

October
2021

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 18. 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 29. 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 October 20 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 notebook located on the front desk counter 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. Please make sure you are signing up under the current group/Lead Teacher.

We will be doing our annual Costume Parade across campus on Friday, October 29, pending UNO Health Security Office approval. To allow for physical distancing and to minimize exposure, we will only be doing a parade. We are asking departments that wish to donate candy, to drop it off at the child care center instead on handing it out on the parade. We will then pass out the candy to the individual classrooms to put in the children's bags. The parade will begin at 9:45 A.M. Please have your child here by 9:15 A.M. Only one parent per child will be allowed to participate with the parade. Masks will be required.

Finally, I will be out of the office on October 10, 22 & morning of 26. If you have any questions or concerns during these times, please see Ms. Monica or a Lead Teacher.

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."

Conference Schedules:

October 20	Transition
October 21	Toddler 1 & 2
October 22	Preschool 1
October 25 PM	Preschool 2
October 26 AM	Preschool 2



Happy Birthday!

7—Spencer D.
8—Hailey S.
18—Jaysic S.

21—Julian J.
22—Miss Maria
24—Sloane W.



Dates To Make Note Of...

October

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

11 - Indigenous People Day
11 - Columbus Day
18-19 - Fall Break, Child Care Center Open
20 - Transition Parent/Teacher Conferences
21 - Toddler Parent/Teacher Conferences
22 - Pres 1 Parent/Teacher Conferences
25 - Pres 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences PM
26 - Pres 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences AM
26 - National Pumpkin Day
29 - Costume Parade 9:45
31 - Halloween

November

National Native American Heritage Month

1 - Together Inc. Food Drive Begins
2 - Election Day
7 - Daylight Savings ends
11 - Veteran's Day
15 - Together Inc. Food Drive Ends
24 - Child Care Center Open
25-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday—
Child Care Center Closed

December

National Safe Toys and Gifts

1 - Rosa Parks Day
4 - National Cookie Day
11 - Winter Program; Strauss Performing Arts
10-11 A.M.
17 - Fall Semester Ends
21 - Winter Solstice
24 - January 2—Winter Shut Down
Child Care Center Closed
25 - Christmas
26 - Kwanza Begins

Curriculum Night

UNOCCC Curriculum Night
Thursday, October 14, 2021
4:00 to 5:45 P.M.

Outside in Front of Child Care
Center

- Come visit with your child's Lead Teacher
 - Do an activity with your child
 - See your child's classroom
 - Pick up information and your child's recent work
 - Grab a To-Go-Snack
- Hope you can join us!

Cooking with Rick

Rick Jacobsen—Kitchen Tech

When October arrives, I begin thinking of soup! So, this month's recipe is "Slow Cooker Chili"

Ingredients:

1 tsp. olive oil
2 lbs. lean ground beef
1 large yellow onion, finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, finely minced
2 (14.5 oz.) cans diced tomatoes with green chilies
3 (8 oz.) cans tomato sauce
1/2 C. beef broth
2 tsp. chili powder
2 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
2 tsp. paprika
2 tsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
1 tsp. granulated sugar
1/2 tsp. ground coriander
Salt and pepper
1 (15 oz.) can dark red kidney beans, drained and rinsed.
1 (15 oz.) can light red kidney beans, drained and rinsed.
Shredded cheddar cheese, for serving

Instructions:

1. Heat olive oil in a large and deep non-stick skillet over medium heat.
2. Add onions and sauté 3 minutes, then add garlic and sauté 30 seconds longer. Pour onions into a 6 or 7 quart slow cooker.
3. Return skillet to medium-high heat, add the beef and cook, stirring occasionally until the beef has browned.
4. Drain most of the fat from the beef, leaving about 2 tsp. in the beef. Pour the browned beef into the slow cooker.
5. Stir in diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, beef broth, chili powder, cumin, paprika, cocoa powder, sugar, coriander and add salt and pepper to taste.
6. Cover with lid and cook on low heat for 5 to 6 hours.

7. Stir in dark and light kidney beans and allow to heat through, about 2 minutes. Serve warm with desired toppings.

Happy Fall!
Mr. Rick



Talk with Toddlers 1 & 2

Effie Swinarski and Fred Abram—Lead Teachers

Welcome to October!
With the arrival of cooler weather, we would like to remind our families to provide an extra warm jacket for outdoor play.

We will be sending your child's sunblock home at the end of the month.

