

Early Learning Center

Where Families Connect to Learn, Grow and Play!

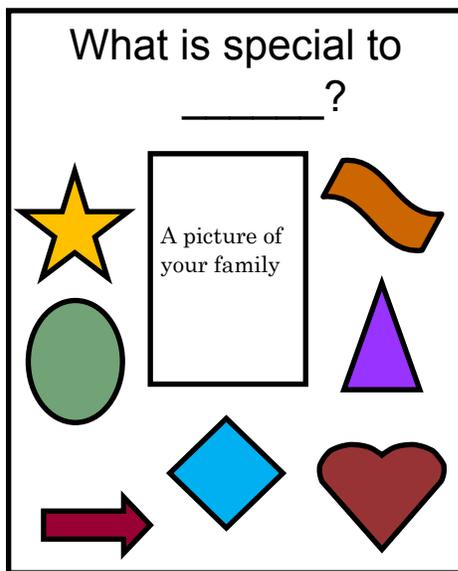
Contact us at: www.bellevuecollege.edu/childcare 425-564-2240

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October 2014

Dear ELC Families,

Have you completed the poster for your child?



Home to school projects like this are a fun way to make a difference in your child's education! Family engagement in an early learning center and on through the school system is a strong indicator of positive outcomes for children and communities in multiple ways. **The Harvard Family Research Project described Family Engagement in schools as one of the strongest predictors of child academic success!**

At the Early Learning Center we want to help you build confidence and habits of engaging. Do you need help completing this poster? Would you prefer to receive the newsletter or take the Family Survey online or in paper? What is the best time for you to attend an ELC Family Meeting? Are there other ways you would like to engage with the ELC? Let us know, either via the survey, at the meeting or a direct conversation or e-mail to me.

October Family Activity:

Please let us know how we are doing by completing the

[Fall 2014 ELC Family Survey](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/surveys/Fall2014ELCFamilySurvey.aspx)

Click the hyperlink or paste or type into your browser:

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=8IKM7p3K>

It is not intended to be a comprehensive survey, but one that will help us assess what aspects of the program to build on or review. Our main questions are:

- **What do you most want us to understand about you and your child?**
- **What has been most important to you at the ELC?**
- **How might we enhance you and your child's ELC experience?**

There are also some specific questions about communication, photography and technology.

If you would prefer to complete a hard copy please ask at the front desk.



ELC Fall Family Meeting

Thursday October 23, 2014 4:45-5:30

Come hear initial results of the ELC Family Survey and share your ideas!

October 2014

Infants & Young Toddlers Classroom Clips~ Bonnie MacGregor, Specialist

Infant 1:

It has been a busy month in Infant 1! We are excited to see everyone's, "What Is Special To You". It has been a great way to learn more about everyone. The babies also enjoy looking at the pictures and hearing us talk about their friends and families. Pictures are a fantastic way to help: foster a sense of belonging, inclusion, language acquisition and calm separation anxiety. The infants have been enjoying getting outside to experience the sights and sounds of fall. The babies have been excited to see the return of birds to the feeder outside our window. The babies have been enjoying songs and finger plays like, Round the Garden and Three Little Bears.

Teachers: Lisa Ann, Liliana, Ghouisia

Infant 2:

For the month of September we welcomed Parisa to our classroom as a lead teacher. She is really excited to work with babies, our babies already built positive relationships with her. We spent lots of time outside exploring in the toddler's side learning about different scenes to experiment the new environment. We talked about the different sounds we heard and the feeling of the breeze and the grass, we talked about people around them. (We also brought the small tunnel in our classroom and our mobile babies loved it so much, they spent most of the time going through it or sitting there and looking around. For the month of October we are going to bring in a small tunnel and place it in the corner of our classroom for our children to explore with it.) We also got some of the family pictures already and looking forward to getting everyone's pictures to place them around the classroom and talked to the babies about their families. We will be using the simple signs from American Sign Language for more, all done and wait. We will be glad to teach these to you so you can use them at home.

