

# Children's Center Updates

August 2016 Newsletter



## New School Year, New Friends, New Beginnings

We have officially been in school for nine days! Old friends have returned, new friends have started, and we are all getting into the swing of a new school year. Beginning a school year can be challenging for parents and children. It is often that school is the first place that a child is asked to truly share their space, toys, and the adults. Pre-school is the first place for most children where they get firsthand experience in building relationships outside of their family, developing autonomy, and gaining strategies towards resilience. Here are 5 tips to help with these new transitions.

1. **Always say goodbye and once you've said goodbye...leave.** When saying goodbye, some children will cry or hang onto a parent. Ask a teacher to help with this transition. Warning: they may have to peel your child off of you. However, after that final goodbye kiss and often before you've even turned the corner, your child will likely be playing with a friend. It's okay to call and check in.
2. **Trust your teachers.** You chose the center for a reason. Your child's teachers know a lot about this age and about early childhood development. They will help your child and you through this new school experience.
3. **Dress for mess.** We play and kids get messy. We encourage parents to dress their children in familiar and comfortable clothes. This relieves stress and anxiety around ruining special articles of clothing.
4. **Who IS this kid?!** After starting school, your child might act differently. He/she might have a potty training setback or they may not want to go to school. Don't worry — this is very common and will settle as they adjust to their new routine. Come to us (the teachers or directors) we have many years of experience and want to support you both through these changes!
5. **Talk about school.** Most times when you ask your child what they did they will say, "Play". Use postings of the day's activities or the menu to direct your conversation. "I saw Leo did a story dictation today. What was his story about?" "How does the Hermie the Wormie song go?"

## Developmental Screening

Upon enrollment, and yearly thereafter, the UIC Children's Center assesses all children using the **Early Screening Inventory-Revised (ESI-R)** and the **Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE)**. Information gained from both screening tools in conjunction with observations by classroom teachers and intake information shared by parents is used to identify a child who may benefit from a more extensive developmental assessment.

You will find the **Parent Consent For Developmental Screenings** form hanging on your child's cubby. Please sign and return to Melinda Young as soon as possible. The form is also attached to this newsletter for your convenience.

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Melinda Young —Assistant Director

## Starting the School Year



As we start off the new school year we need to update our information on file for your child. The following information will need to be taken care of within in the first week of school:

- A 2016/2017 Tuition Agreement Form with Kim Kull.
- Complete an updated *EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE FORM, CHILD RELEASE AUTHORIZATION, EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION, AND CONSENT FORM* (fillable forms are attached)
- Complete Extended Care Registration
  
- Ages & Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional- This 6 page questionnaire can be filled out on site, emailed or taken home to be completed. Blank forms can be found in the conference area next to Melinda's office and attached to this email. All questionnaires are to be turned in no later than **Friday, September 2, 2016.**

### REMINDER!!

\$100 material fee is due by September 2nd.  
This can be included in your tuition payment.