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

Upcoming events for the month of October include:

14—Curriculum Night

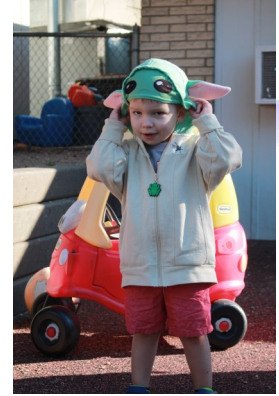
21—Parent-Teacher conferences, there will be a sign-up sheet at the front desk.

26—Our annual pumpkin hunt. The cost is \$6 to cover the cost of the pumpkin. Please bring cash only.

29—Annual Costume parade. We will be parading across campus! We will be handing out candy to the children once they return to the center. If the weather gets cooler, please remember that you may need to provide a coat, hat and gloves.

Please remember to check your child's mailbox at the end of each day. Also, if you plan to pick up your child early, remember to write it in the "Special Request" notebook and let the teachers in the classroom know.

Enjoy the season!
Toddler Teachers



Time with Transition

Happy Fall!

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 temperature gets cooler, please make sure your child has season appropriate clothes in their backpack or tubby.

The themes for October are; Fall Season, Changing Leaves and Landscape; Food Pyramid; Where Our Food Comes From and Farm Life and Animals. The letters for the month are D, E, and F. The numbers are 4, 5, & 6. The color is orange and the shape is circle. We will also be observing Fall Holidays.

We will have our annual costume parade on

Friday, October 29. Costumes can be brought to school in a labeled bag, and staff will help friends get changed for the parade after breakfast. More information will be provided as the end of the month draws near.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on October 20. We will have these conferences via Zoom or a phone call, whichever you prefer. There will be a sign-up sheet at the front desk where you can choose a time and mark your preference for communicating.

We will be having our annual pumpkin hunt on Friday, October 22. We want to "Thank" the Scott Family for donating home grown pumpkin's for our pumpkin hunt. Each child will receive a pumpkin.

Allison Johnson—Lead Teacher

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to send an email to me at anjohnson@unomaha.edu, or chat with me at drop-off or pick-up if I am available.

Happy Pumpkin Hunting!
Transition Teachers



News and View with Preschool 1 & 2

Megan Liu—Lead teacher

Spooky October Greetings!

We are now into October and are gearing up for a busy month.

We will be having our annual Costume party & parade on Friday, October 29. Please make sure your child comes to school in their regular school clothes and shoes. We will be changing them into their costumes before the parade. Please make sure they also have a jacket with them. The parade will begin at 9:45 A.M., so please make sure to have your children here by 8:45 A.M. We will have our party at 10:30 AM. I am sure it will be a SPOOKY good time!

Conferences are also around the corner and that means that progress reports will be coming home soon. Please make sure to read through and sign your child's progress report and fill out the survey included in the documents being sent

home. Conferences for Preschool 1 will be on Friday, October 22. Conferences for Preschool 2 will be on Monday, October 25 in the afternoon and Tuesday October 26 in the morning with a few times in late afternoon. See the sign-up book on the front desk counter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 402-554-3398 or email me at mmliu@unomaha.edu.

I'm so excited that fall is upon us and cannot wait for the spook-tacular activities that await us in October!

Thank you,
Miss Megan and the Staff of Preschool 1 & 2



Books We Recommend..

October means pumpkins, apples and a lot of fun! There are so many books to read this month.

Here are some books that we think your children will enjoy.

- The Not-So-Scary Hairy Spider by Rosie Greening

- We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt by Mary Hogan Wilcox
- Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubbell
- Fall Mixed Up by Robert Raczka
- Pumpkin Circle by George Levenson
- Trick or Treat Bugs to Eat by Tracy Gold

- Speak Up Molly Lou Mellon by Patty Lovell
- Because of an Acorn by Lola Schaefer
- Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert

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](https://www.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.

Book Orders will be due by Monday, October 11, 2021

Happy Reading!

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 semester!

Focus on Policies and Procedures

Safety Reminders

The health and safety of the children enrolled in our program is our highest priority. We have several policies and procedures in place to ensure that every child is kept safe and healthy.

These policies and procedures include:

- Having written emergency and evacuation procedures for when children are away from the child care center.
- Practicing monthly fire, tornado and lock down drills year-round.
- Exclusion guidelines for when children or staff exhibit symptoms of illness.
- Prior notification when someone other than a parent/guardian is picking up. Authorized people who are picking up must provide identification when picking up a child.
- Guidelines for the supervision of children.

Supervision of children is crucial to keeping them safe no matter where you

might be. It is our policy that when children are in an area, a teacher must be present, supervising the group children at all times. This includes times when children are moving from one area to another and if they are going up or down the stairs.

