Welcome! We are glad that you are here and have joined us for the 2017-2018 school year. We are looking forward to a great year. As the fall semester gets started, we would like to wish a fond farewell to all of our student workers who have graduated or moved on. And we want to wish all of our school-age children good luck for the school year.

Update in the Preschool 1 classroom for the fall. We are excited to have Mr. Brandon Skelnar as the Interim Lead Teacher. Brandon has worked at the child care center for the past 2 ½ years and graduated with his Bachelor’s Degree in History from UNO in May 2017. We are continuing to advertise and accept applications and we have begun the interviewing process. I will continue to keep you updated on the progress.

As a reminder with a start of a new academic year, there are changes that occur to the student workers’ schedules. We are pleased to have many of our students returning, as well as some new students joining us this semester. Please take a moment to get to know the staff in our program.

Toddler 1: Lead Teacher, Effie Swinarski; assisting her will be Sam, Emily V., Alex, Emily B., Emma, Kylee, Dillon, Nessa, Lindsay and McKenna.

Preschool 1: Interim Lead Teacher, Brandon Skelnar; assisting him will be Tylon, Zadee, Rachel, E-Beth, Taylor, Seattle, Brianna, Emma, and Sofia.

Preschool 2: Lead Teacher, Megan Liu; assisting her will be Allison, Anna H., Ness, Amanda, Courtney, Karlie, Alondra, Brianna, Emma, and Bridget.

The Opening Supervisor and Kitchen Tech is Rick Jacobsen and the Assistant Director is Monica Dey. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask Monica, the lead teachers or myself.

Please mark your calendars now for the following upcoming fall semester dates: 1) Monday, September 4, Center Closed In-observance of Labor Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30 a.m. 2) Tuesday, September 26 is Curriculum Night/Open House from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. (Note Date Change) 3) Monday, October 9 is Picture Day. 4) October 30 to November 17, NAEYC Accreditation 15 Day Window 5) Tuesday, October 31 is our Annual Costume Parade at 9 a.m. 6) Thursday & Friday; November 23 & 24; Center Closed 7) Saturday, December 9 is Holiday Program at 10 a.m. at Milo Bail Student Center 8) December 24, 2017 to January 1, 2018; Holiday Shutdown

Please watch for meetings and events sponsored by C.H.A.M.P.S., throughout the semester. C.H.A.M.P.S. meets the second Tuesday of every month from noon to 1P.M. at the Alumni Center. Also, continue to watch the parent boards and newsletter for more information about upcoming events in each group. We enjoy having parents, grandparents and other family members volunteer to come on field trips, read to the children, help out, or stop by to eat lunch.

The UNO Child Care Center has been preparing for our NAEYC Re-Accreditation Visit. We have maintained Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Early Learning Program since 1990. We have been notified by the NAEYC Assessor has that our 15-day window is between October 30 to November 17. The Assessor will call the day before she comes. If you would like to learn more about the NAEYC Accreditation, please visit their website at www.naeyc.org.

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...Something new to look for “Artist on Display”. Each day there is going to be a new picture displayed on the front desk counter. Each day a child’s picture from one of the classrooms will be displayed. Keep a look out for your child’s picture.

Happy Birthday!

9/6 Palmer L. 9/13 Briar B. 9/18 Harper G. 9/22 Miss Kylee
9/9 Miss Alex 9/15 Miss Alexis 9/21 Ms. Effie 9/29 Miss Chea
Welcome to September. This month, we will be learning about our friends. The Color Red, the Number 1 and the letters A, B, C. Parents, please remember to bring in sweater/jacket for outdoor play. Soon the mornings will be cool. Your child has a coat hook by the water fountain. Also, make sure your child’s has appropriate extra clothes in his/her tubby for the fall weather.

We are in need of gently used baby blankets for our baby dolls. The ones we currently have are showing their age. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

I will be on vacation from September 21 through the 22. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Fred, Ms. Monica or Ms. Dawn.

We would also like to wish our grandparents a Happy Grandparent’s Day!

Talk with Toddler 1

Welcome to September. This month, we will be learning about our friends. The Color Red, the Number 1 and the letters A, B, C.

Parents, please remember to bring in sweater/jacket for outdoor play. Soon the mornings will be cool. Your child has a coat hook by the water fountain. Also, make sure your child’s has appropriate extra clothes in his/her tubby for the fall weather.

We are in need of gently used baby blankets for our baby dolls. The ones we currently have are showing their age. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

I will be on vacation from September 21 through the 22. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Fred, Ms. Monica or Ms. Dawn.

We would also like to wish our grandparents a Happy Grandparent’s Day!

Take Two with Toddler 2

Fall is here! Our friends in Toddler 2 have been busy playing with the new toys that Mrs. Dawn has purchased for us!

Theme for September: Friends, the color red, the number 1 and letters: A, B, C.

