Hello CDL families! We have been off to a great start this spring semester. The new practicum students have really jumped into their roles and have been busy learning the routines and practices at the CDL. Prior to the semester beginning, the students were here for a 2-day orientation. During this time, the students were able to connect in the classroom with learning the safety, supervision, health, and mealtime protocols; as well as, getting to the know many of the children, staff, and parents.

On Friday, January 12 the CDL hosted a Family Open House in the morning. This was an excellent time for getting acquainted with your child’s primary and for your child to get re-acquainted with the classroom. Parents had the opportunity to experience a little slice of the daily schedule and routine and watch in the classroom how their child interacts with others. We had a good turnout and I thank everyone who was able to attend. It was a joy to see everyone.

As a reminder, all families will receive a copy of their child’s Ages & Stages Questionnaire and informational letter in their parent pocket during the week of February 5. Your child’s primary caregiver will be completing this screen tool as well; and around week 7-8, you should receive a results letter from your child’s primary. If there are any concerns resulting from the screen and a referral is needed, the primary caregiver and one of the classroom teachers will be following up with you as well. While you completing the ASQ at home is not required, we do appreciate and welcome parents to complete this and turn back in to their child’s primary for scoring.

I would like to update families on the status of the hiring search for a new Child Development Supervisor for ITT East. This hiring round has been unusually slow (which is hard to believe it can be any slower). Human Resources has not posted this position for people to apply for yet. As far as I know, the position has cleared all required departmental, college, and provost signatures. It’s at HR. Updates will be available as soon as possible. I am very fortunate to report that the ‘sharing’ of Ecila from West has been a very positive experience all around. Thank you to all staff in West for being supportive and helpful in this challenging staffing time.

Have a fantastic month!
Lisa Schmidt
Co-Director for Operations
Hello Preschool Families!!!

We would like to welcome our new interns and children to our classroom. Shantavia and Heather started their first week of lead teaching January 29. They will lead teach for two weeks and then Brittany and Tanisha will do two weeks. After that, each will do an individual two week round. Alexander transitioned from ITT and Synari, Cindy, Everleigh, and Emma are all new to the CDL. We wish Kayla all the best as she begins a new adventure. We will miss her!

The children have been interested in rocket ships and how they launch. We watched a video clip of a rocket ship launching from the international space station and listened to a song by Greg and Steve about an adventure in space. The children have been listening to music and dancing with props all throughout the day. We are learning about dinosaurs and what they eat.

We are excited to be participating again this semester in “Story Time” hosted by the literacy students. This year we will attend a session in the morning and the afternoon. We have a line-up of NIU nursing students ready to go, as well. They will be teaching us lessons on Thursdays from 9:30—11:00. We are working with the NIU police department on a few adventures, so stay tuned for those. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristi, Jamie, & Frank

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REMINDERS
1. Please bring extra clothes.
2. Please bring boots, snow pants, waterproof gloves, etc.
3. Please remember to email Kristi a family photo or have the teachers take one.
Greetings East Families!

After the New Year, we have gotten back into our usual routine and are thrilled to be able to welcome our new practicum students; Destiny Valdez, Jessica Hurd, Deja Wilson, and Alyssa Rogalski. Please give them a warm welcome! We also would like to welcome our first lead teachers Destiny Valdez and Alyssa Rogalski; they will be teaching for the next three weeks. We are really excited to see their fun and inventive activities. Please stop by to join us during their activities!

We have not been able to utilize our playground due to the cold weather and ice. Instead we have taken advantage of nature walks, explorations and gross motor time on campus and indoors. While staying indoors, we have been using gross motor equipment (rainbow mat, the climber, balls, trampoline and the tunnels) and dancing in the classroom to get our wiggles out when we can’t go outside.

Many of the children have been engaged in the construction vehicles that drive past our building. They especially are excited about the cement mixer, garbage truck, dump trucks, and Bobcats. The teachers have incorporated vehicles in the gross motor area and during art activities. Another “Big Hit” in our classroom is the dramatic play area. The children have been observed playing with the baby dolls and taking care of them. Along with that, the children have been interested in dressing up and going on trips (i.e. to Chicago and Canada).

Although outside time as been somewhat limited, we ask that the children still have plenty of warm clothing for the days we can go outside; including snow pants, boots, gloves and hats. Also, please provide extra clothing for your child such as, pants, socks, long-sleeved shirts, etc.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Clarissa, Tena, Ecila, & Courtney
West Families,

Let’s start by thanking everyone who attended the Open House at the beginning of the semester! As always, our classroom had a great turnout! We truly appreciate your consistent participation! I’m sure you’ve noticed new smiling faces in our classroom. Let’s all welcome, Ella and Delanie. Delanie is new to our program. Ella is the younger sister of Chandler, an ITT West graduate who transitioned to Preschool. Ella and Delanie have already begun to form relationships with their peers.

It’s always amazing to see the beginning of bonds formed between the students and the children. Our new students have been working diligently to build trust with your children through warm interactions and engaging activities. Starting on February 12, Adrianna and Brianna will begin their roles as lead teachers. We are all looking forward to the exciting new activities and experiences they have planned!

The children are growing into little book worms. Reading a book is often the first activity many of your children choose to do at the start of their day. We are beginning to see how the books we read in class shape the children’s play later on in the day. Aiden is pictured here building a jungle after reading, Walking Through the Jungle by Debbie Harter. We are very excited about our recent purchase of Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese dual language literature and materials. Some of our two year olds have started to learn to count to 10 in Spanish as a result! In your spare time, feel free to read this short blog the NAEYC website provides about ways to connect literature and play.

We look forward to all the fun and growth we will experience this semester. Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Thank you,

Ecila, Krysten, Magaly, Megan