We are fast approaching the end of a semester and more importantly, the end of another year! We hope it has been a great year for each of you, both at NIU and CCC. This is the last semester we will be called CCC. Our new program name is, The Child Development and Family Center. We are in the process of a website redesign with the anticipated launch of May 21st! With the merger right around the corner I have placed merger updates later in this newsletter so it has its own space.

Thanks to those of you who took the time to get involved in our Week of the Young Child activities. It certainly was a busy week! Big thanks to Amy, Pam, Diane, Alex and the Parent Advisory Board members for all of their hard work on the activities surrounding this week. Thank you to all of the parents that signed up and brought in food for staff appreciation, participated in the talent show, made a masterpiece in the art studio or even stopped in the read and dressed your child for spirit day! Some photos of these events are included on the last page of this newsletter. Thanks again for a great celebratory week! We had over 20 guest readers from all over the university stop in to see what great things our teachers, as professionals are doing to build a great foundation for future learning.

The summer semester is just around the corner. We will begin applying sunscreen to the children as of the first day of interim, May 14th. If you have given us permission to apply the center sunscreen we will use that or you are welcome to bring your own bottle of cream sunscreen only (no sprays please). Please label the bottle with your child’s name for us to apply.

Our plan is to have 4 classrooms open this summer: the Toddler Room (for infants moving up) with Alex and Kat as teachers. 2/3-2 (for all of the toddlers moving up) with Pam and Leslie as teachers. Pre-1 (for all current Pre 1 and some twos moving up) with Ann and Jaquida as teachers. Preschool 2 (for all Pre 2 and Pre 3 children with some twos moving up) with Hillary and Jen as teachers. April will be our professional staff floater for the summer subbing into each room for staff vacation time.

Several of our teachers will be off for the summer and returning for fall; they include Kellie, Barbara, Diane, Kendra and Brianna.

As of fall semester, the current toddlers returning will be placed into a 2/3’s classroom and the current infants (who turn one by Sept. 1) will move to the toddler room. Also, all of the children who are currently in a 2/3’s classroom will be divided into the three preschool rooms. We will make every effort to keep small groups of children together as they move into new classrooms. We take into consideration current relationships among children, as well as teachers.
Fall semester is a time of year when we make some changes to our staffing to try and keep with continuity and relationships. Most preschool children will stay in their current room placements but may have one new teacher for fall depending on the needs of the children and the staff. Letters will go out in early June with your fall contracts and an email will be sent in early August with the fall teacher placements.

Since we are nearing the end of the semester the teachers will be starting to close down their classrooms. The janitors will then be able to get into each room during Interim to do a thorough cleaning to prepare for the upcoming semester. So, you will notice things coming down from the walls and items removed from the classroom. We hate to do this but with so many teachers that are off during the summer, it’s really the only time they have together to get it done. We appreciate your understanding!

We wish all of you good luck with finals and congratulations to those who are graduating; what a huge accomplishment! For some, we will continue to see you, and for others we won’t see you until next fall, so have a great summer. For parents of preschoolers heading off to kindergarten, know that we will miss you so please keep in touch and feel free to visit at any time or send a quick email with a photo or short update. We love to see how our graduates have grown.

Kristin Schulz & Amy Lofthouse

INFANT ROOM
Here we are at the end of the semester already. This has been an amazing year for Alex and me. We have loved getting to know you and your child. We hope that your experience with us has been just as amazing. As we reflect on the accomplishments your child has gained over the past ten months, we know that it was our team work and collaboration with you that made it possible. Not only did we expand our knowledge what was best practice for your child, but strategies and foresight when working with others as well. I have always been an advocate for parents knowing their child best, and with that in mind, Alex and I ap-

REMINDERS

- The last day of spring semester is May 11th. Full-day care is available during Interim (May 14th—June 15th); applications are past due. The ‘extra care’ fee; an additional 10% will be applied if you still need care.

- Child care fees need to be paid in full prior to the upcoming semester.

- If you are enrolling for summer semester, please remember that children must be enrolled for the entire semester and not just part of it. If you leave early, our withdrawal policy will apply.

- Child care rates for the fall semester will be posted to the new CDFC web site at it’s launch on May 21st.

