

October
2020

UNO Child Care Center

Helping Parents and Children
Learn Together

402.554.3398

Child Care Chronicle

Dawn Hove-Casart—Director

Monica Dey—Assistant Director

Feature Facts from Dawn

Fall is just around the corner. The leaves are starting to turn colors and the cooler weather is upon us. There is always so many fun activities to do during the fall.

As a reminder, the children do play outside and will be going for walks on campus in the morning. With the weather getting cooler, please make sure your child has a jacket/coat for outdoor play.

Your child's progress report will go home in your child's back pack starting the week of October 12 for Toddlers and Transition groups and the week of October 19 for Preschool Groups. In the envelope will be your child's progress report and the Child Care Center's bi-annual survey. Please sign your child's progress report and put it back in the envelope provided, return it and the survey to the child care center by Friday October 30. There will be a labeled tubby for you to place the envelope and a labeled box for the surveys. We appreciate your feedback.

Conference times will be available starting the week of October 12 with your child's lead teacher on a sign-up basis. This year conferences will be held either via Zoom or by Phone. Please see the conference sign-up notebook located by the sign-in computer to

sign up for conferences with your child's lead teacher. Please note dates and time that your child's lead teacher will be available.

Due to COVID the Child Care Center's Annual Costume Parade across campus has been cancelled. Instead each classroom will have a costume party on Friday, October 30 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The children will be doing fun games and activities that morning. Unfortunately due to COVID guidelines, parents will not be able to participate in our party this year. If you would still like to contribute to the party, you can help us purchase candy/treats for the children by donating money. Ms. Monica will be taking lots of pictures to share with families.

Announcements~

First, we have finally purchased a new child care software system called Sandbox. We plan on implementing the new system this month. We have moved over all the files and will begin posting tuition and payments beginning the week of October 5. Beginning the week of October 12, we will start having families sign in/out on the new system. Parent/Guardian Pin numbers that have 4 numbers will stay the same, all other pin numbers will need to be updated and

changed to 4 numbers. If you currently have a pin number that has 5 or 6 numbers, you will need to see Dawn or Monica to change your pin number. Please let us know if you have any questions as we go through the process of changing systems.

Second, beginning the week of October 5, the following items can be left at the child care center. Please make sure you label all the items with your child's name.

- 1) Your child's naptime items: a small blanket and either a small pillow or stuffed animal.
- 2) An extra set of clothing for your child's tubbie, including socks and shoes.
- 3) Your child's water bottle.

We ask that you continue to bring your child's back pack each day. This way the teachers can place any items that need to go home in your child's back pack.

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..."Take time to enjoy the wonders of the fall season."



Happy Birthday!

7 - Spencer D.
21 - Julián J.

22 - Miss Maria
24 - Sloane W.

29 - Miss Janae



Dates To Make Note Of...

October

1 - Chinese Moon Festival
9 - Fire Protection Day
12 - Indigenous People Day
12 - Columbus Day
12-23 - Parent/Teacher Conferences;
Date/Times w/Lead Teacher TBA
19 - 20 - Semester Break, Center open
30 - Classroom Fall Parties

November

1 - Daylight Savings Ends
2-16 - Food Drive for Together Inc.
5 - National Doughnut Day
11 - Veteran's Day
25 - Child Care Center open
26-29 - Thanksgiving Shutdown,
Child Care Center closed

December

10 - Hanukkah Begins
11 - Holiday Classroom Parties
21 - Winter Begins
24-Jan. 3 - Winter Shut Down,
Child Care Center closed
25 - Christmas
26 - Kwanzaa Begins

Cooking with Rick

Rick Jacobsen—Kitchen Tech

In October, I think of pumpkins and fall weather. So I found an easy recipe: "Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies".

Ingredients:

1 C. butter, softened
3/4 C. sugar
3/4 C. packed brown sugar
1 large egg, room temperature
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 C. all-purpose flour
1 C. quick-cooking oats

1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 C. canned pumpkin
1 1/2 C. semisweet chocolate chips

Directions:

1. In a bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy (5 to 7 minutes). Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine the flour, oats, baking soda and cinnamon; stir into the creamed mixture alternately with the pumpkin. Lastly fold in the chocolate chips.

2. Drop by tablespoonful onto an ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Mr. Rick

"October, tuck tiny candy bars in my pocket and carve my smile into a thousand pumpkins...Merry October!"
— Rainbow Rowell



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

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 code: GKXFX. 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.

October book orders will be due **Friday, October 16, 2020.**
Happy Reading!

Talk with Toddlers 1 & 2

Effie Swinarsky and Fred Abram—Lead Teachers

Welcome to October!

The Signs of fall are in the air!

Weather permitting, we will continue to play outdoors. We are also taking wagon rides across campus after breakfast. With the weather getting cooler, please make sure your child has a jacket/coat for outdoor play.

