

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



September 2009
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Dear Families;

I hope all of you have had a smooth start to the new semester. The student teachers are continuing to work hard building trusting relationships with you and your child(ren). In the early years, children learn through exploration of their immediate environment. In order for children to feel comfortable exploring their environment, it is essential for the child to have established trusting relationships with the important adults in their lives. As children get older, typically in the toddler years, they tend to become more independent and with the support of positive adults in their lives, they try to do more things on their own. As children start preschool, initiative becomes very important. Throughout all of these developmental phases, trusting relationships is key.

The CDL will be working on various projects and program improvements this year. We continue to be in the self study phase of the reaccreditation process. During self study, the program looks at a variety of early childhood standards. These include leadership and management, health and safety, curriculum, teachers, teaching, relationships, family and community, assessment of child progress, and physical environment. Some of the program improvements you might be hearing more about later in the year include strategic planning, adapting a developmentally appropriate assessment of children's growth and development, updating of classroom furniture, and seeking funding for phase II and phase III of the preschool renovation project.

The CDL and our accrediting body (NAEYC) value the importance of relationships in the learning process. Due to this, the classroom teachers are dedicated to giving families an opportunity to become involved in your child's(ren's) classroom. As we continually work towards improving our practices, we will focus on how to partner with families throughout the year. On the right hand column, you will find a list of dates for our parent advisory board meetings. Please join us and share your ideas and suggestions to the board, as well as get to know other families in the program.

Hope to see you there.

Emily Reilly
ereilly@niu.edu

Schedule Fall 2009

My schedule this semester is a little inconsistent due to my teaching schedule. Below you will find the times I will be at the CDL.

MWF 8:15-9:15

T 9-2:15p

TH 11a-2:30p

Important Information!

- ✓ A photocopy of your child's birth certificate is needed to meet licensing requirements
- ✓ Please return food program enrollment form and household eligibility form
- ✓ Update emergency contact cards

Important Dates

CDL Fall Closure Dates:

September 7th

November 26th & 27th

December 24th-31st

Parent Advisory Board

Dates

September 18th

October 16th

November 20th

All meetings are held in the learning center from 11-12

ITT West News

Welcome Parents –

We have managed to survive the first weeks of school – new teachers, new students, lots of new faces. Life has settled down now and the children are more comfortable with the classroom and our routines.

We have found that our children love to have their pictures taken and love to take pictures themselves, so we brought in cameras. This led to some very fancy dress up, which took us to places such as Grandma's, McDonalds and many trips to Walmart! We also had to figure out ways to get to all these places and so our couch and chair became a car and we even had a boat for some voyages across the river, sea, lake-dependending on exactly where we were going.

We had our first cooking experience of the semester with Tiffany. The children all had a hand in putting together Taco Dip. It was a great hit!! The class will be cooking once a week and family input is always appreciated. Please tell us about your child's favorite food, or even a special family treat, and we'll gladly include it in our cooking times. You are even welcome to come in and prepare it yourself (with help from the children, of course) Just let us know.

I would like to welcome two new friends to our classroom. Keira and Alexa have joined us and are fitting in very well with the routines and even more important, their primaries. We are also getting ready to have our students begin their lead teaching experience. Mercy (a.m.) and Kourtney (p.m.) will start on September 14 and continue for three weeks. During this time they are responsible for the curriculum planning and managing of the classroom. All of us will be there to help and support their efforts. I am sure that all of the students will learn a tremendous amount during this time

So with a wondering sense of the world, deep breath and sense of humor ITT West enters the month of September.

Veronica and the ITT West Staff

Preschool News

Hello Families,

I know that I say it every time, but it is hard to believe that it is September already! We are in full swing and having a great time. We have welcomed a lot of new faces into our classroom and we are having a lot of fun learning and playing with C.J., T.J, MaKayla, Cayenne, and Raegan.

We are getting ready for Denise and Dustin to begin their lead teaching. We wish them the best as they are both excited, but nervous. Euneta and I have been talking a lot about pets and animals these past few weeks. As many of you already know, our classroom pet Hamlet passed away. The children have asked for a new classroom pet, and we would like to adopt a pet from the TAILS Humane Society. We have been brainstorming ways with the children on how we can make enough money to adopt a new pet. We came up with possibly having a farmers market and selling our crops that we worked so hard on this past summer. The children are very excited and have already asked what animal we will get next. Some of their responses when asked were: a camel (with one hump), fish, a bunny, a butterfly, a turtle, a kitty, a hamster and a snake. Euneta and I will be contacting TAILS to hopefully have someone come and visit us and let us know what pets are adoptable. Then from there we will decide on a new classroom pet. Euneta and I are also trying to put together a weekend field trip to TAILS, to pick out the classroom pet together as a class. Stay tuned for details regarding this trip.

We have posted the family questionnaires in the classroom and the children are enjoying looking at them. If your family has not brought in your questionnaire, please do so, as we want everyone represented in our classroom.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask!

Have a great month!
Amy & Euneta

ITT East News

Hello Families!

First of all, we would like to welcome some new faces in the ITT East classroom. We would like to say welcome to Aisha, Teagan, Delia, and Lucinda! Our goal is to work closely with families to help the transition from home to school to be smooth and comforting. For most children it is comforting to have a family picture or pictures that remind them of home. By having the pictures in the classroom, we have seen the children engage others in conversation about their family and pets. We have also noticed that the children use the pictures to soothe themselves when they are upset or sad. We would like to have a family picture for each child. You can bring a picture in for us to laminate or email a picture to sninis1@niu.edu.



With the addition of new infants to the classroom, we have seen an increased interest in babies and caring for others. We have recently changed around our dramatic play to add in more items related to caring for dolls and others. We have also been incorporating the interest in babies into our table activities and other classroom activities. Through play the children are able to practice many emerging skills such as dressing, feeding, and caring for the dolls.

Well, it feels as though summer seems to have left and fall is around the corner! With the changing weather make sure to update the children's cubby with weather appropriate clothing. Some of the children in the classroom are also noticing the changes in weather. Most recently they have become interested in rainy weather. We have been talking with the children about how the rain helps plants and flowers to grow. Through discussion with the children we found out that many of the children were interested in the type of clothing that we wear in the rain. Many of the children showed others their rain boots and jackets. Through lesson planning we will work to incorporate the children's interest in rain in the classroom. We will share more next month with how this interest has progressed.

Starting September 14th the students will begin their lead teaching. The lead teachers will be planning and teaching for three weeks at a time. During this time they will be observing and planning based off the interest of the children and knowledge of what is developmentally appropriate. Our first set of lead teachers will be Derisha (morning) and Beata (afternoon). We are excited for the students to begin planning and implementing their activities in the classroom.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to let us know!

Sarah & Melissa