- Campus Child Care will be closed on 2 Fridays for staff training—August 17 & 24.
We had such a wonderful time during Week of the Young Child. Thank you to all of you who helped provide us with treats during our lunch time or for the green smoothies. I would encourage you to make them at home with your child, this is a wonderful way for them to get a refreshing and healthy treat on a warm day. We hope all of you love the art work your child made. Most of these children just love to paint, so we wanted to incorporate that activity with a project you could always treasure.

We want to wish Ali and her mom, Danielle, the best of luck. Congratulations on graduation and finding a wonderful new job. We hope you will visit when you can. We will miss you dearly.

We have been able to spend more time outside, now that the weather has finally decided to cooperate. Most of the children have been exploring the bikes and climbers. We have others who just enjoy crawling around and pulling at the grass. We are just loving the fresh air.

I came across a wonderful parent resource from the website www.zerotothree.org about self-control. These infants are changing into toddlers very quickly and all of them can develop and maintain self-control. The article gave some great tips on what you as a parent can do to help your young child develop self-control. These tips are not listed in any particular order.

- Stay calm yourself... Modeling self-control by staying calm yourself and how to manage strong feelings. You are showing your child that you are supporting them through this difficult time.
- Give your baby some basic tools for regaining self-control... Providing just enough help to your child so that s/he can solve some problems on their own. The article suggests placing a pacifier (if you use one) within reach or teach an older baby simple signs to

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**Calendar of Events**

May 7-11—**Finals Week**

May 14-June 15 — **Spring Interim**

June 18th—**Summer Semester Begins**
communicate their needs.
-Show your baby what s/he can do... If your child is biting your fingers because s/he is teething, instead of just saying “NO” and taking your hand away offer a teething toy. This response helps your child learn right from wrong. It also gives your child the chance to focus their energy in acceptable ways.
-Understand why your child lost control....what may be the stressors that cause the loose of control, time of day, a new person, hunger, tiredness, frustration, etc. Understanding the why will help you to change the environment or daily routine to minimize the chance of a tantrum.
-Use routines to help soothe your baby.... Have a relaxing activity before naptimes and active, fun and exciting activities afterwards. If naptimes are difficult times, some suggestions would be to massage lotion on your child, sing a lullaby, read a book, use music or white noise during naptimes to help give your child a auditory clue that it is naptime.
-Help your baby soothe themselves.... The calmer your baby feels, the more in control s/he will be. Experiment with different ways to soothe, if your child enjoys physical touch try firm touches or squeezes, or your child may like more quiet activities that may be looking at books or dancing.
-Read your baby's signals... watch how your child communicates through the facial expressions, gestures or cries, you may discover how your child “tells” you about their needs, wants and feelings. Also be aware of your child’s daily rhythms and basic needs. It is difficult for your child to cope when they are tired, hungry, sick or stressed.

We will be moving to the toddler room for the first day of the interim. The younger children will still be on their schedule, for example, napping during the morning if needed. We will be moving over all their clothes, cribs, and bottles (if needed). If you have any questions during this transition, please don’t hesitate to ask. The morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack are at the same time. Their outside time will also remain the same as well. If you are leaving for the summer, please make sure you take all of the extra clothes home and anything that is in your child’s cubby.

Thanks again for a great year filled with many memories!
Sherie Newman & Alex McAnally

**TODDLER ROOM**

As the end of the semester comes to an end this will be the last article written to you as a parent in the toddler classroom. Beginning with the summer semester all the children who are here for the summer will move to the 2/3 class. And then those children off for the summer will rejoin their classmates for the fall semester. We will say goodbye to Roman at the end of this semester because his Mom, Camryn, is transferring to another university in the fall. I have summer off due to my 9 month work schedule, Pam will be moving with the children to the 2/3’s room for the summer. Leslie who is currently a preschool teacher will be working with Pam this summer. I hope all of you enjoy your summer! I will stop in and visit from time to time while I am off.
What a great Week of the Young Child this year, each day was filled with fun activities to celebrate young children and their educators. Thank you to all of you for participating in the activities throughout the week. The children enjoyed the guest readers who came into our classroom to read to us, the musical parade through the center, tasty Tuesday yogurt parfaits, and the end of the week talent show. Pam and I also appreciate the contributions of food throughout the week for the staff. We were overwhelmed with your kindness and generosity for everything that was provided during the week for us.

