



CECC NEWS

Central Early Childhood Center Newsletter

Summer 2021 & 2021-2022 School Year



Enrollment for the 2021 –22 school year & Summer 2021 begins **March 1st** for our currently enrolled families and Central church members. On April 1, enrollment is opened to the public. See the website for April 1 details as the in person enrollment protocol is different this year. **We are happy to answer any questions you might have about any of our classes.**

Enrollment information will be available during the week of Parent Teacher Conferences and

on the website in February. *Classes are filled on a first come, first served basis, so enroll early! We will begin accepting completed forms on March 1 from current families!

All children need to be re-enrolled annually to attend CECC; forms and payment must be submitted, there is no “automatic re-enrollment” so be sure to get your enrollment in early. *Directors make the final decision for room assignments. Input from teachers, age, required ratios/group size, developmental abilities, and total enrollment are all considered.



CECC will be closed on Monday, March 15th for Staff Inservice.

Week of the Young Child Activities—Coming in April!!

Week of the Young Child is April 12th—16th! To celebrate we like to have special Spirit Days (dress up days), as well as some fun family activities too! CECC teachers are planning ways that children and their families can share in some extra fun at home as well, so watch your email for details to come.





CECC NEWS

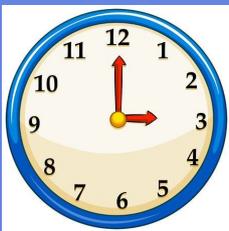


FYI:
ALL students must re-enroll if they want to attend CECC either this summer or next school year. New auto pay forms are required for each new session.



Please remember to sign your child in and sign them out each day!

Questions? See Donna or Trina



Extended Hours

Several of you have asked about the expected return to our regular extended hours. We have been pretty lucky thus far with our protocol of not mixing groups. We continue to watch what the local health departments (KC and Jackson County) are reporting. As I am sure you all are aware young children either cannot, due to age, or do not always wear masks consistently, even when it is highly encouraged with lots of reminders for the older children. We also cannot expect young children to remain socially distanced in a classroom; therefore the limiting of exposure among groupings has appeared to serve us well. I expect that will need to continue until we see the infection rates going down drastically with no more surges. We would hate to make a change too soon and then have to close because of an outbreak at school. I know families would like to have specific dates but that's just impossible. I can tell you that we are really hoping to be back to normal this summer but can make no promises at this time. We will keep families informed as soon as we know about any changes. We appreciate your support and patience while we all do our best to keep everyone safe at school. Take care and stay well,

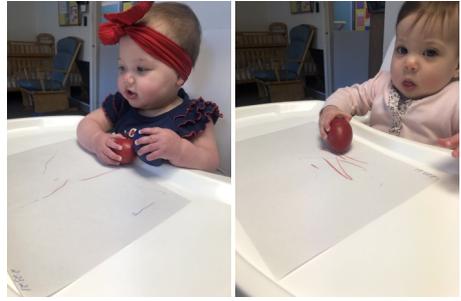
Donna Brown, Director



NEWS OF THE CLASSES

Room 104 (Young Infants) —Ms. Michelle Garcia

We started using stage 1 scribble crayons, they are just the right size for our little hands. We have been trying to scribble on paper. They also like to explore the crayons by looking at them and even putting them in their mouths (they are nontoxic). Also, we will try out My First Paintbrushes to explore another way to create art.

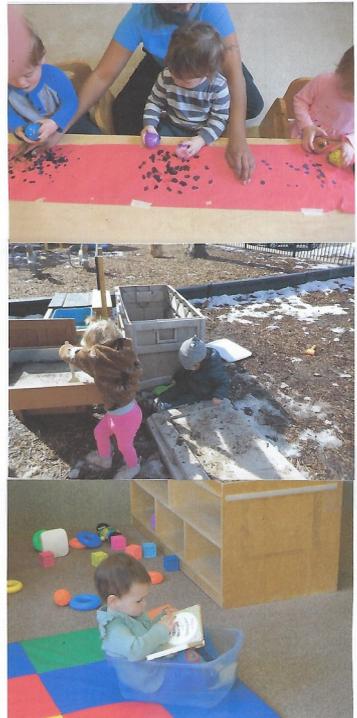


As we focus on music and movement, I will bring in different objects for the children to bang or pat. This will require them to use their Fine and Gross motor skills to pound, tap or beat with their fingers and hands. I will also teach them a new song called "Jump up and down". As I sing, I will insert a child's name and hold each baby as I mimic the actions in the song. This will help develop their social interactions with familiar adults.

