



UNO Child Care Center **Chronicle**

May 2025

Dawn Hove-Casart - Director

Monica Dey - Assistant Director

Happenings: Mark Your Calendars

UNO Child Care Center will be CLOSED Monday, May 26, 2025 - In observance of Memorial Day

UNOCCC Garden

The UNO Child Care Center will once again plant a garden out front in the garden boxes/area. We need families assistance in making our garden a success. We are asking for plant donations. We need a variety of vegetable, herb and/or flower plants for our garden. Some examples include, tomato, pepper, cucumber, green beans, broccoli, cauliflower, thyme, oregano, wild flowers, petunias, impatiens, marigolds, or zinnias. The list is endless. The children will be planting the week of May 19. Please have all plant donations here by Monday, May 19. Thank you for your continued support of our program activities.

Summer Programs For School-age & Preschool

The summer school-age program will officially kick off on Tuesday, May 27. 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 19, 2025. Ms. Patty and the school-age staff have many fun-filled activities planned for the summer. **The activity fee for the summer is \$115.** This covers the cost of field trips, and summer activities. This is a non-refundable fee and must be paid by June 3, 2025. 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 \$70.** This covers the cost of field trips and summer activities. This is a non-refundable fee and needs to be paid by June 3, 2025. 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.

Summer Programs for Transition & Toddlers

Both the Transition and Toddlers groups will be participating in some fun activities this summer. A packet of information will go out the week of May 27. There will be a summer activity fee for each group. The activity fee for **Transition is \$45 and for Toddlers is \$30.** This is a non-refundable fee and needs to be paid by June 3, 2025.

Stretch-N-Grow Summer Fitness Program

Stretch-N-Grow summer program will be a 6 week program that will have a variety of weekly activities, from yoga, to dance to games. The program will be on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:00 A.M. for ages 2 1/2 and older from June 2 to July 28. The cost is \$95. To sign your child up go to S-N-G website at www.sng-ne.com and click on the Fitness Stars UNO Child Care Center Tile.

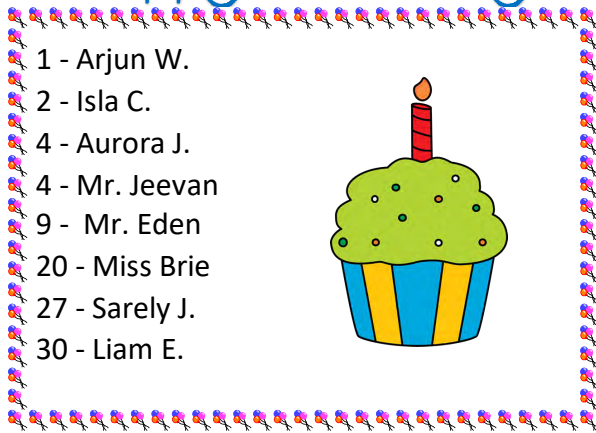
Reminders

The last day of the Spring Semester is May 16, 2025. The Summer Session will begin on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dawn at 402-554-4936 or by email at dhove@unomaha.edu.

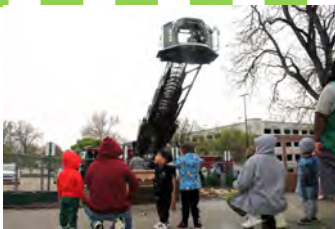
Happy Birthday!



June

National Safety Month

- 4 - SA/Pre Field Trip Zoo
- 13 - SA Field Trip Bellevue Berry Farm
- 14 - Flag Day
- 15 - Father's Day
- 17 - SA Dr. Oxygen Demonstration
- 20 - SA Field Trip Lauritzen Gardens
- 21 - Summer Begins
- 25 - Toddler Walk to MBSC Ice Cream
- 27 - SA Field Trip Durham Museum
- 27 - Tran/Pre Walk to Elmwood Park



Reading Fun!



Book Orders are done for this academic year! We will resume in August. Meanwhile, please check out some of recommendations!

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!

May

National Physical Fitness and Sports

- 1 - May Day
- 2 - Preschool Graduation
- 6 - National Teacher Day
- 7 - Stretch and Grow Dance Recital
- 11 - Mother's Day
- 16 - UNO Graduation Day
- 26 - Memorial Day, UNOCCC closed



Recommended Books for the Month

May is a month for flowers, rain and families! We have selected some great, books to help your child grow throughout the month!

