Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had an enjoyable break and holiday season. A special “Thank you” to the families who provided us with the wonderful goodies and gifts. It was very thoughtful. Thank you.

Please keep in mind that the teacher assistant’s (student workers) schedules have changed for the spring semester and their work hours will be different. The lead teachers’ schedules stayed the same. Please take the time to read the staff bio-boards located by each room to learn about each staff member.

Please remember to keep us updated on any changes that have taken place regarding your class schedule, emergency information, new address or phone numbers. Also, please remember to inform us if your child has had any recent immunizations. We greatly appreciate your assistance with keeping your child’s file current. Thank you.

Spring semester contracts will go out the week of January 7 and must be signed by Thursday, January 10. Only families who are on a semester-to-semester contract or have changed contracts will need to sign a new contract.

Mark your calendars now for the following dates:
1) Classroom Valentine’s Day Party’s will be on Thursday, February 14.
2) Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held the week of March 4. Sign-up sheets will go out at the end of February.
3) Dawn & Monica will be out of March 27-29, attending the National Coalition for Campus Children’s Centers Conference in South Carolina.
4) Week of Young Child Activities; April 8-12, 2019.
5) Preschool 2 Graduation and Center Wide Luncheon will be on April 26, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. at the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom. Watch for more details in the coming months on these events.

Reminder the UNO Child Care Center will be closed on Monday, January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

I will be out of the office on Friday, January 11 and Tuesday, January 22. If you have any questions or concerns while I am out of the office, please see Ms. Monica or the Lead Teachers.

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…
Children are the true connoisseurs. What is precious to them has no price, only value.
-Bel Kaufman

Happy Birthday!
6 – Miss Kaylyn
13 – Miss Bridgett
18 – Miss Allison
27 – Miss Karlee
28 – Mr. Kevin
29 – Nate L.
29 – Zach L.
29 – Kyza L.
30 – Will M.
Happy New Year! Welcome to all our friends. We hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday season. We will be busy with indoor activities.

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Parents, just a reminder that your child’s tubby, coat hook and mailbox may have moved from their original spots. Please make sure to label your child’s clothing.

January Themes:
- Transportation
- the color White
- the Diamond shape
- the number 6
- and letters M, N, and O.

Upcoming Events:
- January 21 Martian Luther King, Jr. Day - Center Closed

Parents, we are in need of empty tissue boxes. We plan to decorate them for Valentine’s Day. Please see Mrs. Effie if you have a question.

We are looking forward to a fun and busy month. We may even play with real snow and paint with ice cubes.

Stay warm!

Toddler 1 & 2 Teachers

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**Talk with Toddler 1 & 2**

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CHAMPS did not meet during the month of December. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 8 2019. The meeting will be held here at the center from 4:30 P.M. -5:30 P.M.. We will be planning activities for the spring semester, so we need as many people as possible to attend!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Holiday Program a success! The families really enjoyed the program and the children enjoyed performing.

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**Cooking with Rick!**

To start 2019, I found a recipe for “Shepherd’s Pie that looked easy to try.

Ingredients:

For the potatoes:
- 1 1/2 lbs. potatoes, peeled
- 4 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1/4 C milk
- 1/4 C sour cream
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground pepper

For the meat mixture:
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. fresh thyme
- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 C frozen peas
- 1 C frozen corn
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 2/3 C chicken broth
- 1 Tbsp. freshly chopped parsley, for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large pot, cover potatoes with water and add a generous pinch of salt. Bring to a boil and cook until soft. Drain and return to the pot.

2. Using a potato masher, mash potatoes until smooth. Add melted butter, milk and sour cream. Mix together until fully incorporated. Then season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

3. Make beef mixture: In a large skillet over medium heat, heat olive oil. Add onion, carrots, garlic and thyme–cook until fragrant and softened (about 5 minutes). Add ground beef and cook until no longer pink. Drain the fat.

4. Stir in frozen peas and corn and cook until warmed through. Season with salt and pepper.

5. Sprinkle meat with flour and stir to evenly distribute. Cook for an additional minute and add chicken broth. Bring to a simmer and let mixture to slightly thicken (about 5 minutes).

6. Top beef mixture with an even layer of mashed potatoes and bake 20 minutes or until there is very little liquid visible and potatoes are golden.