Baby, baby jump up and down, jump up and down. Baby, baby, jump up and down and sit right back down". (Add child's name and repeat.)

Room 101 (Older Infants) - Ms. Sara Noreña & Ms. Kerra Wilborn, with Sally Dux

With the weather warming somewhat, we have been able to go outside and play on the playground. The children have been exploring the playground as the snow melts by testing how the ground feels. They have been using shovels, kitchen utensils, and spoons to dig in the dirt and snow. We are always excited to receive our monthly shipment of new Books-To-Go books from the KCMO Public library for our friends to explore and teachers to read for story time. All the children enjoy looking at the different kinds of books. We are also introducing some fine motor activities such as painting and using crayons. And the children are exploring dramatic play by using new items such as puppets and dress up hats and more pretend play items.

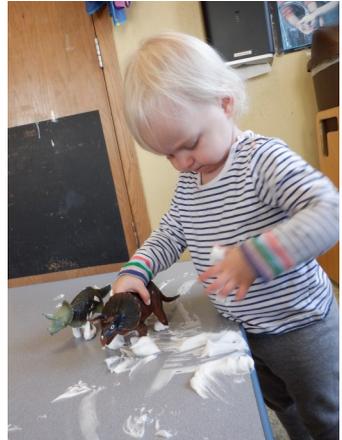




NEWS OF THE CLASSES

Room 107 (Toddlers) - Ms. Erin Guthrie

The snow has melted, and that means we have discovered mud on the playground! Our 107 friends have become more interested in sensory play (like squishy mud!) In the classroom, we have started doing “messy” sensory play using shaving cream (soft and fluffy!), and instant potatoes (grainy and squishy!) The children poke, squish, smash, smear, and explore new textures and sensations. Often, we choose toys to use in our sensory play (our class dinosaurs are especially fond of stomping through the sensory materials!) Messy sensory play is a great learning and exploration activity for kids- they use their senses to smell, feel, look, and yes, sometimes even taste. They experiment with how different materials feel and react, and they can explore how toys or tools like cookie cutters, brushes and rolling pins interact. It’s a great way to practice fine motor skills, too. Almost as fun as getting our hands messy is washing them when we are done! Playing in the running water and watching the mess rinse off our hands and swirl down the drain is so fun, we sometimes want to do it more than once!



Room 105 (Twos) – Ms. Joyce McKelvy & Ms. Shelby Walz

Our students have been practicing self-help skills and have a drive to be independent and do things on their own. Cleaning their face after meals, putting on socks/shoes, and dressing for outside time allow them to use their large and fine motor skills to gain confidence and build self esteem.

While our children are working on self-help skills they are also interested in the letters of the alphabet. As they are playing with magnetic letters, they are learning to recognize letters in their name.

We are on a roll and will continue with self-help and letter recognition as we move into March. Oh what fun we are having in Room 105!!!!





NEWS OF THE CLASSES

Room 203 (Older 2's & 3's) –Ms. Jerri Taylor & Ms. Carla Warriner

With the winter holidays, the children discovered the joy of giving gifts. They still wrap up toys and present their teachers and peers with gifts of classroom toys, usually daily. Valentine's celebrations brought in the addition of the toy mailbox and the children started sending packages of classroom toys to peers.