Teachers: Mahboobeh, Parisa, Ghouisia

Young Toddlers – Toddler 1:

We welcomed our new families to T-1 throughout September, and at the end of the month also welcomed Teacher Brian to our new fully enrolled class. Together we will be observing each child and describing teaching strategies on the weekly lesson plan to help each individual child and the group develop. Please bring back your child's profile so we can post and use them to learn about each others friends and family members, and provide activities to build on their experience and interests.

For the month of September our children had lots of opportunities to explore during outside play time using shovels to dig, scooping and pouring to practice their fine motor skills. The children are showing a lot of interest in the leaves and trees in our room. This month we will take some walks around the center to see all the colors of fall. We will be doing some sensory projects related to the colors of fall.

Teachers: Yen Chui, Brian, Ghouisia

Toddlers and Preschool Classroom Clips ~ Vanessa VonPapp, Specialist

Toddler 2:

We had a wonderful summer! Our weekly walking trips were the important part of our curriculum. The children learned we belong to the community not only in our center but in Bellevue College. This month as the new quarter starts, we will focus back on building new relationships with all our friends and families. Home and school are young children's two most important worlds, and when we connect in positive and respectful ways, children feel secure. For the month of October our class will work on becoming a community. As teachers we will create many opportunities for the children to work together to discover who is in our classroom, what are their interests and how we are going to help each other in our classroom community.

We will help children to understand that each person has unique characteristics, ways of communicating and ways of solving problems. We will offer multiple ways for children to express their individuality and preferences. We will provide a variety of activities that they can communicate their ideas and feelings through painting, drawing, storytelling, songs or dance.

We will have a very exciting and energetic month together in T2.

Teachers: Diane, Chisaki, Naghmeh

Toddler 3:

In the month of September, we welcomed several new families to the classroom and have been working on getting to know our new friends and their families. Not only helping our new friends to settle down in our classroom, but also welcoming all our children and families, we highly encouraged all our children and their families to participate in our family project "My family is special to me". We are waiting for many exciting family posters to come back soon. In the upcoming month of October, we will continue working on our family project. Also, animals continue to be a favorite topic. You will notice farm animals, books and puppets appearing in our classroom. We will also be working on increasing vocabulary skills with words appropriate to our changing season such as cold, rain, clouds, falling leaves and discovering the weather changing by bringing in our nature friends, pinecones and leaves in the classroom.

Teachers: Rita, Annie, Naghmeh

Toddler 5:

We would like to take the time to welcome our new families to T-5. We are so excited to share your "What is Special to you" page. This will help us to learn more about your family interests and incorporate these ideas into our curriculum. We are looking forward to receiving your posters very soon, so we can display them around the classroom.

The children are learning routines in the classroom, making new friends, building positive relationships, and learning how to enter into play positively. We will accomplish this through circle time art activities and dramatic play opportunities. We are noticing new and increased language as familiar songs and books are enjoyed together as a group. Each child is comfortable to contribute in their own way which goes a long way toward creating community. Outdoors! We are planning some walks to the International Student campus next door to our school for its abundance of trees and insects.

Teachers: Karen, Laura, Wendy

October 2014

Toddler 6:

During the month of September we continued to play circle time games that give the children the opportunity to practice and articulate their feelings and emotions. In the process, they learned to regulate their own emotions and behavior. As we welcomed new children into the class, we encouraged the children to continue with building their sense of community by working together, helping each other, and making friends. In doing so, they learned how to establish and sustain positive relationships that would last them for years to come. Our All About Me posters were also introduced in September at the beginning of the fall quarter.

