Hello Parents,

Doesn’t it seem like we’re racing to the end of 2014? Sometimes we get going so quickly and with so much distraction that we forget to notice the small things that make such a difference in the lives of young children. Here is my short list of easy things to notice and do with your child that enrich their world:

Take a minute to notice and talk about birds, pinecones, squirrels, rabbits, dogs, cats, clouds, rain, wind, snow, rocks, pebbles, flowers, trees, colors, letters and shapes.

Take some time to run, hop, jump, swing arms, throw balls, stand on one leg, and (if your child is about 5 years old) skip (step-hop-step-hop), draw, pinch and pound playdough, and mix and stir in the kitchen.

Talk, talk, talk about what you are doing, what you are seeing, how you are feeling and everything else you think is appropriate for a young child. I overheard one dad coming into the building talking to his son about primates!

When your child uses the wrong verb or pronoun, simply restate what they’ve said with the correction inserted. “I runned really fast!” “Yes, you ran really fast, didn’t you?” “I gave my brother her toy” “You gave your brother his toy – I’ll bet that made him happy.”

I frequently get asked about our play-based approach to Early Childhood Education. I’ve collected a few articles explaining why we don’t send children home with worksheets, and why you’ll not find them in our classroom. I’m sending them to you as an attachment along with this newsletter.

Robin

Evening Drop in Child Care available on Campus!

Check it out  http://asuuchildcare.utah.edu/about/evening-care.php

ASUU Child Care in the Emery Building on President’s Circle is now offering evening care for children over 12 months of age!
Parent Lending Library

Did you know that we have a parent lending library at BioKids? We’ve got books about breastfeeding, sleeping, positive guidance (discipline), toileting, nutrition, play, art, sign language and much more. Stop by Robin’s office some time and check it out!

Welcome to new children and staff

We’ve a new crop of substitute teachers, feel free to introduce yourselves to them when you drop-off or pick-up your child.

We also have a few new children to welcome! Over the summer we welcomed Maisie Julian and Clementine to the Infant/Toddler Room as well as Evie and Emilia to the Preschool Room!

Safety First

Please don’t lift your child over our playground fence! We don’t want them to think that is an acceptable way to exit our care. We get all sorts of folks on the outside of the fence, the vast majority are just passing by, but once in a blue moon there is a loiterer or photographer that we need to ask to leave.

Halloween at BioKids AKA Co-op in a Costume!

Halloween at BioKids means a few different things: decorating pumpkin cookies, Halloween books, black and orange patterning and art work, pumpkins, pumpkins and pumpkins. If you have a pumpkin you would like to donate to BioKids it will be entered in Manon’s annual “How Long Will I Last” contest. Last year a white pumpkin donated by a family lasted nearly an entire year!

BioKids seems to have a standing invitation from the School of Social Work and the Biology Department administrative offices for trick-or-treating. The Preschool children visit both locations, where the staff ooh and aah over their costumes and pass out small treat bags which are sent home for opening.

We would appreciate it if your child arrives at school in their costume, but brings a change of clothes for the remainder of the day. We will be decorating goodie bags to take along, so you do not need to send special collection bags.

We will be leaving BioKids on Friday, October 31st at 10 am for the School of Social Work, located on the southwest side of the Marriott Library. Last year we had several
parents, in and out of costume join us and it was a huge help. If you would like to join us, all you need to do is come to the classroom a few minutes before 10 am and help supervise the children as we walk around campus. Then you can enter 1 hour of co-op time on the log sheet. There will be a sign-up sheet on the parent bulletin board in the Preschool Room.

Children in the Infant/Toddler room, they will be joining the trek in the comfort of their strollers. Parents are absolutely welcome to come along, but parental assistance is not as crucial as it is in the Preschool Room where the children are walking en-masse. Infant/Toddler costumes are completely optional.

**Label all cold weather and winter gear!**

Please, please label all gear your child brings into the classroom. Many children get new winter items or hand-me downs (labeled with names of children whom we have never met!). Often your child has just “met” that item a few hours ago and, really, they haven’t a clue about it’s ownership for the first week or two. We do go outside in pretty much all types of weather, so children will need gloves, hat, coat, snow pants and snow boots. It takes us about 30 minutes to get the preschool children ready to go, and having items labeled is a huge help. Generally when we hold up a navy blue sweatshirt and ask “who does this belong to” we get a room full of blank stares. Please, give the staff a break and label all items!

**Speech, hearing and vision screening @ BioKids**

The Child and Family Development Center in the Department of Family and Consumer Studies has been awarded a grant to have all the children age 3 and above in their program, the ASUU Child Care Center AND BioKids screened this fall for speech, hearing and vision. The first screening for BioKids will take place in our building on Friday, October 17 for children over the age of 3. This is being offered at no cost. Permission slips will be in each child’s cubby, as well as on the parent bulletin board, about a week before the screening date.