enjoy role playing by dressing up into the fire and rescue gear. During group time, we have been discussing fire safety, such as, stop, drop, and roll, when to call 9-1-1, and what to do when we practice a fire drill at school. We also have encouraged the children to think about safe and unsafe places in their home and to be cautious of things that maybe hot.

Transitioning into fall, Diane will be continuing using the “Second Step” posters as a lesson to encourage the children to recognize others emotions and their own. Some of these emotions include: sad, angry, surprised, scared, disgusted, happy, frustrated, and disappointed. The children can relate to these posters through relating an experience they may have had that is similar to the scenario in the poster.

Continuing with social emotional development, we have introduced the puppets, “impulsive puppy,” and “slow down snail,” to provide a visual for the children to see how someone might act when they feel upset or angry. The role playing will provide the children with steps to help calm their bodies down. Some examples include:

- count slowly to five
- say calm down to yourself
• take 3 deep breaths

We encourage parents and families to use this vocabulary with their child at home.

Moving forward, Diane and I are preparing to divide the children into small groups based on their individual needs, but most importantly to build confidence and self-esteem through pairing them up with children they may or may not socialize with on a daily basis. We hope through various activities, we can assess their progress and build on their prior knowledge.

Have a great month!

Hillary Rosher-Thompson & Diane Mathison

Preschool Room 3

It has been a very busy month in Pre-3! We were so excited to start the new school year and our routine and daily schedule are helping each of us to adjust to our new classroom. Mandy has done a great job welcoming your child to class each day and getting our mornings off with a positive and fun start. Jen Young will return to us in about a month from her student teaching and we are very eager to get her back.

We have had a lot of fun getting to know each other and learning all of our names and personalities through various games and activities. We have created a family board embellished with your photos, which has sparked discussions of different families and the people who make up a family. If you have not sent or emailed a photo of your family, please do so as soon as possible so that we can add it to our board, and your child can share their family with us.

Group time has been a great way to experience math and science aspects as we count each day to fill the calendar, use our weather bottles and talk about the changing of the season from summer to fall. We completed a mini investigation about apples where we tasted different varieties, voted on our favorite and created a bar graph with the results. We cork painted apple shapes, used our fine motor skills to squish playdough apples onto number playdough mats, used a balance to discover if granny smith apples were heavier or lighter than honey crisp apples. We followed a recipe and made a small apple pie to complete our apple study.

Of course, the children have had a great time playing and exploring in all our classroom centers, whether it is the block, dramatic play pizza shop, or the art shelves they are given the opportunity each day to explore their interest and talents.
Thank you to those who attended our family night and book fair. It was a great opportunity to meet other families and teachers in the center. The book fair is always a great success! Thank you for supporting Pre-3 and Campus Child Care. We look forward to another great and busy month full of play and learning. Thanks for all you do and please know we are here to help you and your child.

Leslie Dolan, Jen Young, & Mandy Groff

Illness and the Campus Child Care Policy:

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.