



UNO Child Care Center Chronicle

May 2024

Dawn Hove-Casart - Director

Monica Dey - Assistant Director

UNO Child Care Center Happenings and Reminders

Happenings: Mark Your Calendars

1. Preschool 2 Graduation: Friday, May 3, 2024 at 10:30 A.M. at Thompson Alumni Center

All Preschool 2 Graduates need to be at the child care center by 9:15 A.M.

We will be walking over to the Alumni Center at 9:40 A.M. to get ready for the event.

Parking passes for the Alumni Center Lot will be emailed out the day before the event.

Parents, Grandparents and Guests are welcome. Cost of Cap/Gown is \$21.00.

Preschool 1 and Transition classes will be going over to watch the graduation.



2. Picture Day: Monday, May 6, 2024

We are pleased to announce that we will have a center wide picture day on Monday, May 6. Lifetouch Photography will be here to take pictures of the children beginning at 8 A.M. You will receive information via email on how to order pictures. A composite classroom picture will also be available to purchase. Please watch for more information. Starting in the fall we will go back to doing pictures yearly in October.

3. Stretch-N-Grow Dance Recital, Monday, May 13, 2024 at 3 P.M. at Thompson Alumni Center

This event is for the children who are participating in Dance Lessons.

Parents, Grandparents and Guests are welcome.

Parking passes for the Alumni Center Lot will be emailed out the day before the event.

The Transition, Preschool 1 & 2 classes will be walking over to watch the recital and will return by 3:30 P.M.



4. Summer School-age program

The summer school-age program will officially kick off on Tuesday, May 28. Your child must be 5 years old by July 31 and attending Kindergarten in the fall to participate in our program. School-agers can start as early as May 20, 2024. Ms. Patty and the school-age staff have many fun-filled activities planned for the summer. **The activity fee for the summer is \$110.** This covers the cost of field trips, transportation, and summer activities. This is a non-refundable fee and must be paid by June 5, 2024. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Patty, Ms. Monica, or Ms. Dawn. Summer packets will go out the week of May 27.

The preschool group will also be joining the school-agers on some of the field trips. **The activity fee for the summer is \$65.** This covers the cost of field trips and summer activities. This is a non-refundable fee and needs to be paid by June 5, 2024. Summer packets will go out the week of May 27.

We encourage parent volunteers to go along on all field trips. Please indicate on the forms if you would like to attend. There may be a fee that will need to be paid prior to each field trip. Grandparents are also welcome to volunteer. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Reminders

1. The last day of the Spring Semester is May 17, 2024. The Summer Session will begin on Monday, May 20, 2024.
2. The UNO Child Care Center will be **closed on Monday, May 27, 2024** in observance of Memorial Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:30 A.M.
3. **Garden plants/seeds are due by May 9, 2024.** Thank you for your continued support of our program activities.
4. The UNO Child Care Center **closes** promptly at **5:30 P.M.** Please make sure you are picking up your child by 5:30 P.M. you.
5. We continue to advertise for the Lead Preschool 1 Teacher and the Assistant Lead Toddler Teacher positions. Help spread the word.
6. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dawn at 402-554-4936 or by email at dhove@unomaha.edu.



May

Happy Birthday!

- 1 - Miss Paige
- 2 - Isla C.
- 4 - Aurora J.
- 20 - Miss Brie
- 27 - Sarely J.



June

National Pride Month

- 1 - National Say Something Nice Day
- 5 - World Environment Day
- 7 - Pre/SA Field Trip to Zoo
- 7 - National Donut Day
- 14 - Flag Day
- 14 - SA Field Trip to Gifford Farm
- 16 - Father's Day
- 18 - SA Dr. Oxygen Science Guy
- 19 - Juneteenth Day
- 20 - SA Field Trip to Lauritzen Gardens
- 21 - Summer Begins
- 28 - SA Field Trip to Bellevue Berry Farm
- 29 - International Mud Day



Book Orders

Final Book Orders until August will be due on Tuesday, May 7. Books are an important part of a child's development and can help your child gain pre-literacy skills. When you order your child's books through Scholastic Book Orders, the center earns points to use towards free books and educational materials we can use in the classrooms!

Please visit scholastic.com/bookclubs to order.

If this is your first time ordering online, you will need to create an account using our center's code GKXFX. This is the center's account under "Dawn Hove". Please make sure you are using this account, or your order may not be processed. You will be able to pay online and the books will be delivered to the center. Happy Reading!



