

JANUARY
2023

UNO CHILD CARE CENTER CHRONICLE



Feature Facts With Dawn

Director - Dawn Hove-Casart

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had an enjoyable break and holiday season. A special "Thank you" to the families who provided us with the wonderful goodies prior to the break. It was very thoughtful. Thank you.

As a reminder, the **new tuitions rates have gone into effect, as of January 1, 2023**. Please see Dawn if you have any questions regarding the new rates. Spring semester contracts will go out the week of January 9, 2023. Everyone will be required to sign a new contract with the updated tuition rates. **All contracts will need to be signed by January 13, 2023.**

Reminder that the UNO Child Care Center will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2023, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha has a new dining services contract with Sodexo, which was approved in early December by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. The existing food menus at the UNO Child Care Center will remain the same. The Child Care Center will continue to work with Sodexo on providing nutritional breakfasts, lunches and snacks for the children enrolled in our program.

Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, February 14, for classroom Valentine Exchange Parties! The classrooms will also have Valentine activities, games and a special snack on this day. Each child will be making a Valentine sack/box here at the child care center to place their Valentine's. Please do not send in any pre-made boxes. Any candy or trinkets brought to share must be store bought and in their original packaging. *As a reminder, bringing in Valentines is voluntary- Please let Dawn, Monica or your child's Lead Teacher know if you do not want your child to participate.* Here is an estimated number of children per group: Toddlers- 10 children; Transition- 12 children; Preschool 1- 12 children; Preschool 2- 17 children. I will update the numbers in the February newsletter.

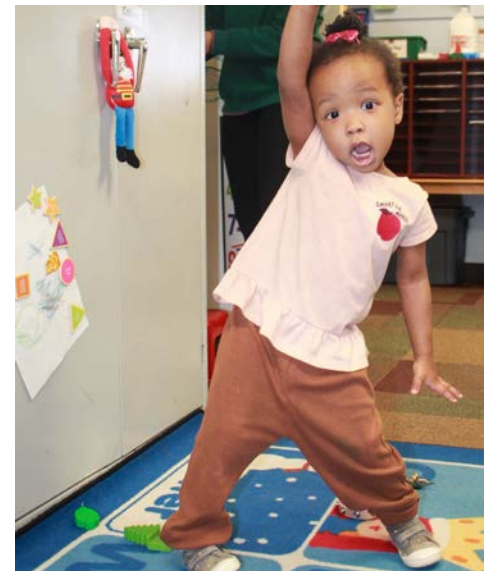
Reminder that the teacher assistants' schedules have changed for the spring semester and their work hours may be different. We said good-bye to some assistant teachers who have graduated or moved. We wish them all the best!

Please remember to keep us updated on any changes that have taken place regarding your class schedule, emergency information, new address, phone numbers or e-mail addresses. Also, please remember to inform us if your child has had any recent immunizations. This includes COVID-19 and Flu vaccinations. We greatly appreciate your assistance with keeping your child's file current. Thank you.

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...

**"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."
-Martin Luther King, Jr.**



Important Dates

JANUARY

UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

1- New Years Day - Happy 2023!

3 - UNO & UNOCCC REOPEN;

J-Term Begins

4 - National Spaghetti Day

8 - Bubble Bath Day

13 - National Rubber Duckie Day

16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day;

CENTER CLOSED

22 - Lunar New Year

23 - Spring Semester Begins

27 - Chocolate Cake Day

31 - Inspire Your Heart With Art Day

FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 - Groundhog's Day

4 - National Eat Ice Cream For
Breakfast Day

12 - Super Bowl Sunday!

**14 - Valentine's Day &
Classroom Parties!**

20 - President's Day

21 - Mardi Gras

22 - Ash Wednesday

26 - Tell A Fairy Tale Day

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 - CHARLIE C.

7 - BRETT G.

12 - BELL M.S.

13 - MS. RYLEE

16 - KRISTINE W.

17 - ELVA S.

18 - JACK H.

18 - MISS ALLISON

19 - OPAL S.

