

UIC CHILDREN'S CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME!

Welcome new and returning families to our September newsletter. We are so excited that you have decided to be with us this school year. The September newsletter includes a bio and pic of the teachers and staff at the Children's Center, an at-home math activity and a September book list. Have a great month!
-Samantha

Important Reminders:

- Please complete & return ASQ By Monday, September 16th
- September is a 5-week tuition month

September Birthdays:

- 9/27- Shelby W.
- 9/29- Saifuddin H.
- 9/30- Sofia I.

Events:

- 10/4- Fall Family Potluck

FALL FAMILY POTLUCK
OCTOBER 4, 2019
5:00PM-7:00PM

Chicago Free Museum Days:

Field Museum- Every Wednesday 8/14-11/13
Science & Industry- 9-12, 16-19, 23-26
Shedd Aquarium- 9-11, 16-18, 23-25, 30



"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning"
- Mr. Rogers

Blue Room Teachers

Hello, my name is Leslie, and I am a teacher in the Blue Room. I joined the UIC Children's Center in 2016, but I've had the pleasure of working with young children and families for the last 20 years. I believe that children learn about the world around them through play. Play is how children learn to negotiate, problem solve, as well as develop math, writing and reading skills. Through intentional hands on explorations, we build curiosity, develop questions and find answers.

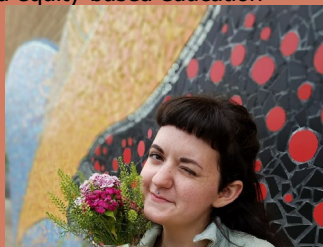
During my free time I enjoy traveling, playing and attending different sports games (mostly basketball), and exploring the city with my family. I look forward to an awesome year together!



Hi, I'm Fallon Brooks! I joined UIC Children's Center June 2018, as a teacher in the Blue room! I am passionate about teaching young children and being able to see the way they learn through peer and teacher interactions. I'm always looking for new innovative ways to engage children to think more critically about the world around them through age appropriate learning experiences! I've been working in early childhood education since 2009. I've worked in CPS, Head-start program and private childcare! I also have my masters degree in Early Childhood Education/Administration! In my free time I enjoy exploring and visiting new places in and around the city, doing outdoor activities, going to concerts, traveling, and hanging with family and friends as often as I can!



My name is Hannah Hemperly and I have over eight years of childcare experience, including two years of teaching Pre-K. I graduated with a degree in journalism and race studies at Colorado State University in 2016, where I also took courses in early childhood development and human and family studies. I worked at the CSU Early Childhood Lab School as a literacy tutor for one year, where they practiced the Reggio Emilia philosophy of child-directed learning. After moving to Chicago in 2016, I explored multimedia storytelling, food advocacy, and the fine dining industry before returning to the Early Childhood field as a teaching assistant at For Your Child Preschool in Bucktown. Our school practiced play-based learning, which I am excited to bring to the Children's Center. I will begin pursuing my masters in Early Childhood Education at UIC in the fall, where I can't wait to further my understanding of inclusion and equity-based education



My name is Juan Jimenez, I have been a teacher at the UIC children center for 13 years. I have a master degree in ECE from UIC. I have been with Brittany in the Green room for the past three years, and I'm looking forward to another exciting year. I love traveling, the theater, and art. I live in Humboldt Park with my dog bear.

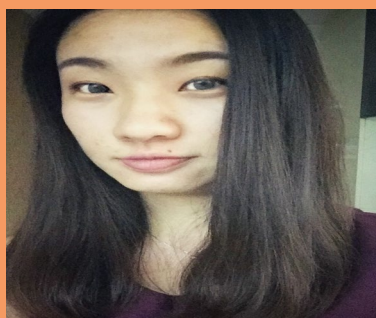


Hello UIC families, my name is Brittany Young and I am a Green Room teacher. I have been with UIC Children's Center for three years. I graduated from Columbia College Chicago with my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I am now in my last year of graduate school, working towards my masters in Early Childhood Education. I have worked as a substitute, floater and head teacher since graduating from Columbia College. I always wanted to be an educator. I love to see how children learn best with good role models in their lives and I strive to be a good role model for the students at UIC Children's Center. During my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I am so excited for this school year and so happy to spend another year in the Green Room.



Green Room
Teachers

My name is Sammi. I'm from China and currently doing my Master's degree at UIC in Early Childhood Education. I volunteered at the UIC Children's Center beginning in October of 2018 and worked as a student employee in Blue Room from January 2019. I cherish all the time spent with the children and learned the importance of the relationship between children's development and their relationship with their parents and teachers. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, playing guitar and spending time with my family and my dog. Personally, I believe that having a fulfilling career is one of the keys to having a happy life; which is why I am so happy to be working with the children every day.



Orange Room Teachers

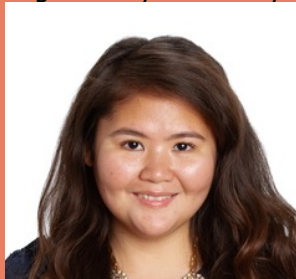
Hello, my name is Arlene Wells and I am a teacher in the Orange Room. This is my 23rd year at the Children's Center. I started in 1996 as a teacher in the younger classrooms at the Children's Center on the east campus. In 2007 I moved over to the older classroom (It was called the Yellow Room on the east side) and have been with the older children since that transition as well as since moving to where I am now. I hold a degree in Early Childhood Education from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. I received my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education here at UIC. I am the proud mother of two children. My daughter Ariel, who is a Children's Center alum, is entering her third year of college at UIUC. My son Jason is a 6th grader. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends as often as I can, drawing and painting, writing poetry and watching Classic 80's television shows. I look forward to getting to know the children in the classroom as well as the families.



