



Dawn Hove-Casart -- Director

MAY 2023

Monica Dey -- Assistant Director

Feature Facts With Dawn

Congratulations to all our graduates, both big and small. From all of us here at the UNO Child Care Center, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Reminder, the child care center will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, May 30 at 6:30 A.M.

As we prepare for the summer months, we would like to remind you that part-time teacher assistant schedules will change and some of the assistants will be out for the summer. We are in the process of hiring additional full-time and part-time staff. The Kitchen Tech position has been posted. I will keep you updated on the progress of the full-time positions, as the fill.

Stretch-N-Grow Dance Recital is Thursday, May 11. The dance recital is for families who have children participating in the dance program. It will be at the Thompson Alumni Center beginning at 3:00 P.M. An email will be sent out to families with a parking pass for the day of the event. The parking pass is for non-UNO guests. Families that have UNO parking permits must park in the designated parking lots.

Preschool 2 Graduation Day is Friday, May 12 at the UNO Alumni Center beginning at 10:30 A.M. Help us to congratulate our 17 graduates that will be going to kindergarten in the fall. Graduation is for Preschool Graduates and their family and guests. Graduation will take place at the Thompson Alumni Center from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. Graduates need to be at the child care center by 9:30 A.M. There will also be a Preschool Graduation Practice on Thursday, May 11 from 10 to 11 A.M. at the Alumni Center. The group will walk over to the Alumni Center at 9:45 A.M. An email will be sent out to families with a parking pass for the day of the event. The parking pass is for non-UNO guests. Families that have UNO parking permits must park in the designated parking lots.

The summer school-age program will officially kick off on Tuesday, May 30. 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 30, 2023. Miss Megan 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 1, 2023. If you have any questions, please see Miss Megan, Ms. Monica, or me. Summer packets will go out by the end of May.

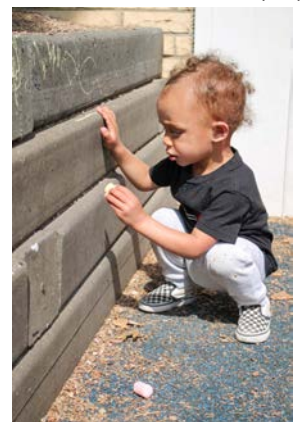
The preschool group will also be joining the school-agers on some of the field trips. The activity fee for the summer is \$65. This covers the cost of field trips and summer activities. This is a non-refundable fee and needs to be paid by June 1, 2023. Summer packets will go out by the end of May.

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.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at 402-554-4936, e-mail me at dhove@unomaha.edu or stop by my office.

Until next month...

We hope that all our terrific "Moms" had a wonderful and happy Mother's Day!"



May

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May 1: May Day

May the "4th" be with you!

May 4: Dr. Luczynski's Parent Workshop

(Part 2 of 2)

(4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. -Potluck

5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.m. -Workshop)

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 9: Preschool 1& 2 Field trip to

Gene Leahy Riverfront Park

(9 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.)

May 11: Stretch & Grow Dance Recital at Alumni

(3:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.)

May 12: Preschool Graduation at Alumni

(10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.)

May 14: Mother's Day

May 19: UNO Spring Semester ends

May 19: Movie Night

May 22: UNO Summer Sessions Begin

May 29: Memorial Day - **CENTER CLOSED**

May 30: CCC Summer Program begins

Book Orders

Book Orders for this month will be due on Friday, May 19.

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!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



May 1 - Miss Paige

May 4 - Aurora J.

May 14 - Carly S.

May 26 - Zatoun H.

May 28 - Corvus W.

May 28 - Lio W.

June

National Safety Month
Pride Month

June 1: World Milk Day

June 14: Flag Day

June 18: Father's Day

June 19: Juneteenth, **Center open**

June 21: Summer Solstice

June 27: National Ice Cream Cake Day

For a schedule of June Fieldtrips, please see the Summer Field Trip Schedule on the last page.



Summer Fun!

Library Day ~ Thursdays

Toddlers ~ 9:20 to 9:40 A.M.

Transition ~ 9:40 to 10 A.M.

Preschool 1 ~ 10 to 10:30 A.M.

School-age ~ 10:30 to 11 A.M.

The groups will leave 15 to 20 minutes before to walk to the Library for story time & check out classroom books.