In April we celebrated 2 more 2nd birthdays, Giovanni on 4/25 and Violet on 4/28. Jacob, Roman, Tahj, and Eric will turn 2 over the summer. It has been an amazing experience to see the toddlers learning and growing while spending their days in care with us. The expressive language of the children has grown by leaps and bounds over the semester. We are hearing so many new words, hearing and understanding the children’s wants as well as needs, sentences are being formed, conventional conversation between children along with conversations between children and adults. Most of the children are recalling and conversing about things that have happened in the past. Here at school we hear about what the children ate for dinner, they talk about what activities they did at home, and share things about their families. I hope you enjoy the things your child shares with about their school day.

Another area of tremendous growth is in the area of play. We are seeing and hearing more use of imaginary play especially with dramatic play props. The kitchen area continues to be a busy place. The children are using the food and dishes to prepare meals, set the table, feed each other and us. We have several “chefs” in our classroom cooking gourmet meals. Sometimes the children ask for a blanket so we can have a picnic in the classroom. Another pretend activity the children like to participate in is using a backpack, purse, or bag and pretend to go somewhere. Usually the destination is to go shopping or to pick up a parent. They walk towards toward the door and tell us bye as they wave. The baby doll play has also expanded to feeding, holding, rocking, and helping sleep. The doll cradles have been added to the dramatic play area to help expand play.

As the weather continues to be unpredictable, typical Midwest weather, please have extra clothing for your child for both warm and cool weather days. If you provide a hat and/or sunglasses for your child to wear outside we will encourage your child to wear the items. Hope everyone has a great wrap up to their semester!

Kellie Fuss & Pam Yockey

TWO/THREE-1

It’s hard to believe that the semester is coming to an end. Kat and I have seen so much growth in these little two’s from the fall! They will be heading off to the preschool rooms sometime this summer! We are confident that they will all excel!
A huge thank you to all the parents for participating in the Week of the Young Child. If you brought treats, food, or participated in the talent show, it meant a lot! Also, thank you to all our families who came for parent/teacher conferences. Getting to share in your child’s development is the best part of our job!

This month we spent time on correctly washing our hands to prevent illness and spread germs. We also introduced proper tooth brushing skills and sent a toothbrush home so they can continue this healthy practice. Our fire alarm here at the center has been accidentally pulled twice this semester. We really have stressed that it is only for teacher hands and we never ever pull the alarm! It scared some of the children and we talked about how alarms are there for us to help keep us safe!

With growth in the 2-3 year old range- there are also challenging behaviors that take over from time to time. The sense of “me, me, me” and always wanted to be first and feeling entitled to have toys whenever we want them. It’s a normal part of developing autonomy and discovering who they are and exploring their individuality. When we started the “helpful huskies” last semester, the children took ownership of their actions and felt good about helping one another. We will be starting this again and have it go until the end of interim.

WOYC was such an awesome week! We made tye-dye shirts, Plaster Paris handprints, picture frames, fruit pizza and to encourage Earth Day we created garden art using recycled items from Goodwill. The talent show was so much fun! Thank you Mark and Mya for your very loving dance! Made our hearts smile!!

As the semester winds down, continue to work with your child on self-help skills to get them prepared for the preschool classes. Please take home your snow pants and boots. Keep an eye on the weather and bring appropriate outer wear daily. If you will not be returning please take home your child’s extra clothes with you and please keep in touch!

We are still collecting items for Safe Passage until the end of the semester (May11). If you would like to donate there is a list of needed items by our cubbies. Please place items in the box on top of the cubbies.

It started out being a very interesting and a huge learning experience for Kat and I. Now that we have had the experience with two’s group. We would totally do it again! Thank you for all the patience and support you have given us.

Here’s to a great end of the spring semester!

April Kaiser & Brianna Wicker
WOW! It’s hard to believe that the semester is coming to a close and your children will be moving up into the preschool classrooms soon. It has been a blissful experience watching your children grow, learn, and discover this year! This past month was a busy one, with our NAEYC visit at the end of March and Brianna joining our classroom!

We focused on the author Mo Willems this month, the children showed great interest in all the books about Knuffle Bunny, Pigeon, Duckling, Piggie and Gerald. Some favorite books include *The Pigeon Gets a Hotdog* and *Knuffle Bunny*. Stuffed animals that represented these books were also brought into the classroom, the children have dressed them up and have snuggled up with them at nap time.