Mr. Fred and Ms. Effie have some exciting activities planned for this month. Cooking days will be on Thursdays. We will be baking Blueberry Muffins, Mini Apple pies, Fall Trail Mix and a Surprise Snack.

Parents, please remember to bring in sweater/jacket for outdoor play. Soon the mornings will be cool. Your child has a coat hook by the water fountain. Also, make sure your child’s has appropriate extra clothes in his/her tubby for the fall weather.

We would also like to wish our grandparents a Happy Grandparent’s Day!

Time with Transition

The new school year is in full swing!

We would like to welcome back our friends that were gone over the summer. The Transition class is excited to have them back.

During the month of September, the Transition class will be focusing on learning about themselves and their classmates. Will start the month with a take home activity. Each child will receive an “All about Me” poster to fill out and decorate. They need to be returned to school the week of Sept. 5.

We will also be having a picnic on Friday, September 8th. Parents are more than welcome to join. We will be eating at 11:00am. Please make sure your child’s lunch is peanut/nut and pineapple free.

The Transition class will also be focusing on the following themes:
Color: Red
Shape: Square

Cassie Miller – Lead Teacher

Making New Friends
Numbers: 1, 2, 3
Learning Classroom Rules
Letters: A, B, C
Respecting & Caring for One Another

Please make sure you are checking your child’s mailbox and coat hooks daily to stay up to date on what is happening in their class. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please see Ms. Cassie.
Hello Parents,

Fall will be here soon and with it hopefully much nicer weather. We began the new semester with a unit on the Solar System. It tied in nicely with the Solar Eclipse event and I hope the kids enjoyed it.

During the month of September, we will be doing several units that have to do with Back to School and Getting to Know You/Me. We will continue to work with the children regarding the new classroom routines they are learning after joining Preschool 1 from Transition or elsewhere.

September will bring a focus to our number, letter and shape recognition section of our curriculum. We will begin with numbers, 1, 2, 3, and letters, A, B, C. The shape for the month is circle and the color of the month is red. Each day during calendar time we learn about the days of the week and the months of the year. We will continue to review these concepts throughout the year.

I want to reiterate that I am very pleased to be able to work with your children as the Interim Lead Preschool 1 teacher. If there is ever a question, do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am in the center from 8A.M.-2:30P.M. daily with desk hours from 8A.M.-9P.M. You can also reach me at my email which is bsklenar@unomaha.edu. I hope this semester is as enjoyable for the kids as I know it will be for the Preschool 1 staff and myself.

Thanks again and have a wonderful start to the fall!

Brandon Sklenar & the Preschool 1 Staff

News and Views from School-Age

September Salutations

It has been a great start to the semester so far here in Preschool 2. We have been having fun getting to know one another while learning something new each day. So far we have been working on practicing our letters, sounding out sight words, numbers 0-30, writing our numbers, etc. It has been a busy start to the semester so there are just a few reminders I would like to announce before we get further into the semester:

1. Please remember to fill out and bring back any forms in the information packet that was sent home during the first week of the semester. The interest inventory especially since it is used to help me understand your child’s strengths and needs. If you have not yet gotten your copy of the information packet or need another copy, please see me and I will get you a new one.
2. Please be sure to watch for weekly and monthly homework such as songs, nursery rhymes, worksheets, and home projects. Most homework can be turned in at any time during that week or month, but some may have specific due dates.
3. Our themes for the month are Getting to Know You, the colors yellow & red, the square shape, the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, the letters A, B, C, and the animals, Giraffes, Koalas, and Kangaroos.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at 402-554-3398 or email me at mmliu@unomaha.edu. My desk hours are from Noon to 1P.M. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. and 3:30P.M. to 4:30P.M. on Wed. I look forward to what the semester has in store for us!!

Thank You,
Miss Megan and the Staff of Preschool 2

Welcome back to the families returning from their summer break and to the new families!

CHAMPS does a lot to support the growth, learning and development of children and families enrolled in the center. Not only does CHAMPS plan social activities for families to interact with each other, but the group also plans learning opportunities for families as well as holding fundraisers to purchase equipment to support the children’s learning.

Meetings are held once a month from Noon to 1P.M. at the Thompson Alumni Center. We need your support to make this academic year another success! Please be sure to attend the next meeting, as we will be electing officers. The first meeting for the school year will be on Tuesday, September 12 from Noon to 1P.M. We hope to see you there.

Brandon Sklenar – Interim Lead Teacher

Megan Liu - Lead Teacher

C.H.A.M.P.S. Information
September is here—welcome back. For this month’s recipe, I found one that could be used for a breakfast or an after school treat. It is called “Danish Pastry Apple Bars”.