SUMMER WET AND WILD WATER PLAY DAYS

Mondays ~ School-Age

Tuesdays ~ Toddlers

Wednesdays ~ Transition

Fridays ~ Preschool 1

Your Child Needs: A Swimsuit and A Towel, Water Shoes or Shoes that can get wet. Please Label ALL items.

Effie Swinarski - Toddler 1 Lead Teacher
Fred Abram - Toddler 2 Lead Teacher
Lizzie Parker - Toddler 2 Assistant Lead Teacher

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; yellow and our shape is square.

This summer, our water play day will be on Tuesdays, **beginning June 7** and running through **August 1**. We are asking that you provide the following items for our outdoor water play:

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



Reminders for this month:

We have many fun summer activities planned for this summer! Toddlers will be going on walks and wagon rides around campus along with playing at the pep bowl. We will be visiting the UNO Criss library during the summer for story times. A schedule for these visits will be sent home later this month.

We look forward to having a fun filled summer with you!

Toddler Teachers



Allison French - Lead Teacher

**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 1 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 myself, Monica, or Dawn.

Summer Reminders

- Your child needs lotion-based sunscreen for the UV rays while we are outside this summer (please see approved list sent home).
- 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 friend 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 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 and End of Semester Review

- Health Professionals and Teachers
- Police officers, Firefighters, Military Members
- Business Owners and Office Workers
- Librarians, Bus Drivers and Postal workers

We will be reviewing colors and learning about the number 20; letters X, Y and Z. The shape for this month is the pentagon.

I cannot believe the school year is already over! It seems like it has just flown by- I guess time flies when we're having fun!

May is going to be a busy month for us! Here are some important updates to get us through!

- On **Tuesday, May 9**, Preschool 1 & 2 will be taking a field trip to the Gene Leahy Riverfront Mall area to participate in Omaha Public Library's "Out And About" Storytime, as well. We will leave the center at **9:30 A.M.** and arrive at the Riverfront by 10A.M.. We are planning on attending storytime, then staying and checking out all of the new play equipment (and space to run!), as well as having a picnic lunch. (Your child will need a fully disposable, nut-free sack lunch for this trip!) We will return to the center between **1:30 P.M. and 2 P.M.**
- Our Dance class friends (Scout, Opal, Carly) will be participating in their Spring Dance Recital on **Thursday, May 11 from 3 P.M.-3:30 P.M.** at the Alumni Center! Preschool 1 will be traveling to the Alumni Center after snack to support our friends and will return after the Recital! Parents are welcome to attend and support our friends as well!
- **Some important dates to make note of:** UNO's official Spring semester concludes on Friday, May 26. **Monday, May 29, the center will be closed for Memorial Day.** The UNOCCC Summer Programs the next day, Tuesday, May 30.
 - Preschool Program Summer Packets will be sent home within the next few weeks- This packet will contain all of the important information you need to know about Preschool's plans for this Summer! **Please** make sure that you are reading the packet and return necessary permission slips, bring in the requested items (such as Water Play clothing), and pay the Summer Activity Fee at the Front Desk by **NO LATER than Friday, May 26.**
- Summer at the CCC means **Water Play Fridays!** We will begin Water Play on **Friday, May 26.** Make sure your child has a swimsuit, towel, and water-appropriate shoes (all labeled with your child's name/initials) that can stay at the Center for the duration of the Summer. Please bring in these items for your child by **no later than Wednesday, May 24.**
- **We are excited to welcome new friends to Preschool 1 for the Summer semester!** Maddox, Peach, and Ella will be visiting during the upcoming weeks, and will join us downstairs from Transition! In addition, we will be welcoming two new friends, Juniper and Dallas, to Preschool 1 once the Summer Program begins. For the Summertime, we will be saying "See You Later!" to Roman, Gael, Henry, Eli, Ella, and Peach- Have a great summer!

We are SO excited to jump right into our Summer adventures. We hope you are too! As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or text me at (402) 871-1506 if you have any questions or concerns. Enjoy the month of May!

-Teacher Ky & the P1 Wranglers



Preschool 2
News and Views

Megan Liu - Lead Teacher

It Is SUMMER!!!

I cannot believe that summer is already here! Half of the year flew by so fast and now all of these kiddos are great big school agers!!! I cannot believe it!! To start off summer right I have just a few small announcements.

First, the summer packet will be available you by the end of May, please have all forms signed and returned by Tuesday, May 30. All fees must be paid by then. If your child will not be participating in activities in June-August, please let Ms. Dawn, Ms. Monica or myself know.

