

Child Care Center

Where Children Spread Their Wings.

www.childcarecenter.ilstu.edu

Turner News

Fall 2017

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.



The Baby Project has finished Phase One: Beginning the project. We have talked about babies in our family, shared stories about when we were babies and brought in pictures of us when we were little. We've had fun exploring weight, length and time. Phase Two: Developing the topic. During Phase Two, the teachers will be contacting expert visitors to answer some of the questions the children have expressed. Olive's mom brought in Charlee, their family's new baby, to answer questions formulated by the children. If you have any connections in the community, or family who would be good resources for our project please let us know. The teachers have limited time off the floor this semester so will be doing

condensed documentation panels. The documentation panels will be posted in the hallway across from Carrie's office. These panels will keep you informed on what's happening as we move through Phase Two.



Outside Play

You never know what to expect with fall weather. Please send your child in layers and 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 suitable for cool weather.





If your child comes to school when we are already outside, please check our clothing signs located on the felt board (on the block area shelf facing the literacy center). We will have signs up for items needed for outside play that day. Speaking of outside, when you are coming through the outside door, please make sure your child is the only one coming or going with you. The children in our care must have a teacher accompany them inside. We've had a few incidents that children have snuck inside with other families. Thanks for your help in keeping our children safe!

Toys from Home

The children are allowed to bring ONE stuffed animal from home for nap time. Please make sure this nap toy does not make noise so we can keep it peaceful for our nappers. All other toys

should stay at home as we have more than enough for the kids to enjoy at school. Not to mention, our cubbies aren't very big so your child needs as much space as

they can get. Be sure to check and straighten cubbies each night, checking for extra clothing, taking home art projects etc....



News from Carrie's Desk....

It's hard to believe the middle of November is here and the semester will be wrapping up soon. We have enjoyed watching your children grow this semester. They have all changed a lot since August!

Thank you all for joining Lisa, Pam & Jessica for Parent-Teacher conferences. The teachers appreciate you taking the time to meet with them and discuss your child. They shared with me the many stories you had about the things you seen going on at home.

With finals week quickly approaching, we understand many of you will be more stressed than usual. We do typically see signs of stress with your children as well. We recommend keeping your child's regular schedule and routines these last few weeks of school.

Good luck to you all on the rest of your semester!!



PLAY GIVES
CHILDREN
A CHANCE
TO PRACTICE WHAT
THEY ARE
LEARNING.
-MR. ROGERS

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