7. Garnish with parsley and serve.

Happy New Year! Mr. Rick

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**Dates to Make Note of...**

**January**
- 1 – New Year’s Day; Center Closed
- 7 – Spring Semester Starts
- 8 – CHAMPS Meeting; 4:30 P.M. CCC
- 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Center Closed
- 26 – Staff Training

**February**
- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 5 – Chinese New Year Begins
- 12 - CHAMPS Meeting; 4:30 P.M. CCC
- 14 – Valentine’s Day
- 14 – Classroom Valentine Exchange
- 21 - President’s Day

**March**
- 4-8 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 5 – Mardi Gras
- 6 – Ash Wednesday
- 10 - Daylight Savings Begins
- 12 - CHAMPS Meeting; CCC 4:30 P.M.
- 17 - St. Patrick’s Day
- 18-22 – UNO Spring Break
- 20 - Spring Begins
- 27-31 – Dawn & Monica at NCCCC Conference

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**Effie Swinarski & Fred Abram – Lead Teachers**

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For January, our letters this month will be M, N and O and the numbers are 13 and 14. The shape of the month is the diamond and the colors are blue and silver. Our new nursery rhyme song is "I'm a Little Snowman". Now that winter is officially here, we would like to remind parents that we will still play outside and take our winter walks only if weather is permitting so please remember coats, snow pants, gloves, hats and we also recommend closed toed shoes and boots for preschool play.

Thank you and have a great January!
Ronita Bolton & the Preschool 1 Staff

Time with Transition

Happy New Year!!!
Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break. We would like to welcome all of our new friends from Toddler 2. Wren, Preston, Camden, and Alik have been a nice addition to the Transition class. It has been fun getting to know them and their families and we look forward to watching them grow over the semester.

We have many fun activities planned for the month of January. These are our monthly

Themes:
- Nutrition & Exercise; Water, Snow & Ice;
- Setting Goals – Cause & Effect; and Safe Choices & Helping Others.

Color: Blue
Shape: Diamond
Numbers: 12, 13
Letters: L, M, N

Please make sure you are checking your child’s mailbox daily so you can stay up to date on what is happening in the Transition room. Our new Toddler 2 friends have had their tubbies and coat hooks moved over by the Transition room, so if you need help locating either, feel free to ask a staff member. If you have, any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me via email or during my scheduled hours at the center.

Let’s have a great 2019!
Miss Allison and the Transition Staff

Points to Ponder with Preschool 1

Hello Parents, We are off to a great start to the 2018-2019 school year! Last month the children focused on the letters J, K and L along with the numbers 10, 11 and 12. We also learned about the shape triangle and the colors white and gold. Some of our themes last month included the Reindeer/Caribou and Wolves. Nursery rhyme Star Light, Star Bright. We had many fun activities with these themes and I think the children enjoyed learning about them.

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Book Orders

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Child Care Center will continue Scholastic book orders for the academic school year. Books are an important part of a child’s development and can help your child gain pre-literacy skills. Scholastic also offers free books and educational materials to the Child Care Center when you order. Please visit scholastic.com/bookclubs to order. If this is your first time ordering online, you will need to set up an account with Scholastic using our class activation code: GXXFX. The center account is under Dawn Hove. Please make sure you are using this account or your order will not be processed. You may pay for your order using a credit card through Scholastics secure web site. You may also bring in order forms with a check made out to scholastic. No cash orders will be accepted. The November book orders will be due on Wednesday, January 16. Happy Reading.
Snowy Salutations~ I can’t believe how fast 2018 came and went. Now it is 2019 and it feels like there are lots of new and exciting things are going to happen in Preschool 2.

Change is coming in the New Year to Preschool 2, starting with naptime. Naptime will be shortened to 30 minutes for January until mid-February, it will then switch to 15-minute rest time and eventually will just be quiet time starting in late March. For those parents who would like their child to still rest, please email me and let me know.

Also beginning in January, handwriting and sight words will become more prevalent in the classroom; every week a list will be sent home with words to practice as well as a 5-minute letter activity. I will also be sending home an information sheet that needs to be filled out with the full name of each child, the phone numbers that are used at home, and their home address. These and many more activities to follow as we head into 2019.

Mark your calendars now for the Preschool 2 Graduation and Center Wide Luncheon. It will be held on Friday, April 26, 2019 in the Milo Bail Student Center at 11 A.M. All children in Preschool 2 will be participating. The cap and gown fee of $18 will be added to your weekly tuition the week of April 1.