21 - SUTTON S.

22 - MIA R.

25 - ROSE T.

29 - KYZA L.

31 - STONEY A.





MAVERICK BABY NEWS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEDEIROS FAMILY (JOE, KENZI, MURENA, MERCEDES, JAMESON, JACOBY) ON THE BIRTH OF...

JOVANNI JOSEPH
MEDEIROS
BORN DECEMBER 12, 2022
7 POUNDS, 9 OUNCES
20.5 INCHES



Scholastic Book Orders

Book Orders for this month will be due on **Friday, January 20.**

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 (and through our center account), Scholastic also sends free books and educational materials to the center for use in our classrooms!

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 center's code: **GKXFX**. This is the center account under "Dawn Hove". Please make sure you are using this account, or your order will not be processed. You will be able to pay online using a card through Scholastic's website. Happy reading!

Book Recommendations

Happy New Year! Take some time this month to explore the traditions of celebrating New Years in a variety of different capacities and cultures by checking out our book recommendations!

"The Night Before New Years" by Natasha Wing (*Traditional New Year*)

"Happy New Year, Spot!" by Eric Hill (*Traditional New Year*)

"Bringing In The New Year" by Grace Lin (*Lunar New Year*)

"Freedom Soup" by Tami Charles (*Haitian New Year Celebrations*)

"Felíz New Year, Ava Gabriela!" by Alexandra Alessandri (*Colombian New Years Celebrations*)

"Shanté Keys and the New Year's Peas" by Gail Piernas-Davenport (*Southern New Years Traditions & More!*)

"Every Month is a New Year: Celebrations Around the World" by Marilyn Singer and Susan L. Roth (*a great picture book showcasing New Year's celebrations across cultures- even those that don't happen in January!*)

C.H.A.M.P.S

C.H.A.M.P.S is working hard at planning a parent informational event- Keep checking back for more information!

Contact Teacher Ky or Miss Megan for questions!

Tuition Updates

In order to provide the best possible educational environment or your children, the UNO Child Care Center must raise tuition rates. Beginning January 1, 2023, the following tuition rates will go into effect:

Student Tuition Rates

Full-Time Weekly Rates

Toddlers/Transition \$230.00

Preschool/School-age \$210.00

Part-Time Toddler/Transition Rates

2 Days per Week (Tues/Thurs) \$106.00

3 Days per Week (Mon/Wed/Fri) \$159.00

Daily Rate \$53.00

Part-time Preschool/School-age Rates

2 Days per Week (Tues/Thurs) \$96.00

3 Days per Week (Mon/Wed/Fri) \$144.00

Daily Rate \$48.00

Faculty, Staff & Community Tuition Rates

Full-Time Weekly Rates

Toddler/Transition \$242.00

Preschool/School-age \$222.00

Part-time Toddler/Transition Rates

2 Days per Week (Tues/Thurs) \$112.00

3 Days per Week (Mon/Wed/Fri) \$168.00

Daily Rate \$56.00

Part-time Preschool/School-age Rates

2 Days per Week (Tues/Thurs) \$102.00

3 Days per Week (Mon/Wed/Fri) \$153.00

Daily Rate \$51.00

*Please Note: A Summer Activity Fee will still be required for all enrolled Preschool & School Aged children



CHECK OUT THESE
SNAPSHOTS FROM THIS
YEAR'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY
PROGRAM!



Talks with Toddler 1 & 2

Toddler 1 Lead Teacher - Effie Swinarski

Toddler 2 Lead Teacher - Fred Abram

Toddler 2 Assistant Lead Teacher - Lizzie Parker

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the spring semester and 2023! We are looking forward to a fun-filled January.

The toddler staff are working to provide activities that can be done at home in case of inclement weather. We want to make sure that our families stay busy and happy during these winter months.

Thank you to our families for the holiday gifts and treats. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Parent Reminders:

- Make sure you are providing a change of clothes, including socks and shoes in your child's backpack.
- We will try to play outside if the weather allows us to. Please provide all the clothing that your toddler will need to do so.
- Please bring in a container of diaper wipes for the month of January.

