Hello CDL families!

I hope everyone had some time for some R&R during Spring Break! Now we need to focus on the home stretch with the last half of the semester! We are finally starting to feel a little bit of spring around here.

April is going to be a busy month for the CDL. We have Week of the Young Child (WOYC) quickly approaching. The teachers have been busy planning for special activities and events throughout this week. On Monday, April 11, the practicum students will be hosting the CDL Family Night at 5:00 p.m. Flyers for this event have gone out and we hope many of you can attend. As a special treat, families are invited to attend lunch on Tuesday, April 12 at 11:30 a.m. for Taco Tuesday! The CDL will also be hosting a Children’s Book Drive as well during WOYC. Used and new children’s book donations will be graciously accepted, and donated to the children at Hope Haven in DeKalb. We would like to take this week to provide a service connection to the families and children in the DeKalb community. And also, don’t forget the traditional CDL Parade! We will be staging around 10:00 am and then heading out! Please feel free to join if you are able.

Finally in April, our two ITT classrooms will be holding their parent conferences (Preschool is in May). I highly encourage you to sign up for a parent conference! This is a wonderful opportunity for our practicum students to get critical experience in conducting a parent conference; expanding their growth and development as future early childhood professionals.

As we near the end of our semester, we will sadly be saying goodbye to 2 of our Graduate Assistants: Macy Grimm in Preschool, and Brittney Semple in ITT West. Both have been with the CDL since they were 490 students. We are all extremely proud of them as they are nearing the end of their school careers and soon will be graduating and moving on with new chapters in their lives. We thank them both for their dedication and commitment to the CDL. Elena Palomo in the Preschool room will be taking a leave during the summer, but will be returning in the fall. Replacements for those leaving will be 3 of our current 490 students who are graduating in May: ShaVonne, Christina, and Samantha D. all in ITT East.

Lastly, I would like to recap on the heating work that will be completed at the CDL. Gabel Hall is experiencing troubles with the steam heating, and the university will be installing a new heating system into the CDL to address this issue. This work is scheduled to start May 16 and run for the 4-week interim period through June 10. With this work being completed, the classrooms will need to shift so they can work on one side of the center and then the other. We will be using the naproom as a classroom during this time. I’ll keep you posted as I am able.

Thank you and have a very happy SPRING!

Lisa Schmidt
Happy April Preschool Families!

March was a really exciting and busy month for the Preschool room. We changed dramatic play to the Hair Salon. Several teachers have had their hair washed and styled. The children have been applying make-up and painting nails as well. We have continued to have a fantastic time during story time at the Literacy Center in Gabel Hall. The students are eager to read to the children and engage them in their stories.

We added car painting, and created 3D sculptures with colored peanuts by getting them slightly damp and connecting them together to our art activities. Some of these creations were caterpillars and flowers.

We are excited about Week of the Young Child. Stay tuned for more information. Miranda and Maria start lead teaching April 11th!

We want to give a warm welcome to some new friends in the classroom. We have Amirah and Yizhen (Jenny), who are new friends in our classroom and Chandler, who will be transitioning over from ITT West.

Sincerely,
Kristi, Jamie, Macy, & Elena

WOYC Reminders
Please bring in a white T-shirt for your child to have decorated and email Kristi your career photo and paragraph about your career for the classroom book we are making. Thanks!

Amirah
Jenny
Chandler

Emily
Welcome to Spring ITT WEST families!

Hope everyone has been enjoying the nicer weather! We are coming closer to the end of the semester, so the last lead teachers are preparing for their new roles in the classroom. Raven and Kristen will be our last lead teachers of the semester. The children have been showing interest in the beach these past few weeks. So Raven and Kristen are going to expand on this interest for their lead teaching. We are very excited for the new changes in the room!

The children recently have been doing rough and ‘tumble play’ in the classroom. Preschool does a ‘big body’ activity at least once a day. We have been using their tips and tools with the ‘big body play’ this past week. “Body Crashing” is a physical gross motor activity that helps the children release built up energy in a positive way.

What are the Physical Benefits for Children?
- Gets their heart rate up.
- Stretches their limbs.
- Strengthens bones, muscles, and ligaments.
- Burns calories and children maintain a healthy weight.
- Children perform better on fitness tests.

Movement feeds oxygen, water, and glucose to the brain while sitting increases fatigue and reduces concentration. Movement prevents chronic problems like obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.

Also, our children have been thriving in their development! Our infants are using their physical development to hold up their heads, pull themselves up, and stand for long periods of time. Our toddlers are building peer relationships with their friends, teachers, and siblings. Also, our twos are learning letter recognition.

Reminders:

WOYC—Week of the Young Child is coming up! Stay tuned for further updates on what, when, and where our activities will be taking place. Family Night will also be this week too. We hope to see you all there!

Finally the weather is starting to become warmer! However, some days will still be chilly, so please bring appropriate clothing for your child. We will be going out for longer periods of time and as long as it is not raining.

Warm Wishes,

Casey, Ecila, Brittney, and Katie
The Child Development Lab is located at:

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DeKalb, IL 60115

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For more information on our program, please visit:

http://www.cdl.niu.edu

If you have any questions that are not addressed on our website please give us a call at (815) 753-1150 or e-mail us at cdl@niu.edu.

Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday
7:45 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday—Sunday
CLOSED