



## UNO Child Care Center Chronicle

### February 2026

Dawn Hove-Casart, Director

Monica Dey, Assistant Director

#### **UNO Child Care Center Classroom Valentine's Exchange will be on Friday, February 13, 2026**

If you would like your child to participate, please make sure to have your child bring in Valentines to share. This is optional. Number of Valentines for each classroom are:

**Toddlers 10 Children 12 Staff**  
**Transition 14 Children 11 Staff**

**Preschool 13 Children 7 Staff**  
**Pre-K 11 Children 6 Staff**

Please note that we are asking that no candy containing peanuts or nuts, etc. be included in any of the Valentines and that NO hard candy be placed in any of the toddler's Valentines. All items must be store bought and in the original packaging. Please see Dawn, Monica, or the Lead Teachers if you have any questions.

#### **Upcoming Spring Semester Event Dates:**

- A. Read Across America and Dr. Seuss Week: March 2-6, 2026
- B. Parent/Teacher Conferences: Week of March 23-27, 2026
- C. Week of the Young Child; April 13-17, 2026
- D. Preschool 2 Graduation: Friday, May 15, 2026, 10:30 A.M. at The Thompson Alumni Center
- E. Stretch-N-Grow Dance Recital: Monday, May 11, 2025, 3 P.M. at The Thompson Alumni Center

Please watch for more information about each of these event as they get closer to the dates.

#### **File Updates**

As a reminder, please make sure that we have updated information for your child's file. This includes yearly health exams and updated immunizations for your child. Your class schedules and any contact information that needs to be updated or changed. Also, if your child's allergies have changed, please let us know. Thank you.

#### **The UNO Child Care Center CLOSES promptly at 5:30 P.M.**

Please make sure you pick up your child by 5:30 P.M. Your account will be charged \$1.00 late pick -up fee for every minute you are late picking up your child past 5:30 P.M. You will be responsible for paying this fee. If you are unable to be here by 5:30 P.M., please make other arrangements to have someone else pick up your child. You need to call the Child Care Center and let us know. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

#### **Winter Weather**

The children do play outside and will go for walks on campus. Please make sure your child has a jacket/coat, hat and/or gloves and/or boots for outdoor play. As long as the temperature, including wind chill, is above 32 degrees, the children will be able to play outside. Please plan accordingly.

#### **Illness Reminder**

Remember that if your child is experiencing any illness type symptoms, to please keep them at home. If your child develops a fever of 100.4 or above, your child must be fever free without the aid of Tylenol or Ibuprofen before they can return. If your child has vomited or had diarrhea 2 or more times in a 24-hour period, and/or develop additional symptoms, they must be out f or 24 hours, symptoms improving before returning. If your child has been diagnosed with an illness, please let us know.

#### **Inclement Weather**

In case of inclement weather, please listen to your local news and radio stations for updates on closings or check the UNO announcement web page. If you see that UNO has closed, then the UNO Child Care Center will also be closed. If UNO has a late start, the UNO Child Care Center will open 30 minutes prior to the start time (Example: If UNO has a 10A.M. late start, the UNO Child Care Center will open at 9:30A.M.). If UNO closes early, the UNO Child Care Center will close 30 minutes after that time (Example: If UNO closes at 3P.M., then the UNO Child Care Center will close by 3:30P.M.). I will send out an email notification to families and staff informing them of the closure, late start, or early dismissal.

## Happy Birthday!

4 – Mr. Deekshith  
8 – Miss Caitlin  
16 – Yahir H-R  
20 – Alice D.  
20 – Miss Jamia  
24 – Alicia O.  
25 – Miss Makayla  
28 – Ophelia D.



