

Spring 2016 | NEWSLETTER OF THE UNLV/CSUN PRESCHOOL
Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center



The UNLV/CSUN Preschool Newsletter

2/23/2016

Dear Families:

Hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying the beautiful weather! Our semester and New Year 2016 are off to a great start. We are at full capacity in the program. We appreciate our families and your participation as we continue our mission of providing the best evidence based practices into our program, training future educators, and conducting research. This past semester the preschool supported over 65 students in the education field with field experiences, classroom observation projects and research. We are participating in the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) for early childhood programs in Nevada. We are in the process of employing additional staff, reviewing classroom environments, and will be conducting a survey with all of you this spring. Our final rating review will most likely be in the Fall of 2016.

Please welcome two new support staff members: Ms. Marisol Cipres, who is supporting in the Caterpillars/ Hearts classroom team and Ms. Sharmaine Quimsing, who is supporting in the administration office a.m. and the Ladybugs/ Butterflies classroom p.m. We also announced a "happy retirement" to Judith Filler, who was employed at the Preschool for 26 years. We wish her the very best, always!

Keep March 7, 8 on your calendar for our Bone Marrow Drive here at the preschool. Stop by the table and get further information for testing. We are promoting this community effort this month in support of a child who attended the preschool for 4 years and graduated in 2013 and all others who may need a bone marrow transplant.

The teachers and children are busy with projects in their classrooms and will be preparing their tubs and gardens for spring planting. We welcome any help or materials for the gardens. Also, get ready for picture days Feb 29- March 3 with those precious smiles!

Best regards and happy days,
Claire

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

Dr. Catherine Lyons
Executive Director

Dr. Claire Tredwell
Director

Ms. Mardene Wright
Assistant Director,
Curriculum
Development

Ms. Eileen Quinn
Coordinator
Staff Development

Ms. Josie Boyle
Office Manager

UNLV/CSUN Preschool

4505 S. Maryland
Pkwy.

Box 3004

Las Vegas, NV, 89154

(702) 895-3779

FAX (702) 895-4935

HOURS

Monday-Friday

7:30-5:30

(additional cost option
to 6 pm)

UNLV/CSUN Preschool 2016 Calendar

2/29-3/4 **School Portraits: Teddy Bear Portraits** Check with your child's teacher for days/times.

3/7, 3/8 Bone Marrow drive (Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation) 7:30-9:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Lending Library

3/11 TOUCH a TRUCK for UNLV

3/16 Family Night "Positive Guidance Strategies for Families" 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. MP Room
Child Care for children in classroom

3/21 Preschool **CLOSED**- Professional Development Day

4/11-4/14 UNLV Student Status Registration for Summer and Fall

4/28-4/29 Field Day (tentative dates) More info to follow.

5/12 **UNLV/CSUN Preschool Graduation**

5/13 Preschool BBQ

5/27 Preschool **CLOSED** - Professional Development Day

5/30 Preschool **CLOSED** - Memorial Day

7/4 Preschool CLOSED - Independence Day

Calendar Dates are subject to change



UNLV/CSUN a Fully Inclusive Preschool

Today, more and more children with and without disabilities are playing, growing, and learning together. Great teachers collaborate together to educate children. With a positive nurturing environment children learn from their teachers as well as their peers (DEC/NAEYC, 2009). Inclusion has a lot of benefits not only for the children with disabilities but also children without. Here is a list of some of the benefits of inclusion for all children:

- ❖ Meaningful friendships
- ❖ Increased social initiations, relationships and networks
- ❖ Higher expectations
- ❖ Increased parent participation
- ❖ Increased appreciation and acceptance of individual differences
- ❖ Increased understanding and acceptance of diversity
- ❖ Respect for all people
- ❖ Opportunities to master activities by practicing and teaching others,

(www.kidstogether.org/inclusion/benefitsofinclusion.html)



Family Involvement

The involvement of families matter for the child’s social and cognitive development. Research has shown that encouraging families to be active participants can help in their children’s growth and socio-emotional development (Harvard Family Research Project, No.1, Spring 2006).

Resources:

Family Focus Resource Center- a website that provides information regarding inclusive education for all children. It also consists of links regarding special needs, and a few more resources for parents.

<http://www.csun.edu/family-focus-resource-center>

NAEYC for Families- this website talks about the importance of quality child care, program standards, positive interactions, and things to look for in early childhood programs.

<http://families.naeyc.org/>

<https://www.naeyc.org/familyengagement/principles/4>

PBS Parents- is also a great resource for parents who are looking for fun ideas and activities to do with children. This includes crafts, easy step by step recipe’s, games and also talks about how to deal with challenges that parents may face.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/>

PBS Ready to Learn- Parents and Caregiver Resources- engaging children in interactive reading, and fun activities.

<http://pbskids.org/island/parents/>

Nutritious Recipe:

Apples with Maple Cinnamon Greek Yogurt Dip

Ingredients

- 1 cup – Greek yogurt, plain
 - 1/2 teaspoon – cinnamon
 - 1/8 cup – maple syrup, pure
- Serve with 2 medium sized apples

Directions

- Mix cinnamon with yogurt; stir in syrup to taste.
- Remove core and slice apples

Enjoy!



