

# University of Wyoming Early Care and Education Center



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## *ECEC Newsletter Winter 2014*

### ECEC Parents:

This Winter Newsletter is a bit late, but well-intended at any rate! As you can see from the posts below from each classroom, we have had a very busy winter indeed. With several days of extremely cold temperatures, teachers have had to be very creative in developing new indoor activities. However, as the cold breaks (amazing how warm 20 degrees can feel when it has been -20!) we have been able to move many of our activities outdoors and enjoy the snow.

The next couple of months will include many school-wide activities. We have a creative dance class coming on Fridays that works with most of the rooms. They start at 11:00 and you are more than welcome to watch or join in. We also will be planning several different evening family events, so be sure to check emails and newsletters from your child's room on the date and time for those special events.

On another topic, we have finished all of the required paperwork for our NAEYC Accreditation and are awaiting notice of our site visit. We have been meeting frequently with staff in preparation for the visit, so we hope to see them soon!

On a final note, we have enjoyed having Katie Cameron up at the front desk in the afternoons this semester. If you have not met Katie, please take time to do so as you come in to pick up your child. Katie is an assistant teacher in the infant room, but is also completing an administrative internship at the ECEC. Katie is doing fabulous work and we look forward to her hard work the rest of the semester. Have a great rest of the winter!

*Mark*

### *Infant Classroom: Michelle*

We have noticed that some of the children have been interested in putting various materials on their head, as if they are "hiding". They use baskets, blocks, and blankets. The teachers will then say "Where is \_\_\_?" The children will look around and then the child we are "looking" for will take whatever is on their head off and then smile. We follow it with "There is \_\_\_!" Due to this interest, we decided to offer many different types of baskets and buckets during one of our explorations. It was definitely a fun investigation for everyone, but in very different ways.

With all our observations from this one exploration, we plan to continue to provide a variety of materials they can "hide" under, dump and scoop, and have put phones out for them to continue this new interest. To continue with the "hiding" interest, we also explored a big box. Thank you to Bret (Crue's dad) for providing us with a box big enough for all of us! All of the children enjoyed feeling the texture of it, scratching the box and listening to the sound it made, "hiding" when the flaps were closed, and just hanging out inside it with our friends. We plan to continue this exploration of putting our whole body in something to "hide" by providing more opportunities to explore many different sizes of boxes to climb in, hide in and sit under. If you have any boxes, big or small, that you would be willing to donate, please bring them in. Thank you for your continued support!

## Upcoming Events:

Please check the door of your child's room for upcoming family events!



### *Toddler Classroom 1: Christy*

The Toddler 1 class has shown a tremendous interest in traveling, both locally and globally. As a class, we enjoy packing our suitcases, buckling our babies and ourselves into the car, and driving to places such as the park for a picnic, Wal-Mart for groceries, the mountains for a camping trip, and Costa Rica or Mexico for a nice swim. This exploration has led to the designing and building of a new classroom car that has quickly become a key element in our travels. As we follow this interest in travel, we are excited to expand on various modes of transportation, as well as a variety of destinations for our daily journeys.



### *Toddler Classroom 2: Shaila*



We are seeing the children beginning to form new and stronger relationships with each other. Children are engaging in more cooperative play with each other, so we will continue to encourage them to build those relationships. We are planning activities where children can work together to achieve a common goal. We will be doing many activities where children can practice measuring and mixing. Something we have implemented to encourage children to develop fine motor and self-help skills, is having the children serve themselves at meal times. They are learning quickly and are gaining confidence in their abilities. The children have grown and developed so much and we are looking forward to planning activities that will encourage them to continue growing cognitively, emotionally, socially, and physically.

In P1 we are becoming expert builders of many things! We have most recently been experimenting with building skyscrapers, cities, castles, houses, statues and boats! The children are using various materials such as wooden blocks, Lego's, magnatiles, foam blocks and even playdough to make their creations. We are planning to add a few new things to our classroom to hopefully spark new creativity and ideas among the children when they partake in building such elaborate structures. Hopefully we will be able to figure out the direction we will take their love of building soon!

The relationships in our room have been developing into wonderful friendships this semester. We have recently added two new friends to our room and it is amazing how welcoming the "old" kids are to our new friends! We have specifically been working on being kind and using our best manners as well, and our room is becoming an even more pleasant place to be each day. We are excited about the things we are seeing and cannot wait to see where the kids will take our learning next!

### *Preschool Classroom 1: Jaclyn*



## *Preschool Classroom 2: Adina*

P-2 has had a very busy start to our semester! The children are showing interest in technology, bridges and vocabulary. We have been setting out supplies to help the children represent various forms of technology. We are seeing many tablets, remote controls, smart phones and gaming systems. The children have been having fun building bridges. It started with Lego bridges and has moved to much bigger bridges that the children can cross. Both of these areas have allowed us to add many new vocabulary words. The children are really enjoying learning and using new words. Many of you may have noticed when your children arrive at school there are now questions on the tables. The purpose of these questions is to help us be more focused with our morning invitations. So far, I've seen some wonderful work! The children have been working so well together and encouraging each other. It is so neat to see all this emerging!



## *Preschool Classroom 3: Stephanie*



Exploration of how things are built around us has both developed and deepened our play in the classroom. Encouraged by these continued interests, teachers and kids have worked together to think about what structures are being built and the way in which they are constructed. New materials such as sugar cubes, small blocks, linking blocks and Legos are used to build ON things. Large blocks and roads are used to build AROUND things. Seeing how almost everyone in the classroom plays with magna-tiles on a daily basis, we challenged ourselves to use these in a new way. Building ON a huge cookie sheet at the table encouraged cooperative building play in a new space with an old material. The location, materials, and challenges; while building, inspired some complex and creative play throughout the class. Deeper-level questions and new building challenges are in the future for P3!

## *Preschool Classroom 4: Linda*

The children in P-4 have been very interested in different aspects of light. Building on the light table with Magna-Tiles has introduced a new element to the light study. The children have discovered that shadows need light but have no color, they are just dark. They have also found that reflections in mirrors or on glass have color. We are hoping to explore these concepts more through different activities as well as more exploration into our interest in pulleys and how those work.



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## *Winter Recipe Corner*

### *Applesauce Muffins*

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 4 cups flour
- 2 cups applesauce
- 2 tsp allspice
- 1/2 tsp cloves
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt

**Directions:**

Combine all ingredients. Spoon into muffin cups, filling 2/3 full. Bake at 400°F for 12 to 15 minutes.

### *Apple Crisp*

**Ingredients:**

- 3 apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
- 3/4 cup quick-cooking oats
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine

**Directions:**

Place sliced apples in 8x8 pan. Combine remaining ingredients using a pastry fork. Spread over top of apples. Bake at 350°F for 35 to 45 minutes or until golden brown.