## February

### American Heart Month

2 – Groundhog Day  
4 – World Read Aloud Day  
8 – Super Bowl  
13 – Classroom Valentine Exchange  
14 – Valentine's Day  
16 – President's Day, CCC **OPEN**  
17 – Chinese New Year

## March

### National Nutrition Month

2 – Read Across America Day  
2-6 – Dr. Seuss Week  
8 – Daylight Savings Begins  
16-20 – Spring Break, CCC **OPEN**  
17 – St. Patrick's Day  
17 – Mardi Gras  
20 – First Day of Spring  
23-27 – Parent/Teacher Conferences  
25 – International Waffle Day



## Recommended Books for the Month

It is still cold out, so we thought about some books to celebrate the month of February. The books that we recommend include:

My Footprints by Bao Phi  
Counting on Katherine by Helaine Becker  
Heartprints by P. K. Hallinan  
The Story of Mae Jemison by Amy Drorbaugh  
Ten Grouchy Groundhogs by Kathryn Heling  
Love Is by Diane Adams  
The Day it Rained Hearts by Felicia Bond  
Groundhog Gets a Say by Pamela Curtis Swallow  
Go to Sleep, Groundhog! By Judy Cox  
I am Rosa Parks by Brad Meltzer  
Love Finds a Way by Vern Kousky  
The ABCs of Black History by Rio Cortez and Lauren Semmer  
Substitute Groundhog by Pat Miller

## Reading Fun!

Book Orders for this month are due on **Friday, February 13, 2026!**

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 <https://orders.scholastic.com/GKFX> to order.

If this is your first time ordering online, you will need to create an account using our center's code GKAFX. 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!



## Talk With Toddlers

Welcome to February!

Love is in the air! We are looking forward to our annual Valentine's Day Exchange on Friday, February 13. If you would like your child to participate, please bring store bought Valentine's to the center no later than the morning of the exchange. We have 9 children in the classroom; you can write your child's name in the "From:" section of the card and leave the "To:" section blank. If you wish to bring other Valentine's items, such as trinkets or candy, these must also be purchased in a store and brought in with your child's Valentines.

February is also Black History Month! To recognize and honor the many contributions of Black Americans, the toddlers' staff will be reading books to the children that are either written by a Black author and or features Black historical figures/protagonists every day this month. There will also be a few activities related to these historical figures.

Our themes for this month are emotions. Our letters for the month are P, Q, and R; the numbers 12 and 13. The color for the month is pink, and the shape is the heart. We will also be focusing on fine motor skills, exploring fingerprint, drawing with crayons, stringing beads, and exploring a variety of textures.

Mr. Fred and the Toddler Teachers

"Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play, children learn how to learn." ~ O. Fred Donaldson



## Time With Transition

Happy February!

Spring semester is in full swing, and the Transition class has been very busy!

We will be having a Valentine exchange and class party on Friday, February 13. If you would like your child to participate in the exchange, please provide valentines. Any treats need to be store-bought and packaged, with no peanuts/tree nuts. There are 14 students in the Transition class and 11 teachers. For our class party on the afternoon of February 13, we will celebrate from 9:30-10:30AM. Parents are welcome to stay for the party as we enjoy a sensory bin, arts and crafts, and music and dancing!

Our friend, Osten, and his family will be traveling to China to visit his grandparents. We wish them a safe trip and hope they have so much fun! We will miss him but cannot wait to see him and his family when they come back.

We are having a Transition Pajama Day on Friday, February 27. We are excited to see our friend's cozy pajamas and will be enjoying a movie that afternoon. Slippers are welcome, but please make sure your child has shoes!

February themes are focused on Modes of Transportation as well as Feelings and Emotions. These themes will include Different Ways to Travel; How Do We Get Around; Handling Our Emotions; and Different Types of Feelings. Our letters for the month are O, P and Q. The numbers are 14 and 15. Our color is purple and the shape is the heart.

Lots of love,  
Alecia and the Transition Teachers





## Preschool Perspective

Good Golly, it is February! As usual, the preschoolers are continuing to learn and grow! We just recently added morning stretches to our circle time to help us get ready for our day and we are really enjoying it!

This month is going to be another busy month for us. Our themes for February are Community Helpers; Hearts and Love; Land Transportation; Transportation in the Air and Over the Sea. Our letters for the month are P, Q, and R. The numbers are 11 and 12. The color for the month is pink and our shape of the month is the heart.

