

Child Care Center

Where Children Spread Their Wings.

www.childcarecenter.ilstu.edu

Turner News

Fall 2015

Project Update from Lisa, Pam, & Jessica

Attached to the newsletter, is an article entitled, "The Project Approach for Preschoolers" from the Illinois Early Learning website. This article briefly describes how the Project Approach is a method of teaching in which an in-depth study of a topic is conducted by a group of children.



We have been working in Phase One of a project on Hats (and other things people wear on their heads). Many children have brought in a variety of hats as well as hat pictures to share at morning meeting.

After many discussions, surveys and activities related to headwear, we created an idea web to find out what the children know about hats. We noted gaps in their knowledge as well as questions about hats.



These questions are leading us into Phase 2 of our project which entails finding out more from experts. We have invited some visitors to share their knowledge of hats and answer the children's questions...why do you wear a specific kind of hat, how do you make hats, what materials do you use to make hats etc... If anyone knows anyone that makes hats, wears a unique hat for their job etc..., please let a teacher know as we'd love to invite more experts into the classroom.



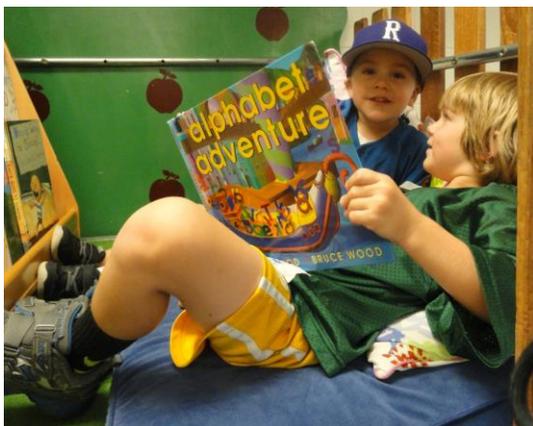
The documentation panels are posted in the hallway outside of the center entrance. These panels tell the story of the project as it unfolds. We will continue to post panels as we progress through Phases Two and Three of the project.



News from Carrie's Desk....

It's hard to believe that we are already half way through the fall semester! We are enjoying the last few warm days of fall, as we know the cooler weather will set in fast. In a few weeks, I will be asking what your child care needs are for the spring semester and summer. Please be sure to check your file at the parent table for your request forms.

Parent/teacher conferences are coming up on Friday, October 23rd. I hope you each have a chance to schedule a conference. Lisa, Pam & Jessica value this time to provide their undivided attention to discuss your child's development. We hope you will be comfortable sharing what you see happening at home and asking any questions you might have regarding your child. Keep in mind, if you ever have questions about the program or your child's development, you can request a conference/meeting at any time. You do not have to wait for the designated semester conferences. Just e-mail or talk with one of us at drop off/pick up and we will arrange a time to meet.



Staff Accomplishments – Pam and Lisa worked diligently during the spring semester to acquire their Early Childhood Education credentials through the Gateways to Opportunity professional development system in IL. I am happy to announce that Pam received her level 5 ECE credential and Lisa received her level 4 ECE credential. Lisa will be working on finishing up a few more credits to advance to her level 5 ECE credential in the next year.

Jessica came to the ISU Child Care Center with her level 4 ECE credential. Jessica will also be working on advancing to a level 5 ECE credential in the next year or so.

This summer, I completed the necessary training to advance to the level 2 IL Director Credential.

The credential process is quite lengthy and tedious, however these credentials are a sign of each of our professional achievements. Credentials validate our knowledge, skills and experience in working with young children and their families.

Another reason credentials are important is that they will assist us in obtaining the Gold Circle of Quality in the ExceleRate Illinois quality and improvement rating system. We will apply for the Gold level once we are finished going through NAEYC accreditation.

You can find more information on ExceleRate Illinois by accessing this link:
<http://www.excelebrateillinois.com/>.

