It's back! We will be putting out a quarterly newsletter once more to help you stay abreast of all things happening here at the center.

Looks like the construction is drawing to a close and we will have a nice new roof along with spanking new heating and air conditioning units! Thank you for your patience, I think the contractors did a great job working around us while still maintaining safety.

Along with several events we are also getting ready to “launch” our new curriculum procedures. The preschool teachers and I sat down together and trained on the new Creative Curriculum procedures. Ask your preschool head teacher about this new process.

We are waiting for a contact from Teaching Strategies Gold so we can start training on the assessment portion. The Nevada Department of Education will be paying for the licensing and the per child cost this year for the assessment process. Very Exciting.

We recently had a surprise, random visit from NAEYC which is our accreditation academy. Thanks to a great staff we passed all our required criteria and our staff documentation.

We will receive another report on the other criteria and I will keep you posted. Great job to the Cubs, Turtles and Raccoons as the classrooms chosen for observation!

These visits are completely random and we are never aware of them prior to the assessor’s arrival.

Lastly, we will be having our Silver State Stars Quality Rating Improvement System assessment at the end of October or the beginning of November. More information about that later.

Please come join us for our annual Pumpkin Parade. This is one of our favorite activities and I know the college loves seeing all our kiddos. Pumpkin Parade will be Thursday, Oct. 31 from 9:30 to 11:00.

We are also gearing up for our Family feast event which will be in November.

If you would like to be part of this event please see me or join us at our October PAB meeting. This year we will be setting up a silent auction to raise funds for upgrading our play yards. Come help and share your time and talents.

Lastly please remember we will be closed December 23 - January 3 for more remodeling. We will be putting together a list of available staff members for parents, to help with childcare during this closure.

WNC Child Dev. Center

October - December 2013

Upcoming Events:

❖ Remember to change out weather appropriate clothing as it gets colder.
❖ Parent Action Board: October 11th
❖ Pumpkin Parade: Thursday October 31st
❖ Family Feast: Thursday, November 21st
❖ Center Closure: Monday, December 23—Friday, January 3rd.

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Cubs

The Cubs will be busy in the next couple of months. They are putting together their Tushy Pumpkin Patch a long standing tradition in the infant and toddler rooms. Come check it out. The Cub room is looking for a new baby swing if you would like to donate one it would be much appreciated.

As a reminder, all of the classrooms try to go outside everyday barring exceptionally bad weather so please remember to bring in appropriate clothing as the weather starts cooling down. The weather around here can change on a dime so make sure your extra clothing reflects the change in temperatures and remember coats and shoes for the little ones for outside.

Parent conferences are still scheduled to continue in the next month or two. If you haven’t already scheduled one please stop by the classroom and make sure you sign up. Thank you to all the parents who have already come in for their parent/teacher conference.

Take care from the Cubs!

Turtles

Tushy Pumpkins are going into the pumpkin patch this month and the Turtles are learning how to stack. While knocking down is still a much preferred activity they are working on some eye hand, small motor activities.

They love to sing and dance in the Turtle room and they have been working on some songs about fall. Ask Ms. Meaghan for a list of the songs so you too can sing them with your child.

WARNING: they tend to get stuck in your head so don’t be surprised when you start to hum, “seven little pumpkins” sitting at your desk at work.

See ya- the Turtle Room

Bees and Bumbles

We are really enjoying our sign language curriculum. The kids really have fun with that and are learning a lot. Talk to Ms. Emi, Ms. Joyce or Ms. Sally for more information or signs that you can practice at home. They have been working on colors and will be moving into feelings in the coming weeks. The practicum students have been working hard this semester and supplement the Bumble curriculum with their own activities.

As a reminder we do go outside so please remember to send a coat and hat/ gloves so your child can play comfortably outside.

As the semester has evolved we have had fewer children at times than expected. Please note that we may need to combine the Bees and Bumbles in the mornings and evenings to have more efficient staffing coverage.

Thanks from the Bees & Bumbles.
Rockets

If you haven’t already heard we will be losing Ms. Casandra this year. She will be leaving in January to stay home with her small ones. Casandra has been with the center for 10 years and has been a vital part of the program. She will definitely be missed. Casandra has several days of annual leave that she will be taking in the next few months and Ms. Erica will be filling in and taking over her responsibilities during the transition. We will be initiating a recruit for Casandra’s position prior to her last day for a smooth transition.

Ms. Casandra is excited about the Pumpkin Parade and has some very fun activities and curriculum planned for that week.

In December, the Rockets will be adding some of their favorite curriculum traditions along with the new stuff.

Bears

We are happy to welcome Ms. Jo back after a long while, hoping she continues to feel better. Thank you to Ms. Debie, Ms. Adrienne, Ms. Claudia, Ms. Leah and Ms. Elsie for holding down the fort in Jo’s absence.

The Bear staff is getting familiar with the new curriculum and is looking forward to launching it the week of October 14th. Look for the changes.

The Bears will be starting the curriculum with the Tree Study module and will be doing some multicultural studies in November.

Take care for now,
The Bears

Raccoons

The Raccoons, while a small group have been very busy. They are looking forward to a visit to the Corely Ranch this month and have a few other field trips in the works for November and December.

They have been working with the practicum students as well and have been doing lots of fun activities. The Raccoons are also getting ready to start the new curriculum and will be posting how the new curriculum supports the Pre-K Standards. Ask Ms. Carla more about what the children are learning and how that will help the eventual transition to Kindergarten.

Staying super busy here in the Raccoon Room.

“For Children, play is as natural as breathing and as necessary.”

Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld
Teaching Self-Criticism and Self-Praise

Be careful about using praise or criticism as a way of controlling behavior. Either one can quickly feel like a weapon to a child. Your long-term goal is not this kind of power. Instead, it is to help your child learn to face his own strengths and weaknesses, to praise and criticize himself as he learns to monitor his own behavior. Instead of saying, “Great job!” there may be a chance to ask “How do you feel about how you did?” Your smile and warm voice tell her how proud you are, but you leave your child room to find her own pride. The added benefit of this approach is that siblings are less likely to feel that your approval of this child takes away from your approval of them. The same goes for criticism. Of course there are times when a child needs to be told very clearly that she’s made a mistake. But look for opportunities to ask her what she thinks she’s done wrong, what she thinks she could have done better. A conversation like this is best carried out when the other children aren’t around to add to her embarrassment. Whenever possible, reserve criticism and sanctions for private times with a child. If the others ask, “How come you didn’t punish her?” a parent can answer, “That’s up to me, and it’s between your sister and me.” When the other children are present, stick to clear expectations and instructions that apply to all. When siblings, or siblings and friends get out of control, there’s no need to single one out. Tell the whole group, “You need to settle down.” The others may protest: “But Susie started it!” Simply answer, “I’m not interested in who did it. I’m asking you all to help out.” They’ll get the message. Singling out a child for public humiliation, on the other hand, strikes terror in the hearts of children. But it won’t win you their respect. To protect themselves from it, they’re likely to turn against you. Often, you may not know what really happened, or who started it. But when only some are guilty, all can still be helped to face their responsibility. This approach sustains a parent’s authority while encouraging the children to recognize their interdependence. They may all turn against one sibling, but over time they’ll learn to stick up for each other - an important goal for the whole family.

This article is adapted from "Understanding Sibling Rivalry: The Brazelton Way." by T. Berry Brazelton, M.D., and Joshua D. Sparrow, M.D., published by Da Capo Press, a member of The Perseus Books Group.

- See more at: http://families-naeyc.org/families-today/criticism-and-praise#sthash.ggMfqKoU.dpuf