

Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC)

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Dear ECDC Families,

Autumn Greetings! As with every new school year, we have new families. We (Staff, students & I) welcome you to the ECDC program. It's also nice to see those returning families who we did not get to see in the summer program.

As the Autumn season is here, the children are settling into their routine of school again. They will be exploring in the classroom and in the outdoors, playing, enjoying our meal/snack times, adjusting to rest time, all the while learning to be kind, share, take turns and get along with everyone in our ECDC Community.

Many people are an integral part of the ECDC program. It starts with our children, families, teachers, childcare aides, students, UMC faculty and staff. I have said this before, but it remains true...Your child is what our Center is all about. It is the collaborative efforts of everyone that will ensure your child has the best early childhood experiences that we provide here at the ECDC. Thank you for sharing your child with us.

My office hours will be from 8 am – 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday.

The second part of this letter is the ECDC Fall staffing & other news.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. Email me at somme032@umn.edu.

Thank you,

Tu Lynn Sommerfeld, Director



Events

Sept. 4th – Closed for Labor Day

Oct. 11-CFD presents “Fire Prevention” in Preschool.

Oct. 31-Halloween

The pictures below come from the ECDC garden that the children have watched grow from tiny little plants or seeds, to producing pumpkins, tomatoes and corn.



News from the Summer

All the children from Infants, toddlers, preschoolers had some fun, summer adventures at the ECDC. They enjoyed campus walks going to various locations to explore our beautiful campus. Learning about the animals that live in the barns to the butterflies in the Butterfly garden. The preschoolers got to work off some of that extra energy at the Wellness Center on campus with a fun obstacle course and healthy snack to reenergize! They also had many "swimming" days in which they love to put on their suits & sunscreen (many wanting to "do it" themselves!) and run through the sprinklers on the hot days.

Teacher Kayla had her baby on June 26, 2017. His name is Owen Scott Klund and joined the other infants this fall in our ECDC program.

Fall Staff

- **Infant Program**

AM/PM Teacher: Susie Ollrich 7:30-11:30, 12:30-2 (MWF), 1-2 (T, TH)

PM Teacher: Sara Khan 1-4:30

Krista Johnstad: 4:30-5:30

- **Toddler Program**

AM Teacher: Sara Khan 7:30-11:30

AM/PM Teacher: Krista Johnstad 11:30-5:30

- **Preschool Program**

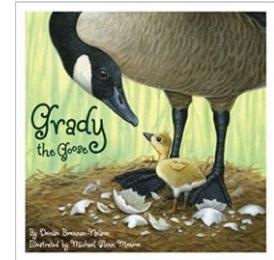
AM/PM Teacher: Kayla Klund 8:30-5:30

AM/PM Teacher: Susie 11:30-12:30 (MWF) 11:30-1 (T, TH)

Elizabeth Erickson: Qualified and continues to work with our program to meet all classroom needs.

- On August 28, Sara Khan joined our professional staff. Sara is a qualified teacher who will be sharing the Infant classroom with Susie and the Toddler classroom with Krista.
- Elizabeth Erickson is a senior at UMC. She has worked at the Center the last 2 years while working towards her BS in Early Childhood Education & Elementary Education. She has had Student Teaching in the Preschool room and worked for our Summer ECDC program.
- Kayla, Krista & Susie are all qualified, returning teachers to the ECDC. They are excited to be here and look forward to what the 2017-18 ECDC program year brings us!

The Center also has childcare aides in the classrooms to maintain our low, adult-child ratio. There will be familiar & new faces, as they are all happy to be here to play & learn with your child.



"From the moment she hatches from her egg, Grady Goose has to do things her way, often ignoring her parents' rule of "stick together." But when she lags behind as the rest of her family leaves for warmer climes, Grady learns the hard way that one is the loneliest number, especially for a young goose. A chance encounter with a helpful farmer soon sets things right, and a happy ending is in store for Grady and her family".

Important Information

As the weather is often cooler in the morning, please bring a sweatshirt for your child to wear for morning outdoor play. Label them to help identify which items belong to who. Toddlers often want to wear what they like, even if it does not belong to them.

Preschoolers get themselves dressed, so make sure they have items that they can dress themselves without needing much assistance. Getting 20 preschoolers dressed to go outside in the mudroom is always an adventure, especially in the winter!

Infants will get some outside time too, as the weather permits, so make sure they have warmer outerwear, along with a hat & mittens.