National Smile Month

- 1 - May Day
- 2 - Preschool 2 Graduation Practice
- 3 - Preschool 2 Graduation Day; Alumni 10:30 A.M.
- 4 - May the 4th Be With You Day
- 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- 6-10 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- 7 - Teacher Day
- 9 - Garden Plants Due
- 12 - Mother's Day
- 13 - Stretch-N-Grow Dance Recital; Alumni 3:30 P.M.
- 15 - Bring Flowers to Someone Day
- 17 - National Pizza Party Day
- 21 - Take Your Parents to the Playground Day
- 27 - Memorial Day; UNO Child Care Center Closed
- 28 - Summer School-age Program Begins
- 31 - National Smile Day



Recommended Books for the Month.



"Cinco de Mayo" by Emma Carlson Berne

"Chicks and Salsa" by Aaron Reynolds

"You Are Ready! The World Is Waiting" by Eric Carle

"Kalei's May Day in Hawai'i Nei" by Keilani Akoi Clark

"Mrs. Peanuckle's Flower Alphabet" by Mrs. Peanuckle

"Lola Plants a Garden" by Anna McQuinn

"From Seed to Plant" by Gail Gibbons

"Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt: (Nature Book for Kids, Gardening and Vegetable Planting, Outdoor Nature Book)" by Kate Messner



Talk With Toddlers

Welcome to May!

The Toddler Staff and I are sad to say goodbye, but happy and proud to say "Congratulations!" to our toddler friends who will be moving up to Transition!



Our theme this month is Baby Animals. We will also be talking about the letters Y and Z; the number 10; the color yellow and our shape is square.

We will also be spending more time outdoors either playing on the playground, talking walks or wagon rides. Please make sure you are swapping out winter clothes for summer clothes in your toddler's tubby and bringing a hat for your child to wear while playing outside if they need one.



This summer we will start our water play day next month on Tuesdays, **from June 4** and through **August 6**. We are asking that you provide the following items for our outdoor water play:

- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Swim diaper/pull-up
- Water shoes are optional!



We look forward to having a fun filled summer with you!
Mr. Fred and the Assistant Toddler Teachers



Time With Transition

May Happenings in Transition.

We are finally coming to the end of the semester and working our way into some summer fun! I will be sending home a packet about some summer activities that we have planned, so keep an eye out for that.

If your child is transitioning into Preschool for the summer, you should have received a note with the schedule for visitation. If you have any questions about the process, please reach out to me, Monica, or Dawn.



Summer Reminders

- Your child needs lotion-based sunscreen for the UV rays while we are outside this summer.
- Closed-toed shoes and socks are required for outside play and walks around campus.
- Water play begins in June, and your child will need a swimsuit, towel, and shoes that can get wet. They will also need swim diapers if they are not potty trained.
- Each child needs a water bottle so we can stay hydrated!
- We like to go out and about around campus during the summer days- if you need your child to be back at the center by a certain time for pick up, please let me know or leave a note in the special request binder!

Parent Activity

This month, we will be discussing community helpers and the different roles they play in our lives. If you are a community helper (education worker, health care worker, Government official, construction worker, military member etc.) and would like to volunteer, we would love to have parents send an email or bring in a picture of themselves in their "uniform" or work clothes, and provide a summary of their job and how they help the community. Don't be shy, all our parents help the community in one way or another!

May Themes

Community Helpers; Health Professionals & Teachers; Police Officers; Firefighters, Military Members; Business Owners & Office Workers; Librarians, Bus Drivers & Postal Workers & End of Semester Review;
Color: Review of Colors; Shape: Pentagon; Number: 20; & Letters: X, Y, Z



Preschool Perspective



April showers, what little we have had, are bringing May flowers! With that in mind, the children will be planting a flower and pizza garden this month. We would absolutely love it if families could help us out! If you are interested in supplying plants, we would love to plant some tomato plants, basil plants, bell pepper plants, oregano plants, thyme plants, cucumber plants. Flowers would be welcomed as well! The children will be filling up the flower boxes in the front yard with these plants.

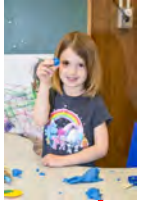
Reminders for this month:

- Please refill your child's tubby with seasonably appropriate clothing.
- Mornings are sometimes chilly, so please have a jacket available for your child to wear when we play outside in cooler weather.
- If you have not brought your child's sunscreen permission form or sunscreen, please do so as soon as possible. We are beginning to apply sunscreen before going outside to play.