Our annual pumpkin hunt will take place on Monday, October 12. Parents, make sure to purchase your child's pumpkin! The cost

is \$5.00 and can be paid by credit card, check or cash at the front desk.

Parent/Teacher Conference Update: Please make sure to sign up to meet with your child's teacher. This year, you will have a choice of either a zoom conference or a phone conference.

Family Trees went out in pack backs, please return them by Friday, October 16, 2020.

Due to COVID, we will not be able to have

our annual costume parade, instead we will have a costume party in our classroom on October 30, 2020. The children will be able to wear costumes and participate in fun activities! The activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. We will be having a special snack on this day too.

The theme for the month of October is Safety; the colors are orange and black. The shape is triangle, the number is 3, and the letters of the month are D, E and F.

Enjoy the moment!
Toddler Teachers

Time with Transition

Happy fall!

I hope that everyone enjoyed the take home activities from our curriculum night!

The Transition class is excited about the fall weather and have been enjoying it as much as possible. As a reminder if it is below 60 degrees outside your child will need a jacket. Also, as the temps get cooler, please make sure your child has season-appropriate extra clothes in their backpack.

The themes for the month of October are: Fall season—Changing leaves and Landscape, Food Pyramid, Where Our Food Comes from, Farm Life and Animals; the color orange; the shape is circle; the numbers 4,5,6; and the letters D, E and F.

Due to COVID we will not be able to have our annual costume parade, instead we will have a costume party in the classroom on Friday, October 30. Costumes are still encouraged for the party. We cannot allow visitors, but will be taking pictures of the costumes, games, and activities to share with families. More information will be provided as day draws near.

Parent Teacher conferences will be held on the 15 and 16 of the month. Conferences will be via Zoom or a phone call, whatever you prefer. I will be corresponding with families to schedule times that work best. A conference sign-up notebook will be located by the sign-in computer.

Additionally, I will be sending home a note, asking for \$5.00 from each family. This fee is to cover the cost of a pumpkin for our class pumpkin hunt,

Allison Johnson—Lead Teacher

which will take place on October 16. If you would like your child to participate, please return the payment by Wednesday, October 14 at the latest.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel to send an email to anjohanson@unomaha.edu

Happy Fall! Transition Teachers



Points to Ponder with Preschool 1

Hello Parents,

October is here! Our theme is the Signs of Fall and we will be focusing on Pumpkins, Fall, Fire Safety, and Dressing up; the letters D, E, and F; the numbers 4, 5, & 6; the triangle shape, and the colors: black and orange.

We have many fun activities planned for this month for the children to enjoy. The first activity will be our pumpkin hunt on October 15 starting at 9:30 a.m. The cost of the pumpkins are \$5.00 dollars each. Please make sure to turn in the money by October 13.

We will be having our Parents/Teachers conferences on October 21 all day and on October 22 in the morning. This year will be different, you will be able to sign up for a Zoom meeting, or a telephone conference. Please watch for the opportunity to sign up!

Due to COVID, we will not be able to have our

annual costume parade, instead we will have a costume party on Friday, October 30. Activities will begin 9:30 a.m. Unfortunately, we cannot allow visitors, but we will be taking lots of pictures to share with families. Children will be able to dress up in costumes and enjoy games. We will be having a special snack for the day.

Now that Fall is officially here we would like to remind parents that we will continue to play outside and take our nature walks. So please remember that jackets are needed. We also



Ronita Bolton—Lead Teacher

recommend closed toed shoes and tennis shoes for preschool play. Please make sure you have seasonal appropriate extra clothing in your child's back pack.

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



Happy Fall! I cannot believe how fast the first months of this semester have flown by. We have some fun activities occurring during the month of October! We will be doing a pumpkin hunt on Wednesday, October 14. The cost for the pumpkins is \$5.00, please make sure to have the money for your child's pumpkin turned in by Monday, October 12.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on the afternoon of October 22 and all day on October 23. This year will be different, and conferences will be offered through zoom

meetings or a phone conference. Please watch for sign-up sheets.

Due to COVID we will not be able to have our annual costume parade, instead we will have a costume party on Friday, October 30. Children will be able to dress up in the costumes during the party and participate in fun activities, as well as a classroom "candy scavenger" hunt. Please make sure children come to school dressed in their school clothes and shoes, we will change them into their costumes before the party begins at 9:30 a.m.

Unfortunately due to COVID guidelines, parents will not be able to participate in our party this year. If you would still like to contribute to the party, you help us purchase treats for the children by donating money. We will be taking lots of pictures to share with families.

I'm looking forward to all the adventures to come in October.

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

C.H.A.M.P.S

CHAMPS does not have any meetings schedule for this month due to health mandates. We are hopeful that we will be able to get together at some point.

