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
INFANT ROOM
Hello infant families,
It is hard to believe that we are close to the mid-point of the semester! Alex and I have been working diligently to learn about your child’s needs and wants. Learning eleven babies eating, sleeping, and comforts can be a full time job! We have already fallen head over heels for your little one and adore spending time with them. Alex and I welcome all of your suggestions and feedback. We enjoy hearing about your evenings and accomplishments, whether it has to do with your child or you.

We have had some very general goals for the classroom for the past month, which allows us to learn more about your child. Later in the semester, we will have goals that are more specific for individual children, but please remember all the goals will benefit all the children.

Alex and I would like to thank you for spending some time with us at the intake meeting. We also appreciate you filling out the ASQ form and return it so quickly. We will be sharing the results with you and give you an opportunity to discuss the ASQ further. Alex and I are always here if you have any questions.

We want to thank you for coming to the Family Night and spending some time with us. For those of you who could not make it we missed you. We would like to remind you that you are more than welcome to drop in anytime to read, dance, sing, and play an instrument or an art activity with us in the classroom.

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.
The children have been really enjoying outside time. Elena, Ali and Harrison like to explore the ramp with the spinning fish and sea stars. They like to pull themselves up and stand next to the wall, this allows them to look around and watch the older toddlers on the playground. It is fun watching them use their problem solving skills as they move around the classroom.

Before Elena turned one, she was sitting at the table enjoying a lot of table food. A few weeks later, Danah joined our class, and she now sits with Elena at the table too.

We have begun to incorporate art activities with some of the older children. Finger painting was the first project that we did and most of the children LOVED it! We will also be having the children explore chalk, crayons, painting with tools, and markers when the children are ready. You will find documentation on the finger painting project in the hallway, just down from our door. Please stop and admire the children’s art.

Have a great month,
Sherie Newman & Alex McAnally

TODDLER ROOM

Happy October!

The semester is in full swing and so is our classroom. The children are settling into a routine and becoming familiar with our daily schedule. We hope the same for all of our families as well. Our goal for the first half of the semester is to help the children feel safe and develop trusting relationships with us. Routine and predictability help the children, we are seeing easier separation at drop-off, and children are engaging more with the materials in the classroom. We have even managed success with transitioning outside and unbelievably mealtime is a much smoother transition now! Relationships are forming between the children and the teaching staff and beginning to form between the children too!

The interests of the children drive emergent curriculum and the children are beginning to develop preferences in our music and movement options and even communicate what they want to listen too. If you were to observe in our classroom you might wonder if we only have four songs to choose from, The Freeze, The Airplane Song, Wheels on the Bus and ABC Medley. The Airplane Song is getting the most play time because it allows us
to move around the room and fly to California, New York City, the playground and home again, we gallop, jump, and dance our way from coast to coast. In addition, this year we are having a center wide dance party on Wednesday’s. Music is played throughout the whole center and the children have so much fun!

Literacy favorites include finger-plays and books, like Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Five Little Monkeys, Everyone Asks About You and The Little White Duck. Reading is another way to connect with a child or children in a small group. We often read the same books multiple times and use that time to expose the children to language and various concepts. Repetition and predictability again for the win!

Creative expression art this month has included finger paint, easel painting that turns into finger paint, we painted with cars and the ended up being finger paint too! Therefore, finger paint is the favorite right now! We also provided chalk and crayons daily, which also promotes fine motor development as the children use the whole hand grasp to hold writing tools. We have also been using stickers to promote the fine motor skills and have a wonderful display to a sticker collage in our room as well as a shape collage.

Thank you to all who attended Family Night and visited our book fair! We enjoyed having you all there and those who could not attend we missed you!

Our first parent teacher conferences will be coming up in November. We each have a full day to complete all our conferences, Pam’s will be November 1 and Kellie’s are November 2. There will be a sign up list above the cubbies. We love these conferences as it is a time just for one on one discussion about your child’s development and goals!

Pam Yockey & Kellie Fuss

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!!

Hello from 2/3’s-1!

We made it through our first month! Being with a new age group and new co-teachers as well as some new friends, our first month was great!

Our focus has been social skills. Getting to know each other as well as the classroom expectations. We made the “rules of our room” straight forward and simple. Please notice these above the children’s sink and discuss them with your child. We refer to this chart and tell the children these are our rules and everyone does them every day. Hearing the same thing from parents will help with reinforcing these skills.

The children in our room love art, especially anything to do with paint and glue! We have some amazing artwork hung around the classroom. We try to incorporate 3D art and nature art as much as possible. Most of the children enjoy the sensory aspects of art, especially the freedom to get messy and experiment with how different media feels on our skin. This is a major reason we ask for extra clothes! The children are getting to learn more about themselves and the world around them. We want to give them as many opportunities to explore art as we can!