Dressing for the Weather

You never know what to expect with fall weather! Already we have had a couple of cooler mornings



with warmer afternoons. Please send your child in layers or keep a warm jacket, a snug hat and a pair of light weight mittens in

their cubbies. We go out daily year round; it's what keeps kids and adults healthy! Be sure to restock extra clothes with both warm and cool weather clothing for a while.

Pumpkin Muffins

We cook with the children 2 to 3 times per week. Most of our kids love cooking so we wanted to share one of their favorite recipe with our families.

3 c. flour
1 c. sugar
1 T. + 1 t. baking powder
1 t. salt
1 t. cinnamon
1 t. nutmeg
1 c. milk
1 c. canned pumpkin
½ c. melted butter
2 eggs

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Mix all ingredients just until moistened. Grease muffin cups and fill cups 2/3 full with muffin batter. Bake for 18-20 minutes. Makes 24 muffins.



WZND Radio Students Help the Child Care Kids

The ISU Child Care Center has been WZND's philanthropy since 1996. WZND students come twice a year to conduct activities with our child care children. The first event will be on Wednesday, October 28th. WZND will bring one pumpkin for each child to paint. The students will be back in the spring for our annual egg hunt on the playground. In addition to these two activities, WZND holds a yearly fundraiser called "Turkey Bowl". In past years, WZND has been able to donate \$1000-\$2000 to the Center. From 1996 to 2014, WZND has raised more than \$30,000 for the ISU Child Care Center!!! Last spring, we were able to purchase new outdoor tables with the money that was donated by WZND. We appreciate all of the work that WZND does for the Center to raise money for various items, and we look forward to the pumpkin painting and egg hunt events!



Upcoming Dates

Parent/Teacher Conferences	10/23
Homecoming Parade	10/24
• Line up at 9:30 am	
WZND Pumpkin Painting	10/28
Halloween Celebration	10/30
• More details to come...	
Spring Child Care Requests Due	11/6
Thanksgiving Break	11/23 – 11/27
• Child Care CLOSED this week	

The Project Approach for Preschoolers

Preschoolers like to investigate! They enjoy learning about the world around them. The Project Approach involves children in studies of things nearby that interest them and are worth knowing more about. Teachers can use the Project Approach to meet most of the Early Illinois Early Learning Benchmarks. Projects are like good stories. They have three parts: a beginning, middle, and end. Here's a summary of the three phases of project work.

Phase 1—Getting Started

- Children choose what to investigate, with some guidance from the teacher.
- The children discuss what they already know about the topic. The teacher helps children record their ideas.
- With help from the teacher, the children list questions that they want to answer during their study.
- Children talk about what answers they might find to their questions. The teacher lists their predictions.

Phase 2—Collecting Information about the Topic

- The teacher helps the children plan trips to places where they can do fieldwork and helps them find people to interview who can answer their questions.
- With adult help, the children use books and computers to find information.
- During class meetings, children report what they find in their fieldwork. The teacher encourages them to ask questions and make comments about each other's findings.
- The children might make drawings, take pictures, write words and labels, create graphs of things they measured and counted, and construct models. As they learn more, they can revise what they have made.

Phase 3—Concluding the Project

- Children discuss the evidence they have found that helps them answer their questions. The teacher helps them compare what they have learned with what they knew before the project began.
- Children decide how to show what they did and what they found out to parents and peers who were not there.
- Children create displays to share the story of the project with others. Displays might include their drawings, notes, stories, taped conversations, photographs, models, graphs, and videotapes. Children can also act out what they have learned.
- The children might invite parents and other guests to a presentation about their project. The teacher can help the young investigators decide how to tell the story of what they did and what they found out.

 For other Project Approach Tip Sheets and related Web resources, visit <http://illinoisearlylearning.org/tips.htm>.



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For more tip sheets on other topics, please go to <http://illinoisearlylearning.org> 11/04