We will continue to find new ways for our families to be involved in the program. This may include virtual events!

Until we can meet again, please continue communication with the staff and other parents!

We hope everyone has a great

Focus on Policies and Procedures

Assessment of Child Development

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 is 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.

Assessments Upon Enrollment

Each child, upon enrollment into the program and when s/he transitions into the next age group, is given a pre-screening assessment. The lead teacher then uses these assessments to develop a curriculum based on the needs of the individual child/group.

These assessment results are shared with parents at the time of the formal conferences and are kept in each child's individual portfolio to refer back to and to be used to assess the growth and development of the child throughout the year, as well as when s/he transitions from one group to the next.

Bi-Annual Assessments & Conferences

Curriculum goals and individual objectives are assessed formal twice a year and informally daily throughout the program. Assessments are done through teacher observation and interactions and documentation of development milestones for each Individual child. This documentation is done using the Preschool Progress reports by Hayes Publishing Company and assessments developed individual for each area.

Assessments are handed out to parents in early November and late March/early

April. At this time formal parent-teacher conferences are also offered for parents to meet with their child's individual teacher and discuss their child's progress. Informal conferences can be set up at anytime the teacher, parent or administrator feels that is necessary to discuss the child's progress.



TOP 3 BENEFITS OF LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Play is Children's "Work"

I am a strong supporter of children learning through play. Therefore, I want to share with you what I feel are the Top 3 Benefits of Pretend Play.

Who doesn't want to play "grocery store" or "rocket to the moon"? These were some of the pretend play scenarios I loved playing as a child and now I get to watch my kids do the same.

There are many stages that a child goes through with regards to pretend play.

For example, an 18 month old will pretend to feed a doll or cover a teddy bear with a blanket so the bear can go to sleep.

However, a 5 year old might come up with an elaborate scenario involving setting up chairs and pretending it is an airplane.

My kids love turning the dining room into an airport and the kitchen into the plane. They even make tickets which each passenger has to hand in at the gate (aka, the kitchen counter).

Each stage of play children go through will aid in their development.

Top 3 Benefits of Learning through Play

1. Play Encourages Communication

Play allows children the opportunity to develop speech and language skills as well listening skills. Children talk and listen while they play.

Whether this be during solitary play which typically involves self talk and narration (e.g. "now my car is driving up the hill and then it goes down, wee, wee, wee") or play with a companion, children communicate to add purpose to their play.

The more vocabulary a child is exposed to on a

day-to-day basis, the greater the variety of words a child will incorporate into play.

I love seeing and hearing some of the scenarios my children come up with. For example, they love playing restaurant. They have to decide who will be the cook and who will be the server. My daughter is the older one so she gets to write out the menu, but they both decide what will be included on the menu (usually milk, juice, coffee, hot dogs, sushi, spaghetti and ice cream – quite the combination). And they always make sure that we pay for our food.

Sometimes there are disagreements about who gets to play which role or what will be included on the menu, but I try to teach them how to work through these issues and we also talk about compromising.

2. Play Improves Cognitive Development

Children who engage in pretend play tend to have more sophisticated levels of interaction with others. Bergen, D (2002) found that more and more evidence supports the connections between cognitive ability and high quality pretend play.

Moreover, if children are deprived of play, their long-term capabilities related to problem solving, social skills and academic areas (e.g. literacy, math and science) could be lessened.

The complexity of these skills demonstrate that many areas of the brain are most likely involved. For more information please see the complete study by Bergen.

Additional research about the benefits of learning through play shows that:

- Children whose fathers played with them had greater levels of imagination and

cognitive ability than those whose dads did not play with them.

- Children who played with their parents also participated in other activities, had positive mental health, stronger friendships and experienced a stronger family bond when compared to those whose parents did not play with their children as much.
- Children whose mothers played with them showed a greater level of attachment to their moms and enjoyed more positive development compared to children whose mothers did not play with them regularly.

3. Play Encourages Relationship Building

Play helps to promote the development of social skills. Children who play with their parents and peers learn how relationships work through their play experiences. As play becomes more important in a child's life, an increase in the number and quality of friendships has been seen.

Many people don't realize that social skills are a vital part of language development. Language is so much more than simply spoken words!

These are my top 3 benefits of learning through play. There are definitely many more than these and I am sure I could go on and on about this topic.

If you are interested in reading about the role of play in normal emotional development, please read the article "Free Play Is Essential for Normal Emotional Development" found in Psychology Today.

By Tanya Thibodeau



Baby News!

Congratulations to the Luhr Family: Travis, Jamie and big sister Aeryana!

On the birth of
Ashton Ainsworth
Born on September 24, 2020
6lbs. 5oz. & 19 in.