We have also had some children interested in mixing paint colors, and in March in 203 we will more intentionally explore what happens when colors are mixed 2 at a time. We will explore with tempera paint in a Ziplock bag, liquid watercolors mixed in water in a clear cup, and with large color lenses held up to the light.



Using the scientific method, we will hypothesize what will happen when we mix 2 colors, then we will conduct experiments and draw conclusions. We will continue revising the process, and we will find a way to document our findings.

We will also talk about rainbows, and how rainbows are formed. We will use prisms in our classroom to create rainbows using the sunshine coming in the windows. We will wear green on St. Patrick's Day and share stories about leprechauns. Of course, we will discuss spring and will watch for signs that the seasons are changing. Usually, these observations take place on the playground, and children typically share information from their experiences outside of CECC as well. We will learn about eggs and birds and Easter. We will make pinecone bird feeders. We will dye eggs and have an egg hunt on our playground. We may even decide to mix the egg dye colors. The children also have big plans to make popsicles and we hope to have more cooking days. Additionally, we continue to work on calming our bodies and using our safe spots/calming cubbies to relax.

Room 201/207 (3's-5's) - Ms. Adriane LaCaze & Ms. Angela Bowers

This month we celebrated Valentine's Day in many different ways. We did activities that involved goals from math, writing, and exploring with all of our senses. One of the very first activities that we did was organize candy hearts by color. The children were given a paper to help them divide up the candies. They were then asked to count each color and write the number down. Our next major task was working on writing Valentine's to the people we love. We talked about the things we would say in a Valentine. This list includes "I Love You" "I miss You" and the name of the person you are sending it too. We later worked on this skill as a group by writing a valentine to 203. Each child decorated and signed their name. We explored with our senses using both shaving cream and Jell-o. We talked about how each one felt when we touched it and how they smelled. We noticed that the more you play with either; they lose their form and become harder to play with. For children who did not want to touch either messy play activity, we found them a tool to use instead. We are looking forward to Spring and continuing the interest in art that has taken off in the past weeks .





Dear ECC Families,

It's been a tough winter these past few weeks. With the weather so bitterly cold, I'm so grateful that you've been able to bring your children to our building (most days) for a change in scenery and space to run around. I'm sure that the people who dreamed and built our building would look at your children using this sacred space and say, "Yes. These children are part of the 'why' for this edifice."

As the weather begins to warm up, I know that you will enjoy being able to take your children outside once again. As you listen to the increasing bird songs and look for the first shoots and buds begin to emerge, take time to point out God's good creation to your children. This time of year is a great time to teach your child that every winter, even the very coldest, is followed by springtime. Observing and celebrating the seasons is one way to teach your children resilience.



If you don't have a church home, I hope you'll consider Central in the coming weeks. Palm Sunday is March 28th, and Easter Sunday is April 4. We'll be worshiping online, and your family can worship with us at your convenience. (I'll share plans to reopen for in-person worship and for our nursery/children's ministry as they become available.) Now is a great time to make sure your children are aware of God's great love for them as shown through the resurrection.

Looking for signs of Spring along with you,

Sally

Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes, Pastor Central UMC
Sally@connectatcentral.com



March—May 2021 Calendar

- Mar 1** Enrollment starts for Current Families & Church members
- 10** CFAB 5:45pm via Zoom
- 15** Staff Inservice – **CECC closed**

- Apr 1** Enrollment starts for Community
In person enrollment 4:30pm—5:30pm
- 2-5** Good Friday & Easter Monday-
CECC & Church closed
- 10-16** Week of the Young Child

- May 3-7** Teacher Appreciation Week
- 7** **Staff Inservice – CECC closed**
- 28** Last Day, Field Day tbd, close at 2:00pm
(no PM extended day)
- 31** Memorial Day-CECC closed



March Birthdays!

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|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Michelle Garcia* | 3/6 | Room 104 |
| Vilas Morlok | 3/13 | Room 107 |
| Sally Dux* | 3/21 | Room 102 |
| Charlie Metzler | 3/28 | Room 203 |

**staff*



Check us out on our website!
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