"Time spent playing with children is never wasted" - Dawn Lantero

-Miss Effie, Mr. Fred, Miss Lizzie, and the Toddler Teachers

Toddlers January

Theme:

Transportation

Letters: M, N, O

Numbers: 10 & 11

Color: White

Shape: Diamond



Time With Transition

Lead Teacher - Allison French

Happy New Year Transition Families!

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break. We would like to welcome all our new friends from Toddler 2. This semester, Aurora, Mckinley, Rylee, Dylan, Jacoby, and Dawson have joined our class. We look forward to watching them learn and grow over the semester!

Family Reminders:

With our new friends tubbies and coat hooks moved over by our classroom, this is a great opportunity for all our Transition friends to be checking their tubbies and backpacks for extra clothes. Please take a moment to ensure your child has extra weather-appropriate clothing and shoes in case of spills or accidents. Additionally, please make sure you are checking your child's daily sheet so you can stay up to date on what is happening in the Transition room. We also use the sheet to send home reminders of things your child may need, like diapers or clothes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email or during my scheduled hours at the center. My email is anjohnson@unomaha.edu.

Let's have a great 2023!

-Miss Allison and the Transition Teachers



Transition's January Themes: Winter Weather and Safe/Healthy Choices

Water, Snow, & Ice

Nutrition & Exercise

Safe Choices and Helping Others

Letters: L, M, N

Numbers: 12, 13

Color: Blue

Shape: Diamond

Preschool 1 Pals

Lead Teacher - Ky Jackson

Happy New Year, P1 Families!

Welcome to the 2023 Spring Semester! I hope you all had an amazing holiday season and start to the new year. I am so excited for another semester full of learning, fun, and watching my P1 friends grow!

A special welcome to our new friends- Carly, Henry, Eli, Kai, and Gael- who have officially joined Preschool 1 from Transition! They are a great addition to our classroom, and we are overjoyed to have them.

Here are a few reminders for the start of the new year!

- **Breakfast is served each morning from 8A.M.-8:30A.M.**- If you would like your child to eat breakfast, please have them here prior to 8:30A.M.
- **P1 eats lunch daily at 11:30A.M., and begins nap time at 12:30P.M.** In P1, children eat family style- Which means they are serving themselves! During nap time, each child is asked to rest quietly (but is not required to sleep), giving our friends an opportunity to nap and relax during our busy days.
- **Teacher Ky's favorite hobby is sending long emails**- Please make sure you are checking your email frequently to stay up-to-date on all center & P1 news!
- Soon, the weather will begin getting warm enough to go outside again (yay!)- **Please make sure your child has a coat at school** in order to participate in outdoor play.
- **Please make sure you are checking your child's coat hooks and mailboxes** daily, as well as **tubbies weekly**, to take home items not needed at school!

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at kyliejackson@unomaha.edu, text me at (402) 871-1506, or call the center anytime!

-Teacher Ky & the P1 Wranglers



P1's January Themes:

Happy New Year, Snowy Fun, Winter Animals, Feelings & Emotions, Groundhog's Day

Letters: M, N, O

Numbers: 13 & 14

Color: Black & Gray

Shape: Star



Preschool 2 News & Views

Lead Teacher - Megan Liu

Happy New Year!

I can't believe how fast 2022 came and went, now it's 2023 and it feels like lots of new and exciting things are going to happen in Preschool 2.

Change is coming in the New Year to Preschool 2, starting with naptime. Naptime will be shortened to 45 minutes for late January until mid-February, it will then switch to 30 minute rest time from mid-February until mid-March and eventually will be shortened to 15 minutes. Nap time will then become quiet time starting in April. For those parents who would like their child to still rest, please email me and let me know.

Also beginning in January, handwriting and site words will become more prevalent in the classroom. Every week a site word list will be sent home with words to practice as well as a 5 minute letter activity. I will also be sending home an information sheet that needs to be filled out with the full name of each child, the phone numbers that are used at home, and their home address. This will allow teachers to work with your child on learning these crucial pieces of information! These and many more activities to follow as we head into 2023.