In October we will continue to build on the possibilities and utilization of our new All About Me posters which were first introduced in September. These will be used by teachers and children alike to encourage discussions about children's likes and dislikes, family, friends, pets etc. Responding to open ended questions initiated by teachers and others, children can express a plethora of opinions and emotions about themselves and their families, as well as the other important items and interests on their posters. These posters can also be used as a source of comfort and security for children, a visual reminder of the things they care most about, to help them as they navigate their daily experience in T6 and the Early Learning Center in general. We will also include and read books in the book/literacy center about welcoming new friends and families to our room, how it feels to be attending a new school, how to make new friends, etc. Like the All About Me posters, the books can offer support, not only for new friends, but for old ones as well, as to how we can welcome others and their families to our room.

Teachers: Marlize, Donna, Wendy

Preschool 3:

As all the new friends have joined our class and all our friends have returned back from summer break, our main focus in the classroom has been (and will continue to be) getting to know each other. We have some new friends to the center and we have some veterans that are helping the new friends in class be successful (i.e. helping guide them to circle time or helping guide them to where the dry rack is located). Because we are all new to the class, we are spending a great amount of time on building relationships and friendships, learning all the different emotions our friends and we can have, learning how to express our feelings through words, in addition to keeping our bodies safe. For these next few months we will continue to focus on building a strong and committed classroom community where we will all feel safe to truly express and be ourselves. In order for learning to begin, one must feel comfortable and safe and because of that, that will be our main goal for our class to achieve these next coming months.

Teachers: Kim, Page, Margarita

Preschool 4:

We in Preschool 4 have spent the month of September getting to know the new children who are now in the classroom. The children now know most of each other's names, and have developed friendships as well as other social skills such as taking turns at the easel, working together in the block and dramatic area and are starting to use their negotiating skills. We will continue in the coming month to focus on self-help skills and using verbal language to express feelings and thoughts. Finally we will start our field trips now that the children are all familiar with our daily routine. Fall colors are finally starting to show on the trees. The children have started to realize a little that it is cold in the morning. Fall is the time animals start gathering food for winter. We will continue to look at the changes in the weather and talk what people and animals do/need to get ready for the colder weather. We would like to take this opportunity to remind our parents to please complete "What is special to me....." activity with your child and give to us. The children are enjoying looking at "What is special to me..." paper and talking about their families and likes. Please let us know if you need any materials related to it.

Teachers: Mala, Lindsay, Margarita

Pre-K 1:

Where did the time go, September is gone and October is here. With weather changes and meeting new friends, it has been a time for excitement, anticipation, and discovery within the classroom in PI. The children have discovered that "Spilt Milk" might not be milk but a cloud in the sky. They have enjoyed making books and retelling the story by looking at clouds outside. Clouds became butterflies, people, bears, and an airplane. The discovery ensued by watching the images at once, then having the wind blow them away. Excitement has come in making new friends and discovering old ones with each new day during September. With sharing families stories and pictures of what is special to each child and their families, we are forming strong community bonds. It is wonderful to see a student's eyes light up when they share families photos and tell their friends at circle time, about family events and celebrations represented in the photos. With anticipation of October, we will continue to share family stories at circle time. Walks will be a focus as we look for changes in the outdoor environment as fall arrives. Counting games in form of songs that add and subtract numbers will challenge children to think about math differently. Creative art will focus on line, shape and color, coming up with ideas as the children freely explore the materials.

Teachers: Mary, Linda, Khazal

Pre-K 2:

In September, after saying goodbye to many of our friends who went off to kindergarten, we began to settle in as a new class and focus on learning about each other and to find ways of working closely as a team. One of the ways we are doing this is by encouraging children to communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings through painting, drawing, music or movement. We are continuing to not only recognize each other's names in print, but to begin writing our own names and other words. Letter recognition activities, using games, stories and books are also a focus. We will also continue to work on fundamental mathematical concepts as we count objects, make sets, recognize and name numerals. In October, we will learn more about empathy, managing emotions and gain more problem solving skills with the help of the Second Step program. As a class, we will begin planning what areas on campus we want to discover and investigate in the fall quarter. P2 teachers and the entire center are excited about the "What is special to you? Family Activity. Look for the display inside our classroom!

Teachers: Robin, Sarah, Khazal