

Health & Human Sciences, NIU
School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences
Wirtz 118



February 2009
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Dear Families;

The National Association for the Education of Young Children is sponsoring Week of the Young Child, April 20-24th. Week of the Young Child was first established in 1971 to recognize the importance of the early years as laying the foundation for children's future success.

The staff is brainstorming ideas to celebrate this event and bring the community together as this year's theme is Bring Communities Together for Children. One event that has been decided is a yard sale for the CDL. The sale will be held on April 25th. Start spring cleaning early and bring in any items you would like to donate for our sale. Details as far as time and location are to be determined. Money raised from the sale will go towards purchasing new materials and supplies for our program. Drop off dates for donated items are Feb 20th, March 20th, and April 17th. Amy Lofthouse, Child Development Supervisor in preschool, is the chair for this event. Any questions or ideas can be addressed to her.

Emily Reilly
ereilly@niu.edu

Important Information!

- ✓ Remember to change your child's extra clothing for the colder weather.
- ✓ Thank you all for your continued support!
- ✓ Please remember to update your child's emergency contact card.

Upcoming dates to remember at the CDL:

Parent Advisory Board
February 20th
Family Night:
March 31st

Community News:

Sycamore Kindergarten Registration Dates

Feb 11th 1-8p

Feb 12th 8-3p

4-C Parenting Series

Topics include: child growth and development, communication, fostering positive self esteem and more.

Contact: Ester at 815-758-8149 ext 237 for more information

ITT West News


Happy February! We are very excited in the ITT West classroom to report that Laurel Slack has officially been offered the position of Child Development Supervisor. Laurel will start in her new position in mid-February. Laurel has a long history with the CDL, having completed her practicum in the summer of 2006 and becoming a GA in 2007. She is currently pursuing her MS in Early Childhood Education with 04 teacher certification. She is excited to officially join the team and continue to further her knowledge regarding child development.

In classroom news, the first pair of lead teachers began teaching this week. Kara and Nicole will be managing the classroom for the next three weeks by planning activities for the children and will be planning weekly parent/community involvement activities. We can't wait to see what they have planned for us!

We are anxious for the coming spring months and very excited for days that are warm enough to step outside. We are hopeful that in the coming weeks those days will become more frequent!

Paul and Laurel

Preschool News

Hi everyone, 

Hope everyone is making out o.k. in this bitter cold. The preschool is quite busy these days. Last week was Group Lead Teaching week. They did a great job! A CDL Café was set up in the dramatic play area. The children have been serving up great meals. Shelli, manager at Panera, came in for a visit to discuss breads and bagels. She brought in several types of bagels for a great snack.

We have been exploring snow in our media table. This has brought about a lot of interesting discussion. The children's comments are posted on document boards around the room for you to read. We have had several parents come in for great cooking experiences. If you would like to come in to share a story, cooking experience, music, or a talent with the children, please let your primary know. We'd love to have you.

The groundhog saw his shadow, so the warm weather may not come for a while. Please make sure your child has the necessary clothing for outdoor play. We will go out when the weather permits.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at 815-753-1150.

The Preschool Staff

ITT East News

Hello Families!

It is very nice to have a full classroom again! This semester we are really working on and encouraging the children to have positive social interactions with each other. We are encouraging the children to play together, as well being gentle with each other. If another child tries to take a toy, we encourage the children to use their language skills and tell their friends “mine”. This helps the children learn that they cannot take things from others and encourages turn taking. We have also been promoting social interactions through our group times. During group time we read short stories, participate in group activities, and move to music. The children’s interest and skills are highlighted through the activities that are planned for group time.

The older children have been showing their independence in the classroom. They have been helping do simple chores and tasks in the classroom. The children see the staff cleaning the tables frequently and often come over to help. After seeing how interested the children were in cleaning, we added ‘pretend’ spray bottles and rags to our dramatic play area. The older toddlers and twos have also taken great interest in caring for the infants in our classroom. We encourage the children that are interested to help care for the infants in our classroom. (The children assist the staff by helping to feed the infants, helping to hold bottles, and bring the infants toys.)

Nicci (AM) and Katie (PM) will be our first set of lead teachers. They will be planning for the class and leading the activities in the classroom. We are looking forward to the new ideas and activities that they will be bringing in the classroom.

ITT East Staff

Melissa & Sarah