

April
2022

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

April is upon us and we have a few final events for the spring semester. The weather is getting warmer and the children have enjoyed getting outside to play.

I would like to thank all the families who participated in Parent/Teacher Conferences and returned the Family Surveys. The results of the family survey were emailed out at the end of March. We had 86% of families who completed the survey. Thank you to all families who took the time to complete the survey. Your input is very important to us.

One last project that the CCAMPIS grant will help fund, will be the addition of new playground items, garden boxes and child size picnic tables. We are looking forward to being able to do some fun activities outdoors this summer and plant our gardens.

The UNO Child Care Center is in the last year of the CCAMPIS 4 year Grant. The Grant will come to a close at the end of September 2022. We are hoping that a new grant application will open up in June 2022. Once the application becomes available, our plan is to reapply for the grant and with fingers crossed,

we receive an additional 4 year grant funding for the UNO Child Care Center. I will keep you updated on the progress.

As the weather gets warmer, the children will be spending more time outside. Please make sure that your child has up-to-date non-aerosol sunscreen. Must be cream or lotion only. Also, as a reminder that if you will be picking up before 4 P.M. please let the teacher know, so in case the group goes for a walk in the afternoon, that we have your child stay back.

This year, Week of the Young Child is April 4-8, 2022. The UNO Child Care Center will be doing special activities and events during this week. There will be themes for each day of the week. Please see the last page of this newsletter for each days theme. The last event of the week will be an Ice Cream Social and Egg Hunt from 4 to 6 PM. We hope that you will be able to join us for this fun event, eat some ice cream, watch the children hunt for eggs and network with other families.

April 29, 2022 is Preschool 2 Graduation Day. Help us to congratulate our 13 graduates that will be going to Kindergarten in the fall. Graduation is for Preschool Graduates and their family and guests only. A zoom link will be provided to families to share with extended families and friends to watch via zoom. Graduation will take place at the Thompson Alumni Center from 10 to 11 A.M. Graduates need to be at the child care center by 9 A.M. There will also be a Preschool Graduation Practice on Thursday, April 28 from 2:30 to 3:30 PM at the Alumni Center.

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: "But it's not just learning things that's important. It's learning what to do with what you learn and learning why you learn things at all that matters." Norton Juster, The Phantom Tollbooth



Happy Birthday!

3 - Kai B.

5 - Eli A.

11 - Ms. Monica

25 - Miss Shelby

29 - Mr. Terrill



Dates To Make Note Of...

April

National Autism Awareness Month

1 - April Fool's Day

2 - Ramadan Begins

2-8 - Week of the Young Child

8 - Ice Cream Social 4 to 6PM

11 - National Pet Day

15 - Book Orders Due

17 - Easter

22 - Earth Day

28 - P2 Graduation Practice 2:30-3:30 PM

29 - Arbor Day

29 - Preschool 2 Graduation; Alumni 10 AM

May

1 - May Day

3 - National Teacher Day

5 - Cinco De Mayo

6 - National Nurses Day

8 - Mother's Day

9-13 - Final Exams

23 - Red Nose Day

30 - Memorial Day, Center Closed

31 - Summer School-age Program Begins

June Pride Month

8 - Best Friend Day

14 - Flag Day

19 - Juneteenth

19 - Father's Day

21 - Summer Begins

Cooking with Rick

Rick Jacobsen—Kitchen Tech

This month, the recipe is "Creamy Frozen Fruit Cups". I found it on the Taste of Home website and it sounds like a recipe the children would enjoy!

Ingredients:

1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

1/2 c. sugar

1 jar (10 oz.) maraschino cherries, drained

1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges, drained

1 can (8 oz.) crushed pineapple, drained

1/3 c. chopped pecans (optional)

1 carton (8 oz.) whipped topping, thawed

Fresh mint, optional

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese and sugar until fluffy. Halve nine cherries; chop the remaining cherries. Set aside halved cherries and 18 orange segments for garnish. Add the pineapple, pecans, and chopped cherries to cream cheese mixture. Fold in the whipped topping and remaining oranges.
2. Line muffin cups with paper or foil liners. Spoon the fruit mixture into the cups; garnish with the reserved cherries and oranges. Freeze until firm. Remove from freezer 10 minutes before serving. Top with mint if desired.

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." —Jane Goodall
Mr. Rick



Books We Recommend..

During the month of April, we start to think about things that grow. April is also time to think about Arbor Day and Earth Day. We have found some books that fit the theme of trees and taking care of our world. Enjoy reading with your children!

- [Big Earth, Little Me](#) by Thom Wiley
- [Little Raindrop](#) by Nature Stories
- [Recycling Day](#) by Edward Miller
- [One Earth](#) by Eileen Spinelli and Rogerio Coelho
- [We Planted A Tree](#) by Diana Muldrow and Bob Staake

- [The Earth Gives More](#) by Sue Fliess
- [Because of an Acorn](#) by Lola M. Schafer
- [The Earth Book](#) by Todd Parr
- [The Earth and I](#) by Frank Asch
- [Worm Weather](#) by Jean Taft

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 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 Friday, April 15, 2022

Happy Reading!