**Ingredients:**
- 2 ½ C flour
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 C lard or shortening
- 1 egg
- 1 ½ Tbsp. sugar
- 1 C Cornflakes
- 1 tsp. salt
- Apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced (about 10 Medium)

**Glaze:**
- ½ C Powdered Sugar and 1 Tbsp. milk.

**Directions:**
1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, combine flour and salt. Cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In a cup, beat egg yolk and add milk to make ½ cup liquid. Gradually stir the egg mixture into the flour mixture until dough can be packed into a ball. On a clean dry surface, roll out 1/2 of the dough large enough to cover the bottom and sides of a 9x13 inch pan. Lay the dough in the pan.
3. Place the cornflakes over the dough in the pan. Arrange apple slices over the top of the corn flake layer. Sprinkle the sugar and cinnamon over the apples. Roll out the second half of the dough to cover the entire pan. Lay over the filling and pinch the edges of the two crusts together. Beat the egg white until foamy, and brush onto the top crust.
4. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes in the preheated oven, until golden brown. Drizzle with glaze while still warm.
5. To make the glaze: In a small bowl, beat the powdered sugar and milk until smooth. Drizzle over the top.

Enjoy, Mr. Rick

“If you see someone without a smile—Give him one of yours.”
The Surprising Meaning and Benefits of Nursery Rhymes
By Michael Sizer

When you sing nursery rhymes to your children, you may be recalling the same poems and tales that, in some form, were told by firelight from parents to their children centuries ago, perhaps even as far back as the Middle Ages. How are these poems—inhabited by kings, queens, and peasants of a rural past predating electricity, television and computers—still relevant to twenty-first-century kids and parents? If we are so far removed from the world that hatched these rhymes, why should we still read them? Some of the reasons people sang nursery rhymes to each other in the past remain good reasons to do so today. Here are four main reasons nursery rhymes can be beneficial for kids:

1. They are good for the brain. Not only does the repetition of rhymes and stories teach children how language works, it also builds memory capabilities that can be applied to all sorts of activities. Furthermore, as Vandergrift points out, nursery rhyme books are often a child’s first experience with literacy: “Even before they can read, children can sit and learn how a book works.” This extends to the pictures and music associated with nursery rhymes: it is a full visual and oral experience.

2. Nursery rhymes preserve a culture that spans generations, providing something in common among parents, grandparents, and kids—and also between people who do not know each other. Seth Lerer, Humanities Professor at the University of California San Diego and expert in the history of children’s literature, says that reading nursery rhymes to kids is, in part, “to participate in a long tradition … it’s a shared ritual, there’s almost a religious quality to it.”

3. They are a great group activity. Susie Tallman, who has put out several award-winning nursery rhymes CDs, and is also a nursery school music teacher, describes how singing nursery rhymes allows all kids—even shy ones—to feel confident about singing, dancing and performing because they are so easy to grasp and fun: “It builds confidence right in front of my eyes,” she says. “They really see the connection between movement, rhythm and words.” She has also had kids of different ages collaborate on making music videos for their favorite nursery rhymes.

4. Most important is that they are fun to say. Lerer downplays the life lessons that some rhymes contain, arguing that while parents might consider them important, children probably do not register them. He remembers how as a kid he had no idea what “Peas porridge hot/peas porridge cold” meant but that “he just loved the way it sounded.” One should not let any supposed deeper meanings or origins to nursery rhymes obscure their true value: the joy of a child’s discovery of an old, shared language.

Lesson plans are posted weekly outside your child’s classroom. Please read and extend those lessons at home!

Focus on Policy and Procedures

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The University of Nebraska-Omaha Child Care Center integrates quality child care services and early childhood education. Our philosophy supports the “whole child” concept of development based on the belief that one cannot educate without offering care and protection; and one cannot provide care and protection without also educating young children in a group setting. Knowledge of this integrative practice promotes respect for children and the adults who care for them and to implement the developmentally appropriate practices to promote the health and growth of the whole child by meeting his/her emotional, social, intellectual, physical and emerging cultural needs.

The University of Nebraska-Omaha Child Care Center uses a team teaching approach in each age group classroom. Together the professional staff and administration plan the over-all program goals and objectives and curriculum units intended to meet the child’s individual developmental needs. We nurture, facilitate, and assess each child’s normal pattern of development in all functional areas, while respecting the individuality and potential of all children enrolled. The teacher planned curriculum and program is designed to balance between both structured and child initiated opportunities for children to learn in a nonsexist, multi-cultural environment that is filled with age-appropriate equipment and learning materials.

The University of Nebraska-Omaha Child Care Center’s fundamental belief is that children have the right to be cared and educated in a safe, healthy, nurturing environment by adults who are well-trained in child development principles. We strive to promote and demonstrate respectful interactions between the teacher-parent, teacher child, child-child, and teacher-teacher relationship. This helps establish an atmosphere of acceptance and well-being for all who participate in the program.