May is going to be another fun and educational month! May is Green Garden Month in Preschool. Our themes are Rocks, Dirt and Mud; Plants and Seeds; Gardens; and Flowers. We will be reviewing letter and numbers throughout the month.

May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive. ~ Fennel Hudson

Ms. Monica and the Preschool Assistant Teachers



Pre-K & School-age Press Release

Hello Pre-K/School Age Parents,

The school year has gone by so fast. Graduation is on May 3 at 10:30 A.M. at the Thompson Alumni Center. Your child needs to be at the Child Care Center by 9:15 A.M., so that we can get ready and walk to the alumni center at 9:40 A.M. The cost of your child's cap and gown is \$21 and will be included on your tuition statement. The cap and gown are yours to keep. The children are very excited to share the songs they have been practicing. With us moving into the summer schedule, the Pre-K children no longer be taking naps as of the last week of April.

In May we will be learning how to grow a pizza garden and all about butterflies. For the pizza garden we are asking for parents to bring in one of the following plants: tomato plant, basil plant, oregano plant, bell pepper plant, or cucumber plant. We will be planting them in the garden boxes in the front.

We will be welcoming back our school age children in May as well. More information about field trips and the summer information packet will be sent home at the end of May.

If you have not already, please bring in an approved sunscreen with the signed permission slip. The weather is getting nicer by the day, and we will be spending as much time outside as possible. With warmer temperatures we ask that you check to see if your child has weather appropriate changes of clothes in their tubby.

We are looking forward to a fun filled May!!!

Mrs. Patty and the Pre-K/School-Age Assistant Teachers



Parent Corner

7 Tips for Vegetable Gardening With Your Toddler

by Julia Luckenbill



It's gardening season, and here in California our vegetable gardens are overflowing with tomatoes, zucchini, and beans. Well, some of our gardens are. Those of us who have small toddler helpers may not have the loveliest veggies to show for it, but we have learned some important lessons along the way. Here are some tips:

- 1. Know your stuff.** Be smart about gardening before your small helper joins you. Do some research to find the best times to plant various crops in your area. Prepare your soil so it's soft enough for your toddler's shovel and spade. Try to find a space that is mostly sunny and not too shady. Add compost generously.
- 2. Relax.** Toddlers will pick the first green tomato before it ripens. They will put your pepper starts into the ground upside down, roots up, breaking off stems. They will plant 32 bean seeds in one hole and then forget to put any in the second hole. They will cry when the compost needs to go on plants because they were using it for dirt castles. Toddlers are too young to see the big picture.
- 3. Keep your goals simple.** This year we have late tomatoes and no zucchini. Why? We started planting late. After all, we have a toddler! We do have many green beans, as these are planted later in the summer, and in a few weeks the tardy tomatoes will fruit. Your garden doesn't need to be perfect. What is important is allowing your child access to growing a few crops and tasting what he has planted.
- 4. Make your planting rows obvious.** We don't have wooden edges around our vegetable beds in our gardens because it's hard to keep the soil fertile in a contained box. Other gardeners with young children often raise their beds in boxes to make a visual "keep out," Since we avoided this, our vegetable beds in the garden must stand out (for feet). We used bark to accomplish this, as it made the walking paths a different color and texture). This way we could coach our toddler to stay on the bark and off of the baby plants. We also used tomato cages to keep our toddler off of less obvious young plants.
- 5. Have a "can-do" garden.** Our toddler can dig, fill pots and bags, pull off ripe tomatoes and peppers, carry a watering can, hold a hose, taste the produce, and push a cart. When we go to the garden with her, she likes to help for a little while. She enjoys it long enough to harvest tomatoes but not long enough to weed. When she wants to help, we try to assign her an important job, but then we let her play with her plastic tractor or feed the chickens when gardening is no longer fun. That way the message in the garden is "Yes."
- 6. Eat what you grow.** Children imitate what they see. If you want your toddler to try a radish, try one too. If you want your toddler to taste Swiss chard, taste it too. There are many fun recipes to try with toddlers (like vegetable soup or tomato sauce), but it's wise to plant some crops that can be eaten right away (says the mother of the toddler who repeatedly tasted our raw potatoes).
- 7. Have fun.** It's okay for your toddler to hoard the bean seeds, hide under the sunflowers, and pretend the peppers are tongues. Gardening doesn't need to only involve watering, weeding, planting, and harvesting. As with any other process, toddlers think outside the box. Soon enough they will be planting in rows. This is the time to have a jumbled and joyful garden.