Welcome to April!

We would like to thank all of you who were able to sign up for conferences. Your input is important!

This month, we will be talking about the environment; the letters V, W, X; the number 9; and the color purple.

We are planning some fun activities during the Week of the Young Child! Please be sure to read the last page of the newsletter.

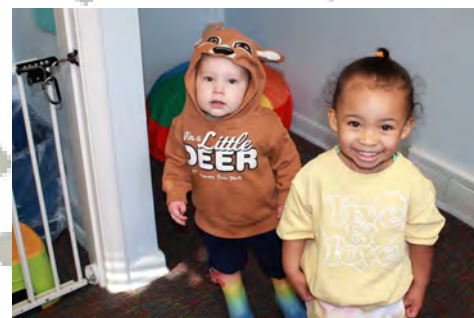
Please make sure you have returned the sunscreen permission form, and that you

provide a bottle of sunscreen for your child no later than April 15, 2022.

Now that the weather is warming up, we plan to go outdoors and even take wagon rides on campus!

Enjoy the wonders of Spring!
~The Toddler Teaching Staff

"Children need to practice feeling wonder to develop curious minds."



Time with Transition

Happy Spring Everyone!

Thank you to everyone who signed up for conferences. I loved talking with all of you. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any concerns, please reach out in person, email me at anjohnson@unomaha.edu, or call the center during my desk duty to chat.

Our friends are loving the warmer temperatures because it means we can go outside! As we begin to have more playground and campus walk time, please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather—this includes appropriate shoes and light jackets.

We have a lot of fun nature walks and outside activities planned for this month. Dressing for

the warmer weather means it is time to begin applying sunscreen. Please return the permission form to your child's mailbox, with a non-aerosol tube of sunscreen. Thank you!

This month, we are celebrating Week of the Young Child. Some of the festivities will include a Bedtime Story night, as well as an ice cream social. Be on the lookout for more information on the activities we have planned.

Our themes for this month are: Plant Life & Cycle; The Season of Spring: Growth and Development; Rain & Water Cycle; and Change in Nature; Earth Day.

Allison Johnson—Lead Teacher

Happy April.

Miss Allison & The Transition Teachers



Points to Ponder with Preschool 1

Ky Jackson—Lead Teacher

Greetings, Parents! Happy April!

This month will be FULL of fun here at the CCC- We will be celebrating Week of the Young Child, Earth Day, and the lovely season of Spring ALL month long! We will be focusing on letters R, S, T and W, as well as counting all the way up to 50!

The beginning of the month will kick off with Week of the Young Child, where we have a variety of fun activities planned, such as having an Ice Cream Social and Spring Egg Hunt family night on Friday, April 8! I hope that you all will be able to attend and join in on the fun!

The following week, we will be learning ALL about chicks and bunnies, exploring different STEM activities such as making slime and building with jellybeans, and having another classroom egg Hunt! For Earth Day, the children will be creating a variety of projects using recycled materials, discovering ways we can help our Earth. Lastly, we all know that April showers bring May flowers...

Our last week of the month will focus on rain, rain, rain!

As the weather gets warmer, we will be spending more time outside during both the morning and afternoon- Please be sure that your children are coming dressed in comfortable, weather appropriate clothing for outdoor play, have extra clothing in their tubbies, and have sunscreen and a water bottle to use at school.

Towards the end of April, we will begin setting our sights on the summer (including water play, field trips, and park visits during the week!). We can't wait!

We hope you have a wonderful, fair-weathered April!

Teacher Ky & the P1 Zookeepers



Hippy Hoppy April~
This year has gone by so fast!!! I can't even believe that in a few short weeks it will be time for preschool graduation!!!! Ah!!

I have just a couple of announcements to make before then.

The first announcement is that graduation will be on Friday, April 29, 2022 at 10:00am. Children will need to be here by 9:00 AM in order to get to the Alumni Center on time to prepare for graduation. We will be sending out invitations and flyers soon, so keep your eyes peeled. Also the rehearsal for graduation will be on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 2:30 PM. We will be back at the child care center at 3:40 PM.

Next, I am still missing baby pictures for a few children for the graduation video. Please submit them to me or Monica by no later than Wednesday, April 6, 2022, so that we will be able to get the video together on time.

The third announcement is that the summer packet will be released by middle of May. It will give more information about the summer session as well as explain any requirements for participation in certain summer activities. Please let Miss Dawn or Monica know if you plan to enroll your child in the summer session.

Finally, if you have any questions, please contact me at my email mmliu@unomaha.edu.

Thank you 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 semester!

