

September Newsletter

Welcome to the 2009-2010 academic year at UWEC-Children's Center. We are eager to get back into our regular scheduling and to welcome back returning and new children and families. Beginning this fall, we will have approximately 150 children at the center and another 45 enrolled in the Infant and Toddler and Little Sprouts Programs. It should be another fun and busy year.

The EC4T (4 year old kindergarten) program continues to grow. We have 57 children enrolled in the four classrooms that offer the program. I hope all parents of EC4T students were able to attend the orientation. If you missed it, please let me know so I can get the necessary information to you.

There is a change of teachers in the Meadow Room. Mr. Matthew (Steffes) has taken a position teaching kindergarten at Longfellow Elementary School. We will miss him at the Children's Center but we are so excited to have Carla Johnson starting in September. Carla has been teaching in a preschool, school-age program and EC4T classroom for many years. We are all looking forward to having her on the Children's Center staff.

I am so fortunate to have such a wonderfully talented and qualified staff. Your children really do have the very best teachers!! The teachers and staff for the 2009-2010 school year are as follows:

Infant and Toddler Program (6 weeks-2 years) -Michelle Sather and Kim Nettell

Little Sprouts (2 year olds) -Lindsee Haefner

Fireside Room (2 1/2 year olds)- Nancy Ryba

Sunshine Room (3 year olds)- Lisa Coen

Meadow Room (4-4 1/2 year olds)- Carla Johnson

Rainbow Room (4 1/2 year olds)-Lisa Matz

Woodland Room (1/2 day am/pm EC4T)-Michelle Kooiker

ABC Room (1/2 day 3 and 4 year olds)-Kim Reed

Office Manager-Doris Hebert

Head Start Family Service Specialist-Deb Vetterkind

Assistant Director-Kelly Micolichek

Director-Becky Wurzer

Each classroom has a lead teacher with a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education and two university assistant teachers. The student employees are very important in our classrooms and for our ratios. These students bring wonderful interests and talents to the classes. Please try to find time to meet the students who will be working with your child.

We are so excited to announce that we are finally in the process of designing a new child care center. We have waited a long time but now have plans to move forward. It is our dream to model the facility around nature-based learning. Research tells us that children are spending less and less time outdoors and are greatly in need of the opportunities that nature can provide. We plan to incorporate nature into both our indoor and outdoor environments. This year will find us busy with fundraising and making our dreams a reality. I will keep you informed of new developments as we move ahead.

If you have school-age children and are interested in our “School-Out” program, please let me know. This class is open any day that the elementary schools are closed. There are several days when the program will be offered during the fall semester:

Sept. 2 (check in day) , Oct. 8 and 9 (Teachers Conference), Nov. 25 (conference make –up day), and Dec 2 (staff development day).

If you are interested in the evening program for children ages 2-10, let me know as soon as possible. The program is offered Monday-Thursday nights. You can come anytime from 5 pm to 9 pm.

If your child is sick or for any reason not attending on a particular day, please call Doris by 9:30 am. The telephone number is 836-2178.

If you think you might qualify for Head Start, please ask for an application. You will receive some assistance with your child care costs. Head Start will also provide referral and support services for children with special concerns. This collaboration is an excellent benefit for the children and families attending the Children’s Center.

Children Center parking permits allow you to park in front of the center and up to the corner of Roosevelt (across from the Visitor Parking building). The city police look for these permits on the back window of the driver’s side of your car. If it is there, you should not be ticketed. They generally allow about 20 minutes of parking. If you do not already have a new (red) parking permit, pick one up in the office. These permits change color every year so make sure you have the new one.

The center saves Kemps milk tops. These can be turned back to Kemps for cash for our new building! Please save them and place them in the “cow” under the check-in computer.

Please be sure to check the Children's center website to find newsletters, lesson plans, menus, the parent handbook, teacher biographies, and more! New information is put on the site every Friday afternoon and will update you on the next week's activities. www.uwec.edu/children

If you ever have any questions or comments, feel free to come see me any time. Have a great fall semester.

Rebecca Wurzer, Director UWEC-Children's Center