

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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September 2016

Dear ELC Families,

Bellevue College Fall Quarter begins Monday, September 19th. It was a great summer with new friends joining us, continuing families returning and preparing pre-k children to move on to kindergarten.

A warm welcome from all of ELC to new families joining us this year. In addition to new families you will also meet new teachers joining our ELC community. Other teachers have recently changed classrooms and are already deep into planning exciting new learning opportunities for the children. The start of fall quarter is always an exciting and busy time here at the center. "Welcome" to our new families, teachers, students, and to a great new school year ahead!

Lisa Miller - Interim Director, ELC



9/2/16

Early closure at 4:15pm

9/5/16

Labor Day

*** BC and ELC CLOSED**

9/15/16

BC Opening Day

*** BC and ELC CLOSED**

10/1/16

**Enrollment Agreements Due
(please include income verification) & CACFP updates due**

Early Achievers = Early Closures

A change you will see starting in September is that the ELC will be initiating an early closure at 4:15pm on the first Friday of every month. The Department of Early Learning's Quality Rating System, Early Achievers, requires consistent staff meetings and professional development opportunities. The early closure option was chosen as a way to provide this time for teachers without sacrificing continuity and child to adult ratios throughout your child's day. The time of day and week was chosen by reviewing our attendance patterns, as well as college class and work schedules.

Friday Early Day Closures (4:15) for 2016/2017

September 2, 2016	April 7, 2017
October 7, 2016	May 5, 2017
November 4, 2016	June 2, 2017
December 2, 2016	July 7, 2017
January 6, 2017	August 4, 2017
February 3, 2017	September 1, 2017
March 3, 2017	

ELC Updates

New Tuition Rates

We will increase tuition beginning this fall. Our goal is always to keep tuition increases as reasonable as possible, while continuing to provide quality care for your children. We will still maintain a tuition schedule with a sliding income based scale.

Our new Tuition Schedule is now available online. As in past years, newly enrolled families will begin paying these rates as of September 1, 2016. Additionally, an annual registration fee of \$100 will be added to non-student families at this time. For currently enrolled families, these rates will be effective October 1, 2016.

Starting in September payments will be due by the 1st of the month, with a grace period by the 5th of each month. After that time, payments are considered late and a \$25 late fee will be applied.

Parking Lot Changes / Construction

Something you may have already noticed is the parking lot construction in the back of our building. This is happening because Bellevue College is making way for student housing to be built. They will set up and start working on the parking lots on Tuesday, September 6th.

ELC Library

Did you know that we have our very own library? Our library is located through the Toddler wing door and is the first door on the left. The library has been under renovation for that past few months and is almost back to normal. Families are invited to visit our library where you can read and/or borrow books to take home.

Needed Forms

Please keep an eye out for reminder signs asking for updates on forms and other paperwork items. It is hard for us when we need to catch people at the desk, and we certainly don't mean to pester you, but whatever we ask for is almost always a licensing requirement. Thankyou for your help in making sure we are meeting standards for quality care and education!

Teacher Tips for Transition Times!

Whether your child is transitioning to a new classroom, or just joining our school, our teachers are here to support you! Here are some teacher tips...

- Talk about transitions and change with your child.
- Get to know your child's teachers and share with them about your family.
- Provide a family photo or two. Having family pictures in the room helps with a sense of belonging and security and trust. It also gives teachers a chance to engage the children in conversation about their most important people, you!
- Visit the classroom when you can, before, during and after transitions. You are always welcome!
- Learn what differences there are in routine or schedule and begin implementing these at home when possible.
- Ask daily how transitions are going and if there is anything you can do at home to help.
- Keep consistent as much as possible with pickup and drop off times.
- Only talk positive in front of your child about their classroom, teachers and peers.
- Validate your child's feelings when they are upset. "I know it's hard when things change. I hear you. I understand."
- Read books about school with your child.
- Work on social skills with other children during playdates and/or playgroups.
- Make a journal or write a list of the things your child wants to or likes to do in the classroom.
- Ask your child open-ended questions about their time at school. These are questions that require more than a yes or no answer, or a single word answer.
- During drop off transitions children may want to give a window wave or give you a push out the door. Your child may want to have a choice in how they see you depart.
- Allow your child to have a familiar object of yours at school, such as a scarf, shirt or hat.

What's new in the Infant Room?

Teachers: Lisa Ann, Mahboobeh and Bonnie

This month brings many happy changes to the infant rooms! David and Claire have moved up to T-1. We have several new friends this month too. Noah, Adele, Porter and Leilani are joining us as well as teachers: Linda, Liliana and Ghousia. We are thrilled to welcome our new babies, families and teachers.



With so many new faces this month we will be focusing upon building relationships. We will be describing our actions as we do our care routines to foster trust and facilitate bonding. Making eye contact is an especially important aspect of our efforts to build connections. We will also sing songs that use the children's names.



Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Bonnie MacGregor

What have the Young Toddlers been learning?

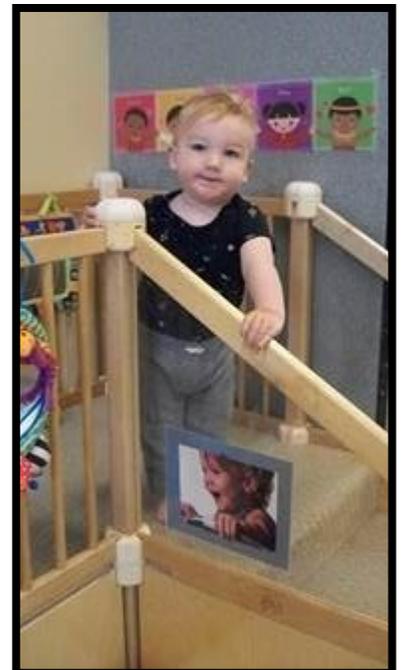
T1 Teachers: Brian, Yen-Chiu, and Ghousia

This summer gave us so many opportunities to see our younger friends from the infant room. We were able to get to know children who will eventually come to our room and they got to know us too!



The children who are leaving us have gained many new skills and have become more confident since their first day with us. We will miss them, but we know more adventures in learning await ahead!

New children in the classroom have a lot to explore when first starting with us. The climber is a popular first stop.



We look forward to getting to know all the new children coming to our room. It might take a little time for the new children to become comfortable with their new environment, routines, and teachers, but there's no rush. We will look to see the interests and needs of all children and adapt that into our curriculum with the goal of helping them all be comfortable in their new school experience and prepare them for the new experiences and learning to come.

Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Bonnie MacGregor

September 2016

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T2 Room Teachers: Rita, Parisa and Naghmeh

In August we had lots of transitions that happened in our classroom. Most of our previous children moved to preschool and they were all very excited to go to! While I was staying with the children in preschool I noticed that the other children were very welcoming to the new children in their classroom. They introduced themselves and started playing with the new children and reminded them where the toys went.

At the same time we got lots of new children that transitioned from T-3. We had few remarkable moments when a child went by the Toddler 3's gate and looked through the classroom. When I asked what she was doing, she responded "I am saying Hi to my friends." We also have few children that stayed with us and those few children helped the new children feel comfortable in their new classroom by showing them where things went and how to play with some new toys. Overall the transitions went very smoothly for children who went to preschool and also the one who came from next door.



Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T3 Room Teachers: Annie, Ali and Naghmeh

Summer months brought changes to our classroom roster with children leaving temporarily, exiting the program, new children joining the program, and children transitioning to Toddler Two. As teachers we strive to help the children understand and make sense of this change.

Recently, several children moved to T2, and the children who remained in T3 were curious about this. During story time one of the children asked “Why’s Kyden and Ethan outside?” They all ran over to the window to look. Instead of calling them back to sit, this time was used as a teachable moment. We discussed transitions and changing classrooms as we get older and bigger. Over the next two weeks the children were observed role playing and waving goodbye while pretending to go visit T2.



We miss the children who have moved up, but they come to the gate and say “hello” or tell us “I’m in T2 now,” with a big smile on their face. During breakfast Kyden came to the gate while washing his hands. Sophie said “Hi Kyden.” His response was “I’m in T2 now.”



A new child, Mehmet, joined our class this summer. After his second day here all of the children knew his name and greeted him with smiles, waves, and by name when he arrived at school. Some of the children who’ve

been in the class longer have helped him learn the routine by saying things like “time to wash” or “come sit for stories.”

After her first transition visit Mackenzie returned to our classroom. Theo asked “you went to T2?” She replied “yeah!” and their conversation turned to soccer. The same day, while stacking blocks, the children noticed out the window that Cameron’s sister was on the playground. Advik said “Cameron look your baby.” Sophie said “Hi Claire and waved.” Cameron had a big smile and yelled “that’s my baby sister!” Theo, who is going to have a sibling soon said “my mommy’s baby grows and grows and grows.” These snippets show us that the children are interested in, aware of, and curious about the changes taking place.

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T5 Room Teachers: Paula, Iryna and Khazal

When we welcome new children to our classroom, we greet them with excitement! We sing a welcome song in the morning and throughout the day to help children feel a part of the environment. We feel it's necessary to have materials ready and available for the children to engage with as they enter the room. There are many learning experiences that happen outside as well.



It is interesting to discover how young children don't need fancy materials in order to explore and have fun with one another. On this day Ethan and Opal had a blast scooping woodchips up onto the table.

The two friends shared the woodchips back and forth. This is just one example of how children are developing their social skills in T5. We look forward to welcoming new friends that will be joining our room soon!