If you have any questions, please email me at mmliu@unomaha.edu or call me during my desk time from 3-4pm at the center’s phone number (402)554-3398. I look forward to 2019 and all the fun it will bring!

Thanks for all you do,
Miss Megan and the staff of Preschool 2

Parent Corner

Nebraska Implements New Car Seat Laws

Seatbelts and child safety seats have long been the standard for vehicle safety, and most drivers know to “buckle up- it’s the law.” What most people don’t know is that approximately 70 percent of car seats are installed incorrectly, are the wrong seat for the child, and/or the child is restrained incorrectly. Even the most well intentioned of parents may be unknowingly putting their children at risk!

Nebraska lawmakers are helping to combat this problem by implementing a more stringent child safety restraint law. Beginning January 1, 2019, all children up to the age of eight must ride in a federally approved safety seat and children under the age of two must ride rear facing (unless they reach the car seat’s upper weight or height requirements first). Prior to the implementation of this law, only children up to age six were required to ride in a car seat and there were no requirements regarding rear-facing car seats for infants.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has long recommended rear-facing car seats for children under the age of two. Many parents, however, are anxious to allow their children to ride forward facing, so that they can see their child better, the child’s legs are not cramped against the back of the vehicle seat, and the child can see and entertain themselves. However, according to the AAP, “A rear-facing child safety seat does a better job of supporting the head, neck and spine of infants and toddlers in a crash, because it distributes the force of the collision over the entire body.” Clearly, Nebraska lawmakers agree.

For more information regarding the new car seat laws, visit https://dot.nebraska.gov/safety/driving/cps/ or to view the current and future car seat laws in their entirety, see Nebraska Revised Statutes §§60-6,267 and 60-,268 and Legislative Bill 42.

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Thank you to everyone who helped make the Holiday Program a success! The families really enjoyed the program and the children enjoyed performing.

Baby News!

Congratulations to the Gaytan Family: Rey, Ashley and big sister Harper on the birth of Elias Rey born on December 29, 2018; 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 20 ½ inches.
INTEGRATED CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY
(CREATIVE CURRICULUM APPROACH)

The University of Nebraska-Omaha Child Care Center uses Creative Curriculum with an integrated curriculum philosophy that uses developmentally appropriate practices as the learning approach. This is established through our philosophy of the “whole child” concept. The administrators and lead teachers work closely together to select central ideas and related learning activities that are designed and taught through how children develop and learn. Through this approach children make meaning of their learning experiences and form connections among the individual bits of information. Ideas and activities are developed in response of the children’s interest to keep them excited about learning. This integrates the teacher-parent, teacher-child, child-child and teacher-teacher relationships.

The University of Nebraska-Omaha Child Care Center staff assesses each child based on the following areas of development/goals: Creative Arts, Social & Emotional Development, Approaches to Learning, Health & Physical Development, Language & Literacy Development, Mathematics, and Science. Our child development program is based on the assumption that a child’s growth is sequential process and that children pass through predictable stages of development in all areas and within age ranges.

A team teaching approach is practiced in each age group classroom. Together the professional staff plan over-all program goals and objectives and curriculum units intended to meet the child’s individual needs. We nurture, facilitate, and assess each child’s normal pattern of development in all functional areas, while respecting the individuality and particular potential of all children enrolled. The teacher-planned curriculum and program design balances 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. Some fixed learning interest areas in the classroom are dramatic play, blocks, small and large muscle, sensory motor, science, pre-math, reading, early literacy, pre-writing, cooking and nature.

Curriculum Goals and Individual Objectives include an environment rich with opportunities for children to:
1) Explore the world around them using their natural curiosity
2) To challenge their natural curiosity and extend it to offer additional problem solving skills
3) Develop Social and Emotional Skills
4) Develop Fine Motor and Gross Motor Skills
5) Foster Work Habits
6) Enhance Decision-Making Skills, Self-Reliance Skills and Practical Skills
7) Foster Listening Skills and Oral Language Development
8) Develop Pre-Literacy Skills – the foundation of reading and writing
9) Develop Pre-Math, Science and Social Studies skills
10) Foster Appreciation of the Creative Arts – music, art, art history and dramatic play

Other types of balanced routine learning activities included in the program are one-to-one, small and large group, indoor, outdoor, quiet and noisy, field trips and special events. “Creative Play” can provide pleasure and knowledge at the same time, and we foster such opportunities.