If you have any questions, please email me at mmliu@unomaha.edu or text me at (402) 960-2416 (texting me will usually get a faster response AND I can send you cute pictures of your tiny humans sporadically throughout the day.) I look forward to 2023 and all the fun it will bring!!!

Thanks for all you do,

-Miss Megan & the Staff of Preschool 2



Policies & Procedures

ANTI-BIAS PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The University of Nebraska–Omaha Child Care Center is committed to providing children with the right to equitable learning opportunities that help them grow and achieve their full potential as engaged learners and valued members of society. We do this through creating a caring, equitable environment for children to learn; by building relationships with families; through assessing children's development; and by advocating on behalf of children, families and the early childhood profession.

Anti-bias curriculum is a process to help children develop and strengthen their self and group identities, while interacting respectfully with others in a multi-cultural environment. Staff guides children to think critically about unfairness and to stand up for themselves and others in the face of bias. The anti-bias approach is a strategy that values diversity and challenges bias, rather than ignoring and therefore reinforcing children's misunderstandings of differences. We strive to balance our unique institutional culture with the individual cultural interests of each family served. Respect for the centers' diverse community is reflected in the curriculum, classroom, environments, parent/teacher/child interactions, staff development, hiring plans and program goals.

As stated in the National Association for the Education of Young Children's "Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education" Position Statement,

(which can be read in its entirety here: <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/equity>)

"Advancing the full inclusion of all individuals across all social identities will take sustained efforts far **beyond those of early childhood educators alone**. When early childhood educators use inclusive teaching approaches, they demonstrate that they respect diversity and value all children's strengths."

"The following general recommendations in ways to advance equity within our children apply to everyone involved in any aspect of early childhood education:

- 1) Build awareness and understanding of your culture, personal beliefs, values, and biases.
- 2) Recognize the power and benefits of diversity and inclusion.
- 3) Take responsibility for biased actions, even if unintended, and actively work to repair the harm.
- 4) Acknowledge and seek to understand structural inequities and their impact over time.
- 5) View your commitment to cultural responsiveness as an ongoing process.
- 6) Recognize that the professional knowledge base is changing."



Parent Corner

FOUR SOCIAL SKILLS THAT CAN TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT EQUITY BASED ON MLK'S IDEALS



Here's how to get started teaching kids to value differences, fairness, imagination and empathy, which can help them understand equity and justice so they can practice them later in life.

In his stirring *"I Have a Dream Speech"* at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin..." At the time, his four little children were 7, 5, 2, and 5 months old. King and his wife Coretta Scott King were activists who led from their ethical and spiritual beliefs, as well as from their experience and dreams as parents.

In *"Letter from a Birmingham Jail,"* King wrote about the moment their eldest daughter, Yolanda, asked to go to a local amusement park: "You suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your 6-year-old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes that Funtown is closed to colored children." In explaining to their young daughter why they could not take her to the amusement park, they also reiterated the importance of their activism: "You're not able to go now, but Daddy's working on it, and one day we will be able to go."

Just as Martin and Coretta King found the words to explain to their children the inequities that barred them from engaging in every part of life they deserved and desired, parents and caregivers today must still have similar conversations with children due to persistent injustice and discrimination. Educator, parent and founder of Parenting for Liberation, Trina Greene Browne advises, "When a fertile conversation topic presents itself, it's important to plant a seed. And be mindful that it's just that – a seed. Our children will, for the most part not be fully blooming with understanding after one or even several conversations. It has to be watered and nourished over time." Parents and caregivers can plant and water the seeds of early development social skills that grow children's critical understanding of the world and their power to change it.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND VALUING DIFFERENCES

It is natural for young children to use concrete descriptions to point out physical attributes. Psychologist Beverly Daniel Tatum notes "Children as young as 3 do notice physical differences such as skin color ... [yet many] adults do not know how to respond when children make race-related observations ... Children who have been silenced often enough learn not to talk about race publicly. Their questions don't go away, they just go unasked."