Please assist us in keeping the children safe. When arriving, please do not allow your child to enter a classroom if there are no teachers present. If there are no teachers in the classroom, the group may be outside playing or on a walk. You will need to take your child outside to join their group or check to see where the group may be. This is particularly important in the preschool area since it is not possible to see all areas of the basement from the stairs. Preschool Parents must also escort your child up and/or down the stairs. Children are not allowed to go up or down the stairs unless an adult is present.

At the end of the day, when picking up, please do not allow your child to enter

the building on their own. If they forgot something, or need to use the restroom, please accompany your child into the area they need to go. This is a licensing requirement.

For more in depth information about all of our policies and procedures, please read our Parent Handbook.

Working together ensures that the children remain safe, healthy and happy!



How to Support Children's Approaches to Learning? Play with Them!

By Gaye Gronlund

As a parent, you want your children to learn all that they can—to grasp math concepts, to be curious about exploring the world, and to learn to read and write. Did you know that you can help your son or daughter academically by playing with them? Play and learning go together! What kind of play helps children learn the best? Play that really engages children—play that they will focus on and stay with even when problems arise. This kind of play helps children develop their approaches to learning—in other words, the ways they respond to learning situations. Curiosity about the world, initiative and problem solving, and focused attention and persistence are just a few approaches to learning that children develop through play.

In the early years, parents can help children develop the skills to be better students by playing with them. Yes, as they enter kindergarten and the elementary years, children need to have some understanding of letters and numbers. However, if they have not developed solid approaches to learning, they will not be as successful in school settings.

Encouraging Toddlers at Play

Joey is 20 months old. He has a basket full of toys, including rattles, soft plastic blocks, a set of stacking rings, stuffed animals, and cloth and plastic books. Joey's dad often sits down on the floor with Joey and invites him to play with items in the basket. Joey's favorite activity is to dump out all of the toys and put the basket on his head! This is

typical toddler play behavior. Joey is curious about the world and is looking at it another way—through the slats in the basket!

Joey loves to shake the rattles to hear the different sounds or to stack two or three blocks and knock them down. His attention to each might be up to five minutes or so, which is just right for his age. He may solve problems as he tries to place the rings on the stacking post or to add more blocks to a tower. Joey's dad encourages his curiosity. He comments about what he is doing: "I see you are trying to get that last ring on the post, but it just won't fit." Or he asks him questions: "Where did that ball go? Do you see it hiding behind the chair?" He connects his play to learning by responding positively to his interest: "I can tell you like to look through the basket, you silly boy. Does everything look different from under there?" He also encourages him by asking him to keep trying even when he gets frustrated. "Oh, those blocks keep falling down, don't they? Can you try to put just one on top of another gently? Let's see what happens. I'll help you." This encouragement fosters his perseverance, his attention, and his initiative at problem solving, all positive approaches to learning.

Encouraging Preschoolers at Play

Alicia is 4 years old. She loves to dress up in her mommy's clothes, jewelry, and shoes and then pretend to go shopping, care for her baby dolls, and cook dinner. Through her pretend play Alicia learns to think abstractly. When she holds a block in her hand and uses it to pretend to talk on the phone, she is using the block as a symbol for something else. That's abstract thinking in action! And, since letters

and numbers are abstract because they are symbols of what they represent, pretend play is one way a child develops her understanding of letters and numbers.

Alicia's mom and dad have recognized that supporting her pretend activities keeps her engaged for 10 to 15 minutes at a time. They pretend right along with her, asking her to "bake some cookies" or to "go grocery shopping" for them. They give her paper and crayons so that she can pretend to write grocery lists. They encourage her to count how many items she has placed in her toy shopping cart. They accept her scribbles and letter-like shapes as her writing (just right for 4-year-olds) and help her when the numbers get a little mixed up. Alicia will work with puzzles for long periods of time, too, especially if her dad joins her. Together, they figure out strategies for putting the pieces together. She may turn the pieces around, trying out different ways until she is successful. She is developing problem solving and persistence as she does so.

Your Role as Your Child Plays

Playing with your child helps keep your child engaged in the kind of play where learning occurs. Your interest, questions, and comments as you play alongside will help your child use toys productively. And the two of you will have lots of fun together! Most importantly, you will be working toward your child's future success as a student by building important approaches to learning. Play and learning go together!

Gaye Gronlund, M.A., is an Early Childhood Education Consultant. She works with teachers, families, and programs across the country and writes books and articles about play, standards, assessment, and curriculum.