"Flower Garden" by Eve Bunting

"Marco's Cinco de Mayo" by Lisa Bullard

"Lola Plants a Garden" by Anna McQuinn

"The Runaway Egg" by Katy Hudson

"Moms Can Do It All!" by Ted Maass

"Grandma's Girl" by Susanna Leonard Hill

"Chicks and Salsa" by Aaron Reynolds

"The Wonderful Things You Will Be" by Emily Winfield Martin

"Guess How Much I Love You" by Sam McBratney

"Zinnia's Flower Garden" by Monica Wellington

"Soaked!" By Abi Cushman

"In the Rain" by Elizabeth Spurr



Talk With Toddlers

Welcome to May!

The Toddler Staff and I are sad to say goodbye to our toddler friends, Salem, Oliver, Cora, Locklyn and Wolfgang, who will be moving to the Transition room. We are happy and proud to say congratulations to them as they continue their adventures with some new friends!

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

We will also be spending more time outdoors either playing, taking walks or wagon rides.

Please check your child's tubby and make sure there is a set of summer clothes. If you want your child to wear a hat for outside play, please feel free to bring one in for them to wear.

I will be sending home a summer packet at the end of the month for all the fun activities that we have planned. So stay tuned.

We look forward to having a fun month of May with you!

Mr. Fred and the Toddler Teachers



Time With 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 summer packet with information about summer activities that we have planned, so keep an eye out for that.

If your child is transitioning to Preschool at the end of the spring semester, 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.

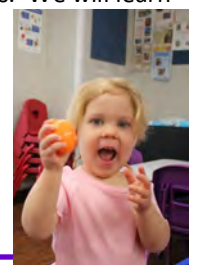
Summer Reminders:

- If your child needs extra clothes, shoes, pull-ups, sunscreen, a 'please bring' note will be in their mailbox. Please be sure to check your child's mailbox regularly for any notes!
- Your child needs lotion-based sunscreen for when we are outside this summer. See the approved list of sunscreens on the form.
- 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 swimming diapers/pull-ups 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!

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, teacher/professor, 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. Do not be shy, all our parents help the community in one way or another!

Our themes for the month of May are: Community Helpers, we will also be doing an End of the Semester Review. Each week, we will be learning about Health Professionals and Teachers; Police Officers, Firefighters and Military Members; Business Owners and Office workers; and Librarians, Bus Drivers and Postal Workers. Our shape for this month is pentagon and we will be reviewing our colors. We will learn about the letters X, Y and Z and the number 20.

Ms. Alecia & Transition Teachers



Preschool Perspective

Hello Preschool Parents!

Summer is just around the corner and we have so many fun activities in store! This month, our themes include Birds; Gardening; Butterflies and Secondary Colors. Our shape for this month is oval, the letters are X, Y and Z and numbers are 16 and 17.

Summer activities are about to start! Please be on the lookout for the summer information packets, they will detail what activities and field trips we will be going on and the summer activity fee.

With the summer months coming please be sure that your child has approved sunscreen and the sunscreen form has been signed and returned. I have copies available if you need one.

Please check your child's tubby and bring a seasonably appropriate change of clothing if needed. Also check to make sure the clothes still fit your child.

It is going to be an amazing month!

Ms. Erin and the Preschool Staff.



Pre-K Press Release

Dear Pre-K Parents,

The school year is coming to an end. We loved having your children in the Pre-K class this year. We have learned so much and have had so much fun. Graduation was Friday May 2, 2025. Everyone did a fantastic job! We were so excited to see all of you. The children are glad that they do not have to do ant practice any more! But they were sure cute!!

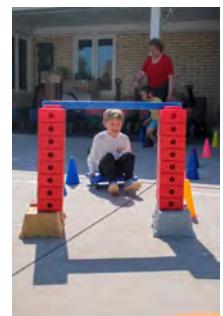
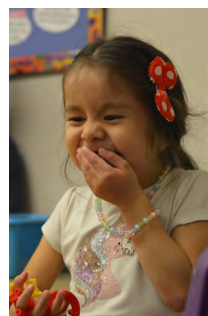
This spring and summer we will once again be taking care of the garden out front. We would love to have a variety of vegetable and flower plants. Please help us with our growing endeavor by donating vegetable plants, herbs or flowers. We are planning on planting our garden during the week of May 19.