Their own observations present opportunities to impart positive reinforcement of the differences they notice. Master teacher and educator Gloria Ladson-Billings discourages statements such as, "I don't really see color, I just see children," or "I don't care if they're red, green, or polka dot, I just treat them all like children." Pretending not to see children's racial and ethnic differences results in not seeing the children at all, she says. By addressing differences, adults can help affirm differences and dissuade negative judgments, stereotypes and treatment because of them.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children offers ideas for teaching young children to resist bias. Tips include to share books that reflect diversity and images not often presented in mainstream culture, and to learn from conversation tools such as the "PBS Kids Talk About Race and Racism" video. "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood" also offers episodes that demonstrate the value of differences. Teaching kids to embrace differences can help them resist bias and become inclusive global citizens as they get older.



Parent Corner

SHARING AND FAIRNESS

In Browne's book *"Parenting for Liberation: A Guide for Raising Black Children,"* professor and mother Tiffany Lanoix shares, "You can make any kind of conversation about equality more relatable ... by connecting it to the idea of fairness."

In his children's book *"My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,"* King's son Martin Luther King III writes about he and his siblings enduring discrimination, and insults based on it, as children. The book has several encounters, especially involving where and how they were allowed to play, that can introduce questions with children about fairness, such as, "Do you think it was fair that some kids were allowed to go to the amusement park and some were not?" The *"Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood"* episode on sharing can be also used to discuss the importance of sharing when someone else does not have the same resources.

Parents and caregivers can learn more about the historic civil rights movements and continued movements for equity and justice by watching documentaries like *"Many Rivers to Cross"* and learning from other parents' experiences in translating these concepts to children. Teaching children about fairness plants a seed that can later be expanded to discuss racism, classism and other issues of inequity.

NURTURING IMAGINATION

King understood that racism and social justice were products of the imagination. Parents and caregivers can provide children with tools and experiences that expand their imagination and engagement with the world around them. Read stories that reflect positive images of themselves and others, and tell histories outside of their own personal or educational experiences. Poet Langston Hughes wrote many poems with the recurring theme of dreams; share poems like "Dream Variations" or "Dreams" and develop a poem with your children about the world they dream.

Use the concept of a vision board to create a collective dream board. Cut out pictures or words from magazines or have them draw their own pictures of what they would like to see in their community, city and world. Collage or cut and paste these images on a large piece of paper or poster board. Use the collective dream board to plan activities to support their vision. Create a dream with young children and reap the benefit of their vast imagination of what the world is and could be.

HAVING EMPATHY AND COMPASSION

King's words encouraged empathy for the injustices Black people faced. The Civil Rights Movement changed segregation laws and ultimately allowed the King family to enjoy a trip to the amusement park that their children imagined. Empathy and compassion motivated others to see how these issues affected the larger society and to become involved in the movement.

Parents and caregivers can make it a practice to cultivate kindness and compassion with children. Children can also relate to caring for friends and wanting them to be treated with fairness. Explore the story of Ruby Bridges (at 6 years old, Bridges became the first Black student to integrate an all-White elementary school in the South) and what they would do if she was their friend. The *"Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood"* episode on friendship and the story *"Freedom Summer"* demonstrate how friends offer empathy, care and help in facing problems. Many books about King's life and leadership, including *"Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King,"* display the connection between empathy and activism. These resources can also help in talking to children who may have asked about recent marches and protests about the importance of activism in our society.

Books such as *"Last Stop on Market Street"* and *"City Green"* can guide questions about helping neighbors and community. Take your children on a walk and talk about what they see.

The resources here offer a few tools and ideas for utilizing children's developing social skills to teach about equity and activism. After reading one of the Langston Hughes dream poems to my daughters, I asked them about their dreams and what they wish to be. My 4 year-old said, "I want to be everything I want to be." As parents and caregivers, let's fight for the world where our children can be everything they want to be.