For social emotional this month we practiced identifying different facial expressions and had the children demonstrate these facial expressions. Some of these expressions include surprised, shy, happy, and disappointed. We took pictures of the facial expressions the children made and displayed them in our quiet area, this gave the children the opportunity to relate to different emotions that they may feel while using the quiet area.

The children have been interested in trains, we added tracks and trains to the block area. The have been busy building bridges, tunnels, ramps, and winding tracks. Derek has mastered the train whistle noise and many children have identified different types of trains including the steam engine. We learned the song, *Down by the Station* and watched a video about a conductor as well.

Frieda Kahlo has been a hot topic in our classroom this past month. The children were interested in what Frieda looks like with flowers in her hair and an unibrow. We read books about Frieda Kahlo and looked at her artwork. We discussed the colors that she uses in her artwork and then we were inspired to make our own Frieda Kahlo art. We also have been hiding the Frieda Kahlo finger puppet throughout the classroom, in the hallway and even outside on the playground.

The last couple weeks we have learned more about firefighters and what their job entails. We put out fires in the classroom while dressing up in boots, coats and firefighters hats. We brought the fire hoses outside on the playground and the children pretended to put out fires on the climbers and picnic tables. In the classroom, the children used the hoses to put out fires with different numbers on them. Most children were able to recognize the numbers on the fire they were putting out. Small firefighter figures were put into the dollhouse as well.

We have been practicing different math concepts in our room. The children have been recognizing numbers, counting dots on die, using the large foam numbers and putting them in order from smallest to largest. Reading books about numbers and counting, and counting items to match with quantities.

Thank you all for all your support and involvement during Week of the Young Child! It was an awesome week filled with activities and family involvement. Parades in the hallway, surprise salad, guest readers, and the tal-
ent show we a huge success. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Reminders: The last day of the semester is Friday, May 11th. Interim care starts on Monday, May 14th. Spring has finally sprung! Please bring home all your child’s winter gear, including coats, snow pants, boots, hats and gloves. Thank you for a great year. Happy Summer!

Brianna Wicker, Kendra Nenia & Barbara Zeman
Since my last update back in February we are right on track. The CDL staff will be moving into CCC the week of May 14-18th and working to get their classrooms set up for the children to start in their new school on May 21st. Lisa Schmidt (Practicum Director), Denise White (clerk); Kristi Hayward and Clarissa Luke (Master Teachers); Jamie Kenney, Krysten Jones, Eclia Scaife (Child Development Supervisors); Megan Franz, Magaly Rojas, Tena Callahan, Adriana Gonzalez, Alyssa Rogalski, and Tanisha Bryant (Graduate Students).

The families from the CDL had an opportunity to tour CCC last week. They asked a lot of questions and were able to see the spaces they will be moving into. They are a bit overwhelmed with how big our center is compared to the CDL.

Campus Child Care for now is a location name along with Gable Hall Annex. Both sites will be operated under the Family and Consumer Sciences Department of The College of Health and Human Sciences. Dr. Thomas Pavkov is the faculty chair of the department. I hope this helps clarify for you the new reporting lines.

The classrooms they will be moving into will convert to practicum classrooms and will have different hours of operation 7:45-5:15. The practicum rooms in the CCC building are; Infant, Toddler-1, 2/3-1, and Pre-4. The CDL staff will occupy these rooms along with the Summer semester practicum students. Each room will have one master teacher, one child development supervisor, one or two graduate students and interns. CDL children and families will be transitioning over into these rooms with their familiar teachers and peers.

Current CCC families will stay inside the child care classroom network. Our hours stay the same 7:30-5:30 with the possibility of early care at 7:15 in 2/3’s and Preschool. Your children will also move at the natural transition time of June 18th with a familiar teacher to their new age group. The classrooms we will be using are Toddler-2, 2/3-2, Pre-1, Pre-2 and Pre-3. This fall we will be opening up infant and toddler rooms in Gable Hall with new families enrolling for fall semester.

I know that you are worried about what might change and how it will be different. We have tried to create familiarity for you through out this process not changing too much so that you and your children will transition through this merger with us smoothly.

If you have additional questions I did not address here please let me know. I’m happy to help clam your worries and get you the answers you need in order to understand the process.

Many thanks for your patience,

Kristin Schulz, Child Care Director