Focus on Policies and Procedures

CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

All information you provide the University of Nebraska-Omaha Child Care Center about you child is kept confidential, unless you have given us verbal &/or written permission to provide it. This includes information in your child's file, assessment information, screening, medical, allergies, etc.

All children's files are kept in a locked file cabinet and are only accessed by the administrators and lead teachers. Under the following circumstances the contents in each individual file is confidential.

But is immediately assessable to:

- 1) Administrators or teaching staff who have consent
- 2) The child's parents or legal guardian that are on file or

- 3) Regulatory authorities, on request, such as National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) during accreditation visits, The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Department of Licensing during visits.

Consent For Sharing Information

The University of Nebraska-Omaha Child Care Center requires families to obtain written permission from the relevant service providers or program asking the UNO Child Care Center to provide information to the provider or program that is relevant to the child or family. Once the written permission is signed by the provider or program and UNO Child Care Center, the information will be provided per the request. All information provided in a child's file is kept confidential. Unless otherwise written &/or verbal parental permission is given.



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

The Nebraska Department of Education recognizes that it is important for children in kindergarten programs to have expectations appropriate for their physical, emotional, and intellectual capabilities.

The goal of kindergarten is to make the best match between teaching and learning for every child to support a successful school experience.

Children are born with the innate ability to learn. Good health and experiences that help build knowledge, social and physical skills set the stage for success.

Beneficial skills include:

- curiosity and enthusiasm for learning
- social skills and self regulation
- respectful of authority figures
- curiosity and enthusiasm for new activities/skills
- confidence, cooperation & ability to practice self-control

While these skills are a good predictor of school readiness, it is the school's responsibility to be ready for the child, as kindergarten is an inclusive place for children of all abilities.

The only requirement for children to begin kindergarten is that they reach the age of five years old on or before July 31. Therefore, it is not a question of whether the age-eligible child is ready for kindergarten. Rather, it is a question of how the child can be supported with the transition to school to ensure that the school is ready for the child.

Children enter kindergarten with a wide variety of skills and knowledge. There are many contributing factors to school

readiness. It is important for early childhood practitioners and families to understand these predictors of success.

Kindergarten teachers have relayed that children who display success exhibit the following characteristics:
healthy & rested

- able to pay attention, follow directions
- able to communicate their thoughts and needs without being disruptive
- able to recognize personal space around others

Families, communities, and schools work together to prepare children for school and to ensure that the school is ready to meet children's individual needs. Parents and providers can work on the following areas.

Promote Good Health & Physical Skills by providing:

- a balanced diet and plenty of rest
- regular dental and medical care, including immunizations
- active play outdoors
- large muscle activities: climbing, dancing, running, balancing
- small muscle activities: coloring, painting, drawing, cutting

Encourage Positive Attitude & Desirable Social Skills by providing experiences for:

- learning confidence: making choices, trying new things and hearing praise for efforts
- working alone and with others to finish tasks, including putting away supplies

- taking care of own things and needs: dressing self, using the toilet, and washing hands
- learning to problem-solving, sharing and cooperating by playing with others
- paying attention and following simple 3-step directions
- communicating needs, wants, thoughts, and feelings, while not disrupting others
- expressing emotions in safe ways and learning to control reactions and behaviors

Support Knowledge & Thinking Skills by providing time for:

- being read to every day and listening to stories in a group
- talking about letters, the sounds they make and environmental print
- asking and answering questions, and exploring topics of interest together
- counting, sorting and classifying things, noticing likenesses and differences, such as more and smaller
- practicing drawing, writing, and recognizing numbers, shapes, colors, and letters in their name
- observing about the world by seeing and touching objects; hearing new sounds, smelling and tasting foods; and watching and making things move
- learning through play: children learn best when given the opportunity to explore their environment and take risks through hands-on engagement, rather than flashcards and worksheets



UNOCCC'S WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

APRIL 4TH - 8TH, 2022



MASTERPIECE MONDAY

ENJOY & EXPLORE MUSIC AND ART!

WEAR YOUR MOST COLORFUL OUTFIT!



TOPSY-TURVY TUESDAY

ENJOY & EXPLORE MUSIC AND ART!

WEAR YOUR MOST SILLY, NON-MATCHING OUTFIT!



WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

DISCUSS OUR HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND HEALTHY HABITS!

WEAR FITNESS/EXERCISE CLOTHING!



INSPIRATION THURSDAY

ENJOY & EXPLORE MUSIC AND ART!

DRESS UP LIKE SOMEONE YOU ADMIRE!



CHANCELLOR LI
READ ALOUDS
STARTING AT 9:30!

JOIN US FOR...

OUTDOOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL
& SPRING EGG HUNT FAMILY
EVENTS!

4PM-6PM
AT THE CENTER

EXPLORATION FAMILY FRIDAY

SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS!

DRESS UP AS AN EXPLORER!

