Hello CDL families! Happy Fall to everyone! Can it really be getting close to that time of year again....The practicum students are busy preparing for parent conferences! The dates for your child’s classroom will be posted in the classroom near your sign-in sheets. Parents are not required to sign up for a conference; however, we highly encourage you to do so. Not only are you going to be able to hear some good child development information as it relates to your child, but you will be assisting a student in their professional growth and development as they move closer to the end of their studies. I am assuming that parents who choose to have their child(ren) at a Lab school support and foster practicum student growth, and they look for ways to assist in making this a great experience for the practicum student. These students are our future early childhood professionals....and you have an important role in their professional development and can help shape their experiences every day! That’s an awesome commitment from our CDL parents!

Mark your calendars for Nov. 7—Family Night! The practicum students have been hard at work planning for this night. The night will be a pot-luck where the CDL will provide some type of main dish and parents are asked to bring sides to share. A sign-up sheet is already in your classroom! Please remember that the center closes at 5:00 and the parent program is from 5:00-6:15. All children in attendance at the parent program need to have a parent with them at all times. The teachers and interns will be busy with the night’s events and connecting with families.

Also, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving - Nov. 23th—we will be open; however, practicum students are not required to be here. We will be operating with limited staffing. There will be limited enrollment in ITT (both rooms combined), with priority going to faculty and staff families. Student families may be able to come if space is available. If you know you will not be coming on this day (and are normally scheduled), please let Denise know by Nov. 16 and she will credit your account for this day, but you must let her know by the deadline for the credit. Denise will have a sign-up sheet on the classroom doors asking if you plan, or do not plan, to attend this day.

Enjoy the rest of November, and we hope everyone has a relaxing Thanksgiving break!

Lisa Schmidt
Director for Operations
The FCNS Child Development Lab has been awarded the Family & Community Engagement Award of Excellence through ExceleRate Illinois. This award of excellence is one of five awards ExceleRate Illinois invites early childhood program to apply for. To be eligible for an Award of Excellence, the early childhood program must be a Gold Circle of Quality, must engage in a self-study and address any areas of needed quality improvements, and complete a portfolio assessment process documenting and verifying award Standards and Criteria. There are over 1,200 Gold Circle of Quality early childhood programs in Illinois; with about 10 of these programs having earned this distinctive award.

The standards articulated in this Award of Excellence point to early childhood program staff practices, attitudes, and knowledge related to working with families that research indicates are likely to positively impact family engagement and child development. When family and community partnerships are comprehensive, systemic and integrated across early childhood program foundations and practices, family and community engagement impacts are achieved resulting in children who are healthy and ready for school.

Family engagement activities are grounded in positive, ongoing interactions and relationships with families and communities. Research indicates that families have the greatest impact on their children’s development. Early childhood programs, such as the CDL, that are responsive to families and engage families in their children’s learning will have the best chance of shaping positive outcomes for children in their programs. Early childhood programs that build responsive and strength-based relationships with families may increase the likelihood of families becoming engaged in their children’s learning experiences as well as involved in the early childhood program itself.

As the director of the CDL, I could not be more proud of the CDL staff for maintaining consistently high quality environments for our families and children. The mutual professionalism, respect, and appreciation displayed among and between staff and families is second to none at the CDL. Thank you, parents, for helping to make the CDL the very special program that it is!
Greetings Families,
We have exciting news! We would like to welcome Sam’s new sister, Ellie Grace, and Caden’s new brother, Liam Kyle David, to the world. We can’t wait to meet you both! We had another successful Spirit Week! Thank you for participating. We are gearing up for our new children to begin to visit and transition from ITT during the month of November. We will be prepping the children to be helpful and welcoming as these new children become comfortable in their new environment. We had NIU nursing students, a Zumba instructor, and Dental Hygienist visit our classroom and provide learning activities for the children.

We will be having family conferences during finals week which is December 5th—9th. We will post a sign up sheet closer to that week. I know the interns are excited to meet with you. Please remember to bring extra clothes or new clothes to accommodate the changing weather. Also, label coats, hats, gloves, etc. as these smaller items tend to hide in our classroom. Please remember to place your child’s belongings in their reusable bag to prevent them from touching another child’s belongings. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Kristi, Jamie, Kat, & Sam
Greetings ITT East Families,

We are so thrilled for the month of November to start! The children have shown interest with community vehicles (i.e. garbage truck, school bus, fire truck, etc.) as well as the farm and zoo animals in our classroom. We now have a child-size armchair in our dramatic play area, the children have made themselves comfy by sitting and reading in this new addition. We are experimenting with various sensory materials in the classroom. Recently, we have made allergy-free play dough, slime, and a corn starch mixture. This type of play enhances the following areas of development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Social/Emotional Expression, and Language Development. Thank you to all of our families that stopped by our table at Stem Fest, we had so much fun!

Thank you to our second round of lead teachers Michelle and Taylor! They provided some fun activities such as, the Bean Bag Boogie, Hip Hop Exercise, Leaf and Bubble Wrap painting. For our Parent/Community involvement we went on a Campus Scavenger Hunt, looking for objects such as the Huskie by DuSable and nature items (i.e. leaves, pine cones, etc.). We had so much fun with the activities provided for the children. Next, we would like to welcome our last lead teacher Christina, we look forward to all of your awesome and innovative ideas for the upcoming weeks!

Just a few reminders for this month: Family Night is on November 7, 2016, please join us for this fun event! Parent teacher conferences will be held on November 14-18, 2016; the sign-up sheet will be posted in the classroom soon. There will be a sign-up sheet for November 23, 2016 (i.e. limited space available for each classroom). We are also closed November 24-25, 2016 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Since it is getting colder outside please bring in extra clothing and weather appropriate attire for outdoor play.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact us!

Sincerely,
Clarissa, Christy P., Natalalee & Elena
Welcome ITT West Parents,

Wow, we all can not believe it is already November! Let’s recap this past months activities, goals, and development.

First we want to thank our second round of Lead Teachers, Eva and Marihannah for having a fun and creative **Parent Community Involvement**. Our families were invited to paint a picture frame with their child and place a family photo in the frame. We had a great turn out and very colorful and creative frames! You can see the frames hanging in the classroom this month. Also, Leigha will be our last lead teacher of the semester. We are looking forward to her activities and stay tuned for her Parent Community Involvement!

Secondly, we want to thank everyone who participated in **Stem Fest**! We saw many familiar CDL faces that visited and explored the ITT booth. The staff had created sensory bags for the children to work on their **hand-eye coordination, color-letter & number sorting, and categorizing objects**. Sensory bags are a great way to have children manipulate objects in a safe way along with helping reduce stress and regaining focus. We also had Emotion Sensory Bottles that helped the children identify their own and others feelings.

**How to make Sensory bags/bottles:** 1) open a plastic bag/bottle, 2) squeeze in some hair gel and 3) drop some small items of your child’s interest into the bag. You can reinforce the zipper seal with some packing tape for added security.

**Reminders:**

- Please provide weather appropriate clothes for the changing weather.
- **11/7:** Family Night 5pm
- There will be a sign-up sheet for Nov. 23—limited space available.
- **11/24-11/25:** CLOSED for Thanksgiving
- **11/28-12/2:** Parent Teacher Conferences

Warm Wishes,

Casey, Ecila, Krysten, and Christina
The Child Development Lab is located at:

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Gabel Hall 169 & 170
DeKalb, IL 60115

Our mailing address is:

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Northern Illinois University
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(815) 752-0023

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