For the rest of May, we will be learning about gardening and butterflies. We will also be reviewing letters, numbers and shapes.

We will kick off the school-age program the week of May 26. We will be sending a packet of information about the summer program later this month.

As a reminder the weather is getting warmer and we are spending more time outside. Every child needs a bottle of approved lotion sunscreen. Please check with one of the teachers to make sure your child has sunscreen here.

Mrs. Patty and the Pre-K Staff



Parent Corner

Explore the Great Outdoors with Your Child

by Donna Satterlee, Grace Cormons, and Matt Cormons

Children are natural explorers. Set some basic boundaries, and let the child discover. The learning will come. Children use all of their senses to explore. They look and listen to observe what is happening around them, touch what they can reach, smell the fresh scents of nature, and occasionally taste when given permission. They run, jump, dig, and climb as they discover new places.

For a child, everything is new—even the tiniest things are interesting and exciting. In today's entertainment-driven world, exploring the outdoors is an opportunity for children to actively engage in learning. Here are a few steps you can take to guide children's exploration of the great outdoors.

Explore safely. Join your children in the fun if they want you to, and keep an eye on them. Before you begin, dress appropriately and teach your child the basic safety rules of the outdoors. Simplicity is often the key to establishing safety rules, and there is usually no need to restrict children. They rarely do something that makes them uncomfortable, unless someone is urging them on or daring them.

Let children choose what to explore. Let children explore, and see what they do on their own without offering suggestions. Do they run? Build? Climb? Even an activity as simple as digging leads to exploration. Children learn how to dig, the way soil feels, the angle of the slope before loose dirt slides back down, and the difference between dry and wet soil.

Ask open-ended questions. As children explore on their own, remain involved. Ask about their discoveries. Ask open-ended questions they can understand and answer with their observations. "What did you find? Oh, a bug? What does it look like? How does it move?" You do not have to know all the answers to children's questions. Discuss what you see—the shape of leaves, the color of the soil, the movement of the grasses. The more your child observes, the more the world around him will make sense. Discovering how to learn through observation is important. Your child doesn't have to know the names of all the plants and animals he finds. He will learn through his observations. You can even suggest he make up descriptive names of his own.

Touch, lift, look under. Children need to touch the natural world to more fully understand it. In some cases, gently touching an object with one finger may be helpful. For example, gently nudge a frog or a grasshopper to help a child learn how animals move. When possible, though, examine an object from all sides. Looking carefully at the underside of a log and then carefully replacing it, for example, helps children understand that creatures live under the log and that not disturbing the creatures' habitat is important.

Guide children to draw conclusions from the observations they've made. The best learning occurs when children come to conclusions for themselves. It would be easy to draw on your own knowledge to say, "It's fall now. See, the leaves are red. Remember that they used to be green?" Instead, try asking questions or describing what you see, feel, hear, and smell. "Do you remember what color the leaves were last time we took this walk? What do you see now?" This modeling will help your child learn to use her own senses when exploring. Remembering and sharing helps a child learn, and shared memories bring cohesiveness as a family.

Some Cautions

Although we want children to explore at will, there are certain precautions that you will need to take. Teach children to:

- Be aware of the environment and the creatures that live there.
- Always watch where they put their hands and feet. If they left shoes outside, make sure they empty their shoes before putting them back on.
- Use clear cups and look before they drink. No one wants to accidentally drink an insect!
- Be wary of brown recluse spiders (also known as violin, or fiddleback, spiders), black widow spiders, scorpions, and poisonous snakes.
- Be cautious when lifting boards or rocks to find animals and insects. Also be careful to observe what is living there without disturbing their environment.
- Recognize poison ivy, poison sumac, and poison oak. If you or your child comes into contact with any of these plants, scrub the exposed area with dish detergent or another strong soap.

Also prepare yourself and your child to encounter insects and stains.

- Wear old clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
- Wear light-colored clothing to keep insects at bay. Some insects are attracted to dark colors.
- Wear a scarf or hat when walking through the woods.

Donna J. Satterlee, EdD, teaches child development in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She has collaborated with Grace and Matt Cormons since 1999 to implement the successful nature-based family learning program Shore People Advancing Readiness for Knowledge (SPARK).

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/explore-great-outdoors>