Featured Staff:

Sweet Peas: Ms. Roxy

Tadpoles: Ms. Sarah

Grasshoppers: Ms. Laura (sub)

Stars: Ms. Lucciana

Caterpillars: Ms. Kim

Hearts: Ms. Charisse
Ms. Marisol

Ladybugs: Ms. Dawna

Butterfly: Ms. Oliska

Ms. Sharmaine

Bumble Bee: Ms. Shin

Rainbows: Ms. Yamila

Ms. Elizabeth

Sea Turtles: Ms. Cyndy

CCSD: Mr. Doak, Ms. Virginia, Ms. Linsey, Ms. Carmen, Ms. Monae, Ms. Theresa, Ms. Donna

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendar!!!

****Picture Day is coming soon! February 29th-March 3rd.** Picture Schedules will be posted in the classrooms.

**** March 7,8: Bone Marrow Drive**

*** *On Wednesday March 16th** please join us for a Family Night on “Positive Guidance Strategies for Families” Parents will receive tips and strategies on encouraging positive behaviors. The evening will start at 5:30 and run until 6:30p.m @ the UNLV Preschool in the Multipurpose Room. Child care will be provided in the classrooms.

**** April is Child Abuse Prevention month.** To help promote awareness, please display a blue ribbon!

**** SAVE THE DATE **** On April 9th the community will celebrate WOYC-(Week of the Young Child). The purpose of this event is to focus on children’s needs and to provide important information on child rearing. Place and time are TBD.

Home Project for Preschoolers - Dressed By Me!

As our children get older we want to encourage them to start making decisions. We all know a 2-4 year old’s mind can be imaginative; so in order to encourage decision making safely we introduce choices. Dressed By Me promotes decision making daily by letting your child become his/her own stylist. Place two items of clothing, two tops or two bottoms (two options for one piece attire) and let him/her choose which one to wear that day. Present the items as to let children know they are in charge of the outcome. (ex. “Which shirt do you want to wear today? This one or that one?”)

Concept: This activity strengthens self- esteem.

Skills: Decision making skills are being developed in our toddlers.

8.PK.2 Use and expand vocabulary to describe feelings, experiences, observations and ideas.

Health Notes to Families:

NUT FREE ZONE: We promote a Nut Free environment at the UNLV/CSUN Preschool. All of our classroom snack items are nut-free. Due to the fact that families pack lunches, we cannot guarantee an absolute nut-free zone across campus. Please consider and support our promotion of a nut-free zone as you pack lunches and bring snacks for classroom events. It definitely takes a collaborative effort on site. One great substitute for those peanut butter lovers is **sunflower butter**. It tastes like peanut butter. Please notify administration and the teacher if your child has a nut or any other allergy.

Skin Conditions: If your child has a skin condition and needs special or prescribed soap or lotion at school, please obtain a health plan and order to administer from the office to be signed by a physician for school need. We request that lotions be perfume free due to potential allergies that can be triggered by odor and preferably in a pump dispenser with child’s name/date. Please bring the completed health plan and product to the office where it will be recorded and distributed to the teacher with the correct information for administration and storage. **THANK YOU!**

Song

Three Little Monkeys

(Numbers can be changed but preferably not past 10 since fingers are required)
Three little monkeys swinging from a tree
Teasing Mr. Alligator, can't catch me! You can't catch me!

(Parents and child’s make alligator with their hands by placing their palms together and moving in a zig zag motion)
Along comes Mr. Alligator quiet as can be...

And he snaps that monkey right out of that tree!

Song repeats for the number of fingers

Skills: -Language and fine motor development

-Offer opportunities to move and dance to a variety of music.

Standards:

8.PK.5 Use language to repeat simple stories, songs and rhymes, or to relate experiences.

10.PK.1c Respond to changes in tempo.

Books and Culture Corner



“Last Stop On Market Street” by Matt de la Peña. In 2016 this book became a #1 best seller and was the Winner of the 2016 Newbery Medal, 2016 and the Caldecott Honor Book recipient.

This book is about a young child, CJ and his grandma. Every Sunday after church, CJ and his Grandmother would ride the bus to their house. CJ became very curious as to why the street wasn’t as clean as other parts of the city and why he didn’t have what his friends have. Grandma explains to CJ that not everyone has the same things in life but it’s about having gratitude about what you do have. Pre- K Nevada Standards
3.PK.7- With assistance, listen and discuss stories from different cultures and time periods.

CC 9d. Literacy selection tells about another time or place.

DAP Software Program

Sesame Street Elmo’s Preschool Ages (2-5)

With Elmo as the main character of the software, he attracts the children with his goofy voice. Out of a rating scale of 5, this software was able to receive a 4.5 in Educational Value, a 4.0 in Kids Appeal and a 4.5 in Ease of use. I believe those three contents are important with deciding in what to choose for your children. Elmo takes you on various adventures where the child practices numbers, letters, sounds, shapes and color recognition, as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills. Interacting with your child during this program supports all learning.

Standards

2.PK.1 Sort objects by similar attributes (e.g., size, shape, and color).

N.PK.4 Use patterns to predict or sort items.

L.PK.7 Identify and/or sort plants and animals by observable characteristics

Reference:

<http://www.kidstogether.org/inclusion/benefitsofinclusion.htm>

http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/DEC_NAEYC_EC_updatedKS.pdf

<http://www.challengingbehaviors.org>