We will be having our Valentine's Day Party in the morning on Friday, February 13. If you would like your child to participate, you can bring cards either the day before, or Friday morning. There are 13 children in our classroom, if you wish to include the Pre-K children, they have 11 children. Please just put your child's name on the "From:" line on the card to make it easier for the children to hand out their cards. If you wish to bring treats, please be sure that the treats are store purchased, and peanut/tree nut free.

Please remember to check your child's mailbox each day before you leave! The children have been very busy, and the mailboxes can fill up quickly.

Until next month,  
Ms. Monica and the Preschool Teachers



## Pre-K Press Release

Dear Pre-K Parents,

We are one month into the new year already!! We have a fun February planned. To start off February the pre-k class has asked to study spiders. We also will be talking about friendship and dental health. Our letters for the month are P, Q, and R. Our numbers are 18, 19, and 20. Our shape is a heart, and our colors are purple and pink. We will continue to send home new sight words for February and learning extensions.

Our Friendship/Valentines Day party will be on Friday February 13, 2026 in the morning. We have 11 Pre-K friends. We ask that you put just your child's name on the card, so it makes it easier for them to pass out the card to the other student's bags. If you also wish to bring cards for the preschool class, they have 13 students. Please remember any treats need to be peanut/nut free, dairy free and gluten free.

Please remember to check your child's mailbox and hook every day!!! Just a look ahead, starting the first week of March, we will be cutting 10 minutes off nap time and will slowly reduce it over the months of March and April. This is to prepare for the summer of no naps. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Patty and the Pre-K Teaching Team



### 10 Things Every Parent Should Know About Play | NAEYC

By: Laurel Bongiorno

#### 1. Children learn through their play.

Don't underestimate the value of play. Children learn and develop:

- cognitive skills – like math and problem solving in a pretend grocery store
- physical abilities – like balancing blocks and running on the playground
- new vocabulary – like the words they need to play with toy dinosaurs
- social skills – like playing together in a pretend car wash
- literacy skills – like creating a menu for a pretend restaurant

#### 2. Play is healthy.

Play helps children grow strong and healthy. It also counteracts obesity issues facing many children today.

#### 3. Play reduces stress.

Play helps your children grow emotionally. It is joyful and provides an outlet for anxiety and stress.

#### 4. Play is more than meets the eye.

Play is simple and complex. There are many types of play: symbolic, sociodramatic, functional, and games with rules—to name just a few. Researchers study play's many aspects: how children learn through play, how outdoor play impacts children's health, the effects of screen time on play, to the need for recess in the school day.

#### 5. Make time for play.

As parents, you are the biggest supporters of your children's learning. You can make sure they have as much time to play as possible during the day to promote cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional development.

#### 6. Play and learning go hand-in-hand.

They are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child's lab.

#### 7. Play outside.

Remember your own outdoor experiences of building forts, playing on the beach, sledding in the winter, or playing with other children in the neighborhood. Make sure your children create outdoor memories too.

#### 8. There's a lot to learn about play.

There's a lot written on children and play. Here are some NAEYC articles and books about play. David Elkind's "The Power of Play" (Da Capo, 2007 reprint) is also a great resource.

#### 9. Trust your own playful instincts.

Remember as a child how play just came naturally? Give your children time for play and see all that they are capable of when given the opportunity.

#### 10. Play is a child's context for learning.

Children practice and reinforce their learning in multiple areas during play. It gives them a place and a time for learning that cannot be achieved through completing a worksheet. For example, in playing restaurant, children write and draw menus, set prices, take orders, and make out checks. Play provides rich learning opportunities and leads to children's success and self-esteem.

Laurel Bongiorno, PhD, is the director of Champlain College's graduate program in early childhood education, with specializations in teaching and administration, in Burlington, Vermont. She has taught preschool, directed early childhood programs, and studied parents' perceptions of preschoolers' learning through play.