Another love is books and music! What a fabulous way to learn! The children know that books are special and we need to treat them with care. Through books, they learn rhymes, print concepts, new vocabulary, rhythm, how to follow directions and listen. They learn how to sit in a group and keep in their own space, as well as take turns and recall and retell stories and songs using a variety of props. It is exciting to me when a shy child starts to sing familiar songs and finger plays! They are learning so much! It is truly amazing! Some of our favorite books are The Napping House, My Dinosaur Pet, Pete the Cat and his New Shoes, Puff the Magic Dragon and Bear Feels Sick. If you have not checked out your local library, you should! They have so much more than books! We love to sing Ram, Sam, Sam; If You’re Happy and You Know It, the “rock” version of “I’m a Little Tea Pot”, Twinkle Traffic Light and Leo the Lion to name a few. If you would like copies of words and tunes, just let us know. We would love to share them with you.

For science, we have explored tomatoes, pumpkins, gourds, and goop. We incorporated math as we used stretchy string to measure around the pumpkins. At this age, the children are learning concepts of big, small, heavy, light and positional words like around, top, bottom and under. We made pumpkin bread, measured out the ingredients, and the children helped mix them all together and
got to see the change in the batter as we added the different ingredients. Then of course, the best part, we got to taste the bread at snack time! We also had a small group to explore tomatoes. We cut them, observed the design inside, and saw the seeds. We learned about the colors red and yellow and a few of us loved the yellow tomato and ate the entire thing!

Since a couple of our friends will be three at the end of this month, we are trying out our large motor skills on the preschool playground. We will be using the infant/toddler playground in the morning and we will use the bigger playground at the end of the day. We are doing great with the big climber and sandbox!

Thank you to all the families who filled out the ASQ’s and met with teachers for the intake/welcome back meetings. A huge thank you to all those who attended family night and helped with our book fair! We appreciate it!

Reminders:
- please replace summer clothes with fall clothes in your child’s bucket
- please have a jacket in your child’s cubby daily- we go outside everyday
- check cubbies daily for important notes and artwork

Have a great month,
April Kaiser & Kat Dolan

TWO/THREE-2
What a fun month September has been. Once the children settled into the routine of the day and we got to know their personalities, the fun (and learning) has not stopped. With the information, we gathered from the ASQ’s we decided to focus on different ways for the children to practice gross motor traveling skills and fine motor strengthening. We have used the balance beam, portable steps, bikes with and without pedals, and just plain ‘ole running around the path on the large playground. For fine motor strengthening, tweezers and tongs to pick up pomp pons were used. This activity also became a problem-solving task; how to squeeze the tongs or tweezers with one or both hands to pick up a pomp pons from the box and then release it into a bowl on the table. For gross motor, one day on the playground, after reading the book Silly Sally for group time, Kendra got the children to move upside down with her, like Sally did in the book. She then asked them to hop like Sally (and the dog in the book), which they did. However, then the hopping turned into jumping, and then the jumping turned into running and they then took off. Just as a two year olds should.

Every year certain books (for no necessary reason) become
classroom favorites. This year was no exception. It started with The Three Little Pigs as told by M. J. York. We brought in small figures of pigs and a wolf for the children to use in free play and re-telling the story. With the interest in the three little pigs, we decided to incorporate the story into a science lesson. We brought out a hairdryer to simulate the huffing and puffing (wind) the wolf did to blow the little pigs houses down. We use ping-pong balls to show the affect wind had on an object. One day Kendra and I were a little hot, so I took out my “hand powered” fan and Kendra her hand-held battery fan. We used that opportunity to talk about the different ways to produce wind. Other popular books are The Giant Jumperee, Brown Bear Brown Bear, What do You Hear?, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom!, and The Very Hungry Caterpillar with more to come.

Following the interests of several children, we brought in tap shoes and ‘ballet barres”. We also visited Jack’s mom in one of her dance and movement classes in Gabel Hall. There they showed us their interpretation of moving to the song we call The Lion Sleeps Tonight, they used scarves in their dance interpretation! They also showed us how to do face yoga and directional stretching. It was an exciting time.

Please remember to check your child’s clothing bin in the bathroom for extra clothes, diapers, and wipes. We try our best to put out cubby notes in a timely manner, but we sometimes forget. Any help you can give us is greatly appreciated. In addition, if you have any questions, concerns or just want to talk, we are here for you.

Barbara Zeman & Kendra Nenia
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