Hello CDL families! We are well into our spring semester with our practicum students and I must say we have had a great first round of lead teaching from the first group! I am really looking forward to the next round.

On February 28, we had a Parent Advisory Board Meeting. Thank you to all who were able to participate! As you can imagine, the meeting was focused on the upcoming merger between CCC and CDL. I would like to share the main points that were talked about for those of you who could not make it.

We discussed:

- Tuition for the CDL families will not be impacted. Tuition rates will remain the same until the next annual fees increase in August.
- The CDL children will all remain in a practicum classroom. In the future, newly enrolled part-time children coming less than 5 days a week will most likely be enrolled in a non-practicum classroom; however, for our current part-time families, they will remain in the their practicum rooms.
- Staffing structure: we have a tentative plan for summer and fall staffing; however, there are still adjustments being made to this as we work through things. At this time, we cannot say which teacher will be in which room; however, all of the CDL teachers will certainly be in practicum classrooms. When we have more of a definitive schedule, we will share this.
- Going from small to big: how do we keep that ‘family-like feel’ in a small program when we expand into a large one? Possibly maintaining separate parent groups for practicum classrooms was suggested.
- Parent visits: Parents would like to get into CCC to see the building and the classrooms. Lisa will work with Kristin Schulz, Director of CCC, and plan for this experience to be offered to our CDL families.
- Transitioning the children: our leadership team will work through a plan for getting the children over to CCC to visit the rooms, the playground, etc. We want the children to see the physical environment. Dr. Helin offered to take pictures of the facility and share so that parents can print them off and use at home to talk about their child’s “new school”.
- Dr. Helin announced her departure from our department. She and her family are relocating to another state. Dr. Helin worked on the academic end of the CDL in tracking the students through their course of study and overseeing the Child Development undergraduate course-work/program.
- New Director: There will be a new Clinical Assistant Professor hired. This person will serve as Dr. Helin’s replacement in charge of the Child Development undergraduate program and teaching Child Development courses; as well as; leading and managing the new organization operationally. Lisa and Kristin will be reporting to the new Director. There is an active search for this new Clinical Professor/Director.
- Curriculum: What if the new Director wants to make significant changes to the classroom curriculum for the children? Our department will want to hire a candidate knowledgeable in best practices and developmentally appropriate practice. The Emergent curriculum model will not be impacted.
- Something that was not talked about, but we wanted to share: the name for the new organization! The combined programs will have a new name: Child Development and Family Center.

Have a great month of March!!
Lisa Schmidt
Co-Director for Operations
Greetings Families!

We hope you are having a wonderful semester. All of our interns have had a chance to do their lead teaching together and now they start doing their individual weeks. They worked hard together to start our semester off with some great experiences. You can see their work highlighted in the documentation panel right outside our classroom door. They also write a weekly newsletter that is posted as well.

The children have been requesting *Pete the Cat* and *Pinkalicious* books. We have read several books in the *Pinkalicious* series by Elizabeth and Victoria Kann. A few favorites included *Aqualicious* and *Purplicious*. We extended learning and conversations related to healthy eating, seashells, and color mixing and respect. *Purplicious* also includes a great opportunity to extend on being respectful and kind to each other. In this book, there is a group of girls who do not like pink and *Pinkalicious* ends up feeling sad about how they treated her. We encourage the children to have a voice and to be assertive if anyone is not being kind to them, and we use books to extend this learning. If you would like to read any of these please let us know.

We are currently expanding on the children’s interest in specific names for animals and their young, as well as, groups of animals. They are noticing different features and comparing those to humans. Stay tuned! Pictures of our breakfast with the NIU police officers and the K9 dog, Izzy, are posted on the last page.

Sincerely,

*Kristi, Jamie, & Frank*

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*Marquise is listening to the nursing students heart beat using a stethoscope.*

*Everleigh is using a pipette to put water colors in the snow in the media table.*

*Isaac & Chandler excitedly share an interest in a book while speaking in Chinese.*
We have been having so much fun in our classroom, especially on our playground. Recently, the weather has permitted us to take advantage of our climber, the sandbox and pushing the shopping carts around. We have also taken several walks to visit the Huskie Hill and the bridges. On chillier days we have stayed inside to engage in gross motor. The children are especially excited about our famous dance parties!

The children have found a great interest in the baby dolls, food and dress up clothes; the children have talked about traveling to Canada and Chicago. The teachers in the room are, in turn, facilitating this role play through extending and enhancing their play experiences through intentionality in emergent curriculum development, supported by their observations of the children’s interactions, interest and cues. The children have also been making ramps for the vehicles, various structures with the duplo-blocks, and slides for the people.

Thank you to our first round of lead teachers Destiny and Alyssa. Some of the fun activities they provided were toothbrush painting, ice painting, matching games, Shake our Sillies out, and Hello Hello! Can You Clap Your Hands? Thank you Alyssa and Destiny for providing engaging activities for the children. We also would like to welcome our second lead teachers Deja, she will be teaching for the next three weeks. We look forward to your innovative ideas and activities! Please stop by to join us during our activities!

**Friendly Reminders:** Spring Break is March 12-March 16. Please make sure that your child still has plenty of warm clothing for outside play; including snow pants, boots, water-proof gloves and hats. Only if the temperature is below 15 degrees with the wind chill, or if it is raining, will we stay inside. There are no other weather-related restrictions for the children to be outside at this time of year.

Sincerely,

*Clarissa, Tena, Ecila & Courtney*
Hello ITT West families!

During the past month, our children have had a lot of energy in our classroom! They’ve been running, dancing, and jumping a lot! Unfortunately, due to the weather being colder, some rain, and snow melting creating a muddy playground, we have had very limited time outside. That is not stopping us from finding ways to get our energy out and still get our gross motor time in in the classroom. We’ve taken numerous walks through the halls of Gabel and Graham, finding less crowded hallways that we can take advantage of to run and get rid of some of our energy. In addition to already using our climber, we have brought the mat into the classroom, giving the children the opportunity to run into the mat instead of around the classroom, encouraging big body play. Here is an article from NAEYC that talks about big body play and how it not only helps children with their gross motor activities, but also with socialization with other children.  

https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/big-body-play

We would like to thank Adriana for all of the fun activities she created for the classroom during her lead teaching experience. During her lead teaching, she incorporated some Spanish into the children’s learning. She read Freight Train by Donald Crews which was written in both English and Spanish. The children were learning colors in Spanish and were asking what certain colors were. With Adriana’s lead teaching time coming to a close, we are excited for Priyal to begin her lead teaching and we can’t wait to see what she has planned for the classroom!

Just a reminder...  

• If you haven’t returned your child’s ASQ-3 scoring, please do so.

• Family night is Monday, April 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. We hope to see everyone there!

• Please continue to bring warm clothes for your children and extra clothes for their cubby.

Sincerely,

Krysten, Ecila, Magaly, and Megan
The Preschool room had breakfast at the NIU Police and Public Safety station. We learned that the K-9 dog, Izzy, is a police officer just like Officer York. Izzy helps the officers find things that are unsafe on campus. They then remove those things to keep the community safe.

Officer Shaw has been committed to being a positive and friendly face to support the children in developing trust in law enforcement. He introduced us to Officer York and Izzy. We will continue to create opportunities to build relationships with our community officers.