From the Director

Hello Parents,

Even though BioKids is a year-round program, the “new-school year” mentality is pretty pervasive on campus. We do have eight children in our Preschool Room who have just begun what would be considered their “Pre-K” year – the last year of preschool prior to entering kindergarten. Rest assured that as Manon readies them for their upcoming transition, the social and academic needs of all the children in the room are met. One of the beauties of the mixed-age classroom is that not only do the older children have an opportunity to mentor their younger classmates, the younger children can glean knowledge from opportunities and experiences that might be considered more appropriate for the older children. For example, as a teacher is working on patterning colors or shapes with an older child, a younger one is always near by, observing and absorbing concepts they might not be exposed to were they in a room with only two-year olds.

We are beginning to gear-up for our next round of NAEYC re-accreditation activities. We (Polly, Manon and I) have two packed file drawers to review – look through each file folder, update information and document what is in each folder. It’ll be a huge job, but not as time consuming as creating the files in the first place – that was done five years ago and I swore I wouldn’t go through the process again. But, oh well, here we are and here I am! I have filed our “Intent to Renew” our accreditation with NAEYC and should be having an up-close-and-personal visit sometime between mid-February and the end of July, 2016. Of course, accreditation comes with a price tag! Thankfully the U of U Center for Child Care and Family Resources (previously the Child Care Coordinator’s Office) will be helping us with a $500 donation towards the $850 bill I racked up in August between filing our Annual Report and submitting the “Intent” form. We will be asking for parent help with sprucing the classrooms up – but not till after the first of the year.

Because part of the re-accreditation process specifies that we use a particular parent-evaluation tool, you will be receiving two questionnaires this Fall – one will be the same one I send out each year, the second, probably about 4-6 weeks after the first one, will be one provided by NAEYC. Thank you in advance for completing the forms and your patience in dealing with two evaluations.

Happy Autumn!

Robin

Comings and Goings

WELCOME!

We’ve said good-bye to quite a few BioKids in the past three months – moving on to kindergarten and away from Utah: Sebastian, Alex, Mimi, Rosa, Zach and Tyler, Anneliese, Eva and Ayla. But, as things generally happen around here, we’ve been able to welcome several new families to BioKids. New to the Infant/Toddler Room are Naomi, Katie, Rohan and Leonie. In the Preschool Room, new classmates are Alice, Leiana, Gunnar and Noah. Additionally, over the summer Julian, Roland and Owen have transitioned from “the baby room to the big kid’s room.”

Nanda has returned from her summer in Brazil and Jacqueyn has moved across the hall to the Infant/Toddler Room. We’re done with our string of painful staff good-byes, and have welcomed wonderful new teachers to our staff: Sarah, Katie, and Ciana.

Thank You

Thank you parents for doing our laundry and our grocery shopping, washing our sippy-cups, making our playdough, keeping us supplied with fresh fruit, buying your co-op hours, staying with children during staff meetings and all the other things you do to help our program run smoothly! Be sure to enter your time on the co-op log sheet so you get credit for your good deeds!

Help Wanted: Co-op Jobs

We desperately need to have our Preschool Room - Circle Time area painted. Any volunteers? Take a peek in the room and see what you think. We'd like to keep the airplane and the tree, but the areas that the children can reach are really grungy and the room needs a new look!

Also, would someone like to be in charge of Scholastic book orders? It may take two hours a month –perhaps more to get things set-up for the first time order. Scholastic Books are a great way to build your child’s home library, great titles at great prices!
Cold Weather Gear
As always, the Preschool children go out twice a day, rain or shine (pretty much). Please remember to label all your child’s items — hats, gloves, sweatshirts, etc!! A hand-me-down sweater with the name of a cousin’s neighbor is truly a mystery to everyone! When it snows, your child will need gloves, hat, boots, snow-pants and a jacket.

New Stuff
We are the grateful recipients of two new tables in our Preschool Room! The tables were donated by the Lab School in the Department of Family and Consumer Studies and are a perfect match for the new classroom chairs. We also have a new air conditioner in the Preschool Room – the previous one was at least 15 years old. The new unit was paid for entirely with funds earned through the Smith’s Community Rewards (Earn and Learn) Program. If you have not signed-up with BioKids as a beneficiary to your Smith’s shopping, please, please do so.

Register your Smith’s Rewards card with BioKids as the recipient of your Community Rewards funds.

BioKids’ organization number is 84000
You can encourage family and friends to enroll with our number, even at Kroger stores in other states. https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/topic/community-rewards-3

Speech & Hearing Assessment
Graduate students from the U of U Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, Department of Communication Science and Disorders, will be offering free speech and hearing assessments at BioKids again this Fall for children ages 3 and above. The assessments will be done on Monday morning, October 19. Look for more information and parent permission forms at the beginning of October. There will be no cost for the assessments, thanks to our participation in a grant offered by the Sorenson Foundation and obtained by Geri Mendoza, Director of the Child and Family Development Center in the Department of Family and Consumer Studies.

Halloween on Campus
Our BioKids Halloween celebration will occur on Friday, October 30! Preschool children will leave the classroom at 10:00 to Trick-or-Treat at the Biology and Park Buildings. We would appreciate as much parent participation as possible (earn a co-op hour). More information to follow......