Dear Parents,

I’m going to engage in some Bragging Rights, or maybe a Bragging Rite, for just a minute or two. June marks my 10th anniversary at BioKids! When I arrived in the Preschool Room there were no blocks or dolls; the 3-5 year olds were gated into what is now the art, circle time and writing center area and the 2 year olds were gated into what is now the manipulative and dramatic play area. Manon and Heather spent their time “entertaining” the children by constantly changing activities and putting a variety of rotating materials in front of them. Four 12-24 month olds were corralled into what is roughly the block area and four infants were across the hall in a narrow, dark room.

Things have really changed! And they changed pretty quickly. We immediately opened up the classroom, except for the area with those pesky one year olds; in October 2005 we opened the remodeled Infant/Toddler Room and shipped them across the hall. In June 2006 we attained NAEYC Accreditation. Since my first grant application in Fall 2004, BioKids has received nearly $80,000 funding from a variety of sources: the continued...

Vacation Schedules

Please put your family’s summer travel plans on the vacation sheet posted in the Preschool Room. We are not trying to be nosey, but knowing when children will be absent gives us some flexibility in staffing. Historically, there are a reduced number of children at BioKids during certain weeks of the summer (Pioneer Day week) and we can give a staff member a week off without having to hire a substitute.
**Sunscreen (or, for babies, sometimes sunscream)**

Our policy is to apply sunscreen to the BioKids between April 1\(^{st}\) and September 30\(^{th}\).

In the Infant/Toddler Room teachers apply sunscreen to children over the age of 6 months twice a day – before going outside in the morning and then in the afternoon. We prefer that parents provide labeled bottles or tubes of sunscreen for infants and toddlers.

In the Preschool Room we ask that parents apply the first smear before coming to school in the morning (we can smell that some of you are already doing this), and then we’ll apply a second round before we go out in the afternoon. It takes us about 30-45 minutes to get everyone covered, so we really appreciate the time saved when you do the first application. Of course you are welcome to provide a labeled container for your child. If you have no specific requirements for sunscreen, we’ll use whatever brand our grocery shopper picks out.

playground has been enhanced, a second (albeit way too small) playground was added when a large spruce tree blew over, lots of toys have been purchased and both classrooms have fabulous flooring.

My greatest BioKids pride is the fact that we constantly receive rave reviews from trained outside observers, our teachers are a stable group (unheard of in childcare), staff members have been able to attend national professional development meetings, Manon has earned a Child Development Award (CDA) and Nanda is working on completing hers. I have received unwavering support from the BioKids Steering Committee and parents – and for that I am incredibly grateful.

So, I’d say that this second career has worked out pretty well for me (and for BioKids). Just keep this in mind when you roll around to your 50s and have the chance to try something new!

*Robin*
Staff Update

Are you missing Shawnny? So are we! She is off to Seattle for the summer, something to do with dishes (as in satellite, not dinner plates). We are expecting her to return at the end of August and are holding her to that promise. We will have a few new staff in the Infant/Toddler Room: Grace will cover some of Shawnny’s hours and a new full-time, benefited Assistant Teacher will be hired within the next few weeks to give the room greater staffing continuity during the coming school year. Two regular part-time employees, Sophie and Laura, will be in Europe this summer, but will return to BioKids in the Fall (according to Sophie, “It’s the best job on campus!”).

Congratulations to new graduates Kiera and Veronica!

Hello and Goodbye

It’s the time of year when we start sending 5 year olds off into the world! We will miss the energy that Sahana and Maya V. bring to our Preschool Room - both are leaving in early summer for exciting travels before starting kindergarten this Fall. In the Infant/Toddler Room we welcome Roland, Maisie and Julian.
Thank You

Thanks to Ellie and CeCe’s mom Sarah for getting us some fabulous Big Books from the Marriott Library’s book sale. The BioKids love them! Thanks to Sebby’s dad Casey for being our constant Sand Man for the past several years; we are going to really miss him when Seb goes off to kindergarten this fall. He is always checking on our sandbox and refilling it as needed. And a big Thank You to all of you for participating in Teacher Appreciation Week – bringing in treats, flowers, cards, donating items for the gift bags, and making cash donations. The financial help this year has been overwhelming! Your support is greatly appreciated!

New Climber

We’ll be getting a new climbing structure for our playground! Check it out at http://www.aaastateofplay.com/4-section-half-bubble-wall-climber/

The purchase and installation will be paid for by our Next Steps 2 Year Old Grant from the Utah Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care. We think the children will love it!

Getting a New Set of Wheels?

Actually, we’re looking for a set of tires for our playground. Just one more thing to climb around, sit on, and jump from. If you’re going to be getting some new tires we’ll gladly take your used ones. And to sweeten the deal you’ll get 2 hours of co-op time for each tire donated.