Second, make sure that all of the items that your child has brought for preschool 2 (blankets, pillows, stuffies, etc.) are all taken home. If your child will be here again next semester, their items will be kept for the next year.

Third, please make sure that the children are wearing closed toed or tennis shoes, this is to make sure that children's feet are protected adequately from injury and kept clean.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me by email at mmliu@unomaha.edu or text me at (402)960-2416. Ms. Dawn and Ms. Monica will also be available to answer any questions or concerns you may have for the coming summer. I look forward to a warm and fun summer. Hope to see you there.

Miss Megan and the School Age Staff

Let Children Play in the Mud for Fun and Learning

by Cindy Thompson

A little dirt and water can create mud, as well as limitless opportunities for children to play and learn, according to Cindy Thompson, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

"Mud is squishy, slimy, sloppy and wonderful! The joy children experience playing in mud is second only to the many benefits associated with mud play," said Thompson, who specializes in family life issues.

Health benefits

"There is an assumption that mud is full of germs and harmful to children," said Thompson. "Not all germs, however, are bad. Many germs actually boost immune systems."

Early childhood experts, including those with the Mayo Clinic Children's Center, say exposure to germs found in outdoor elements like grass and mud help build a stronger immune system, especially in young children. Friendly bacteria in the body can also get a boost from mud play.

Learning benefits

The benefits of mud for children go beyond their immune systems, Thompson noted. "Children learn through their senses: touching, smelling, seeing, listening and, yes, even tasting. The texture and squishiness of mud is completely different than sand or play dough, and mud makes a very unique sound. The way wet mud feels between toes is much different than how mud feels drying on the back of a hand."

Children can explore many new and amazing sensations only through the characteristics mud provides, Thompson said. Adults can help build children's vocabulary during mud play by using descriptive words for the sensations children experience. Mud also fosters creativity in children because mud is open-ended - there are many ways children can play with mud and no one right way.

Mud kitchens

To provide mud experiences for children, consider creating a "mud kitchen," a dedicated space outdoors for children to discover and explore through mud, Thompson suggested.

Dirt and water are the only two required ingredients, but additional materials and props can extend play. Kitchen items like measuring cups, muffin tins and cookie sheets are great initial additions to a mud kitchen. Paint brushes, buckets and small vehicles also provide new experiences. Some mud kitchens include child size tables and age appropriate garden tools for digging.

"A few basic rules, like no throwing mud, help ensure safe play, and always remember to dress for the mess!" Thompson added.

To explore more ways to support young children's growth and development, visit the Science of Parenting at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/scienceofparenting>



Summer Field Trips 2023

Date	Location	Time	Cost for Parent Volunteer
Friday, June 2	Zoo	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM **Sack Lunch	\$10 or Zoo Pass
Friday, June 9	Morrill Hall	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM **Sack Lunch	\$5
Wednesday, June 14	OPPD Arboretum	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM **Sack Lunch	
Friday, June 16	Bellevue Berry Farm	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM **Sack Lunch	\$10
Wednesday June 21	Schramm State Park	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM **Sack Lunch	
Friday, June 23	Lauritzen Gardens	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$9
Friday, June 30	SAC Museum	9:15 AM - 1:30 PM **Sack Lunch	\$10
Wednesday, July 5	Bounce-U	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	\$7
Friday, July 7	Fontenelle Forest	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM **Sack Lunch	\$8
Wenesday, July 12	Zoo-Splash Pad	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM **Sack Lunch	\$10 or Zoo Pass
Friday, July 14	Gene Leahy Mall	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM **Sack Lunch	
Wenesday, July 19	Go Kids Gym	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM **Sack Lunch	\$8
Thursday, July 27	Dr. Oxygen	2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	
Friday, July 28	Children's Museum	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM **Sack Lunch	\$9
Friday, August 4	Maplewood Lanes	9:45 AM - 11:45 PM	\$8
Friday, August 4	Animals on the Go (Gifford Farms)	Toddlers: 9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Transition: 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Preschool: 10:15 AM - 1:00 AM	\$6

School Age Fieldtrips	Preschool and School Age Field Trips	Center Activity
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****All sack lunches MUST be peanut free and tree nut free, in a disposable bag and the drink must be disposable as well. All components for the sack lunch will be disposed of before returning to the center. Also, please DO NOT put candy in the lunch.****

School Age Summer Activity Fee: \$110

Preschool Summer Activity Fee: \$65