Family photos have become an important piece of our classroom environment. Every day we observe children going over to pictures, either on their own or with the purpose of sharing them with a teacher or a peer. This pictures can be especially beneficial when children are feeling a little sad.



What have the Toddlers been learning?

T6 Room Teachers: Donna, Diane and Khazal

September in T-6 is always an exciting time when welcoming new friends! It is always interesting to see how different children take on the challenge of a new classroom, some shy and hesitant, others bold and gregarious, as if there is nothing to it! We have also seen a few approaches on the children's part in exploring their new space. Some of them have been spending a few minutes at each center, and then moving on to the next one until they have gotten a "sampling," so to speak, of the entire room, while others gravitate immediately to that one area that has caught their eye and attention. They subsequently spend a good deal of time there until they lose interest, eventually moving on to another center where they repeat the experience.



Previous children have been observed taking new children by the hand to help them during transitions, encouraging them to clean up during clean up times, and even telling them about where we are in the routine and what is expected ("We wash our hands;" "Time to dance;" "Lunch time;" "Outside"), etc. Teachers help new friends learn new routines by singing transition and cleanup songs, hand-washing songs, etc., as well as placing visual cues such as pictures at the lunch cleanup bins, or posting the daily schedule in pictures on the wall.



September 2016

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P3 Room Teachers: Karen, Jackey and Margarita

We would like to take the time to welcome our new friends and teacher Mala to P-3. And say goodbye to our old friends who have moved up to Pre-K and teacher Jackey who has moved on to a new job in Arizona. This is a very exciting time of the year as children begin transitioning to preschool what a big step, but with patience and enthusiasm, it is ultimately very rewarding. The children in P-3 have connected with many of the children who have been in our classroom previously. They are teaching the new children how routines and schedules work. The teachers are helping reinforce the schedules and routines of our classroom. We have been learning more about each other and our families. We also had our previous students become buddies with our new students to help them adjust to the classroom. Here are a few pictures of them in action

Ethan became buddies with Rayyan. They said, "We are building a fire station together". "With lots of trucks". Later on Kai asked Ethan if he could play with him. Ethan said, "Yes, here is a train for you". The children are learning how to play cooperatively with one another.



Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

September 2016

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P4 Room Teachers: Chisaki, Wendy and Margarita

This month we say goodbye to our friends as they move to Pre-K and we welcome new friends to our classroom. Our new friends have been busy learning the routine with the help of their classmates on the rules and the ways of how the classroom works. A child's ability to build and sustain positive friendships with peers affects their social competence, and how well they adjust and adapt in school, academic success as well as learning to recognize and respond to emotions of others.

The children have been exploring new options that our classroom has to offer such as new art materials they are able to use freely and explore new ways to create what they have a picture in their mind. We have seen buildings and mask's created with guidance from peers. The sensory tables have also proved to be a popular exploration area as children have been collaborating the moon sand building structures and allowing the astronauts to work to get the ship to land safely.

The children are also adapting well to the teachers and are beginning to remind the teachers if we do something different from our routine. The process of getting used to and familiar with the different personalities is part of the learning process on the parts of the students and the teachers. We grow and learn from each other as we learn about different temperaments and how to relate to and react to our different peers and mentors.



Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

September 2016

What have the PreK classes been learning?

P2 Teachers: Lisa, Lyanne, and Darrell

This month in P2 has been focusing on building on friendships both old and new! Our new Pre-kindergarteners have transitioned well into this new classroom. They enjoy exploring the new routines and opportunities they now have as the older students. In the classroom we created slime and different types of dough. The students enjoyed the different textures and smells. We have been busy strengthening our fine motor skills by squishing, squeezing, and cutting dough.



Another activity they love is music and dance! Every day, before our afternoon group time, we have a small dance party with instruments and ribbons. All the students get in the groove!

Out on the playground, the new Pre-kindergarteners have finally had the opportunity to use “Big Climber,” our play structure. It has been the highlight of the month as we learn to climb on the monkey bars, race down the slides, and how to keep our friends safe in this new space. We are excited to see what this school year has in store for us!



Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

September 2016

What have the PreK classes been learning?

P1 Teachers: Mala, Linda, Page, Erica and Darrell

While the other classrooms are busy writing about making new friends, in P1 the children are in the final stretch of saying goodbye to the friends they have made here at the ELC. For many this means saying goodbye to friends they have known for more than half their life! This can bring up a host of emotions in your child, and YOU!

We are excited for you as parents. Just think of all the new friends YOU are going to make as you participate, volunteer and simply enjoy the next 13 years of your child's education and extra-curricular activities.

The last two weeks at the ELC we have been playing, cooking, field tripping and just simply enjoying our old friends company! Whew, we are ready for kindergarten.

This picture is of Juliana, Blair, Gavin and Danny, four of the children who have been friends since they were toddlers!



Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta