Hello CDL families! It has already been a busy start to our summer semester at the CDL. We said goodbye to all our spring practicum students on May 12, and welcomed a new batch of students on May 18th! There have been some transitions at the center with our students, children leaving for the summer, and we will have new families as well!

This summer we have 10 practicum students - all who are working really hard at learning the CDL routines, the children, and establishing a relationship with their primary parents. You will start to see next week our students ‘taking the lead’ in the classrooms and lead teaching. They are very excited, and a little anxious, as they plan for this very important practicum experience! During the summer, we will not be asking parents to complete an ASQ nor will we be holding parent conferences. We will resume these activities again in the fall.

We are pleased to welcome 3 new Assistant Teachers to the CDL: Magaly Rojas in ITT West; Megan Franz in ITT West; and Erin Collins in Preschool. We are so proud of these recent CDL graduates and couldn’t be more thrilled with them joining our team! Welcome!

Mark your calendars for our Family Night on Monday, July 10 at 5:00! The practicum students will start planning for this special event in a couple weeks and we are looking forward to what they will have in store for us! We appreciate parent support and participation during our Family Nights. The students spend a lot of time planning for and preparing for this night; they always work so hard at making this a great family event.

Lastly, the CDL was the recipient of the ExceleRate Award of Excellence for Family and Community Engagement at a celebration during the McCormick National Early Childhood Leadership Conference on May 17, 2017 presented by Gail Nelson, Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Policy Director from the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development. There are 1,300 Gold Circle of Quality early childhood programs in Illinois including licensed child centers, licensed home child care programs, and Preschool For All programs; with 26 of these programs having earned this award. We’ll have to find a good spot to hang it in the CDL!

Lisa Schmidt
Director for Operations
Greetings Families!

We are excited to have our summer interns Kayla, Danielle, and Megan with us. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Felicity, Elijah and Emory at the end of interim. We wish them and their families the best. We are so thankful for the time we had with them. Also, Emilia and Archie will be returning for the summer semester. We will also be welcoming a few children new to the CDL. We are looking forward to them joining our classroom. We would like to thank Addy for the snail for our fish tank. His name is Jivver.

The interns have been busy setting up emergent experiences and creating materials out of donated recyclable materials. Danielle used the tires to provide children an appropriate outlet for throwing and used the tire holes as a target. The campsite has been used frequently as well as the space gear.

Please remember to bring extra clothes for the warmer weather, swim wear, water bottles, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

Sincerely,
Kristi, Jamie, Kat, & Erin

Sam is aiming and throwing a ball with the intent of it landing inside the circle of the tires lined up on our playground. Charlee looks on ready to accept the challenge.

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Sam and Addy are fishing using homemade fishing poles and fish inside the boat at the campsite.

Charlee and Caden sleeping in the tent with their lanterns, sleeping mats, and blankets.

Chandler is using our homemade grills to make smores with graham crackers and chocolate squares made out of cardboard.
Greetings East Families,

We are excited to “kick start” this summer semester and thrilled to see what it has in store for us! We would like to welcome our four new practicum students and are anxious to see what creative things they will bring into the classroom. We would like to welcome our first lead teacher Genesis Vega she will begin in early June. We are curious to see the fun and exciting activities she will provide for our classroom! Please stop by to join us during group time and for our Parent Community Involvement, which will take place on June 21, 2017 at 10:15 a.m. Genesis is inviting musicians to play for our classroom!

We have been taking full advantage with this sunny weather which promotes a ton of outdoor gross motor time! We’ve been taking many walks to the hill next to DuSable Hall, the MLK Commons and the fountains near the East Lagoon. In our dramatic play area we had a Pizza Shop, which the children were engaged in cooking, dressing up and carrying around bags of food. In the gross motor area the children practiced tossing balls in our basketball hoop.

The children have been fully engaged with running around our playground, taking care of our garden and riding the bikes! Along with that, the children have been engrossed in having our emergent experiences on our playground, they were truly engaged in the, “The Bear Hunt”.

Reminders: The weather has been cooperating and we have had some drop offs on the playground. We will continue to do this as long as the weather is warm enough in the mornings. A sign will always be posted on the main door when we decide to do so. Please remember to provide appropriate clothing in your child’s cubbies as the weather continuous to fluctuate. Along with that, we would like to have some water play on the playground as much as possible. Please bring the following items for your child: Bathing suit, safe shoes (water shoes), towel, and a water bottle.

Best,

Clarissa, Christy P., Nat, and Elena
Hello West families,

We are very excited to start the summer semester and we are happy to have three new interns for our classroom. They are happy to be here for the summer and are eager to learn in their practicum experience. Beginning on June 5th, Cindy will be our lead teacher for three weeks. We have heard some of her plans for her lead teaching, and we are excited to have them implemented in the classroom.

West is also excited to welcome two returning interns from this past spring semester. Magaly, a West intern alum and Megan, an East intern alum will be returning. We are excited to have them join our classroom as assistant teachers.

We have been taking advantage of all of the beautiful weather we have been having and playing on our playground or going for walks. We have seen a lot of construction sites around NIU and we’ve stopped to observe. When visiting our East friends, we are able to see a tall crane working on the Stevens Building. We have also seen construction across from Cole Hall, near Holmes Student Center that we have stopped to look at. We’ve read a lot of books about different construction vehicles and we have been able to see front loaders, excavators, cement mixers, and backhoes at these various construction sites.

Sincerely,

Krysten, Ecila, Magaly, Megan, Tena
Summer Fun—BUBBLES!

One of the most fun summertime activities children enjoy doing is blowing bubbles! Bubbles are so exciting and the children never lose interest in them. Here is a bubble recipe to share with you to make your own homemade bubbles in “bulk” to keep on hand for the beautiful summer days of playing outside.

**Bubble Recipe**
- 2 Cups dishwashing soap
- 6 cups water
- ¾ Cup light corn syrup

Mix all ingredients and shake. Allow mixture to sit for a few hours. Pour bubble mixture into plastic dishpans or large shallow pans. This mixture bubbles easily and makes strong bubbles that last long enough for children to see the colors. Be careful of slippery areas around bubbles. Some bubble makers you can use along with the traditional wands: embroidery hoops, fly swatters, large plastic lids with centers removed. Enjoy making your bubble solution again and again this summer.

For ITT Parents:

**Little Steps: Parent & Play Group**
4th Monday monthly 10:30—12 noon
4-C Training Center
Basement Level at
155 N. Third Street, DeKalb

Little Steps: Parent & Play Group
A monthly opportunity connecting you and your child to others going through the challenges of the first three years of life.
Activities are designed to help you take little steps towards:
- Stimulating language development
- Teaching problem solving skills
- Promoting physical development
- Getting you through toddler tantrums

*Call Bethany at 815-758-8149, ext. 249 or email bethanym@four-c.org for more information.*