Hi, my name is Sandy and I am a beginning graduate student at UIC. I have an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Bowling Green State University. I have spent the past 10 years providing in-home child care to children of Chicago Public School teachers. I taught in a school setting for a few years at the beginning of my career and I am eager to get back to the classroom. My favorite part of working with young children is watching the growth and independence that comes from asking questions and exploring the world around them. I enjoy imaginative stories and making up silly songs. In my spare time, I love reading and discussing books with my book groups, walking in beautiful places, and hanging out with my wife and 15 year-old. I am so excited to be starting at The Children's Center!



Georgina has 8 years of experience in teaching Early Childhood Education. In the last two years she has worked with young special education students. Georgina is currently a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago studying Early Childhood Special education. She holds a bachelor degree from North Park University with a degree in Biological Sciences. She has a Paraprofessional Educator License from the Illinois State Board of Education. In her free time she loves to play music and has been playing the violin for over 20 years. She also loves to start her day at 6am exercising at Orange Theory Fitness Gym or at Pure Barre!



Float Teachers

Hi, I am Linda and I am starting my 33rd year as a teacher at the UIC Children's Center. I have worked with children in the younger and older classroom. I'm a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. My degree is in human development and family ecology with emphasis in early childhood. I received my early childhood certification here at UIC. My husband Allen and I have two daughters, Ashley (26) a police officer at the University of Chicago and Aarika (23) a preschool teacher at Frances Xavier Ward School. When I am not at work, I enjoy shopping, swimming, aqua aerobics, spa treatments, traveling, movies, and spending time with my family and friends. I am looking forward to working as a float teacher in all the classrooms and being the late room teacher. My philosophy is every child is different and every child can learn given the right learning environment.



Hi my name is Chris and this is my 19th year at the center. I have taught in the Green Room for 10 years and the Blue Room for 3 years. This year I am a float in which I get to work with all the teachers in all of the classrooms and do some interesting projects with the children. Some of my interests are collecting children's stories, stuffed animals and puppets. I also dance both Ballroom and Latin styles and I have my certification for Zumba. I enjoy listening to music in these genres. In my spare time, I visit some of the dance studios and ballrooms in the suburban area and dance with my partner and friends. At group time, I enjoy demonstrating some of the dance steps to my students.



Culinary Worker

My name is Ivy and I am the Culinary Worker. I prepare lunch to take into each classroom every day. I also make sure that the children have enough food for lunch. I have worked at the UIC Children's Center for 11 years and I really enjoy what I do here.



Administration

Hi, I'm Kim Kull, the director of the UIC Children's Center. I have just begun my 23rd year here at the Children's Center. I started back in 1996 as a green room classroom teacher, spent 13 years as the assistant director, and will begin my 7th year as the Center Director. My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Indiana University and a master's degree in early childhood leadership and advocacy from National Louis University. I live in Evanston with my husband, Jason. We just dropped our 19 -year-old sons Dylan and Kameron (UIC Children's Center alumni) off at college. Not quite sure what my life will look like without kids living in the house full time, but I hope to find new restaurants and travel to see my boys as often as possible. I enjoy coming to the Children's Center every day, and look forward to getting to know our new families and continuing to work with those returning for another year. Please don't hesitate to stop by my office if you have a question or a concern or even to just say hello.



Welcome Families,
My name is Samantha and I am the Assistant Director at the UIC Children's Center. I am so excited to get to know you all this school year. I have been here at the Children's Center for 8 months. I am enjoying getting to know all that goes into being an assistant director and loving the experience. I have 11 years of experience as a classroom teacher that includes infants through high school age children. I also have a BS in Early Childhood Education and a MS in Counseling Psychology, as well as 2 years of education in Higher Education & Administration. I recently moved to Chicago from Mississippi. In my free time, I enjoy relaxing at the beach while reading a good book. One of my favorite things about the UIC Children's Center is it's warm, family-oriented atmosphere and the diversity of cultures, traditions and ideas. I am excited to welcome the new and returning families. Please feel free to stop by and say hello!



September Math Idea:

Snowball Hunt: Supports counting. Learning to count in order (1, 2, 3, and so on) is a basic math skill.

Materials: 12 cotton balls, 1 egg carton

Instructions: Number the cups of the egg carton from 1 to 12. Hide cotton ball “snowballs” around the room. Give your child the empty numbered egg carton. Ask your child to look for the hidden “snowballs” and fill the egg carton cups in order from 1 to 12. Then let your child hide the snowballs for you to find.



Cutler, Carrie (Retrieved on March 1, 2019). *Support Math with Materials from your Home*. Retrieved from <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/support-math-materials-your-home>

September Book List: This month's book list includes books that highlight topics about the fall season.

Fall is not Easy-



The tree in the story believes that he is not doing autumn right, but we, as readers, see that he is doing quite all right. One message of the book is accepting oneself for what one is. Another message is not being overly judgmental about outcomes of our creative endeavors.

*The Day you Begin-
Jacqueline Woodson*



What a funny story about a boy who wants to send his grandma a real hug by mail. We giggled when Owen walked up to the unsuspecting post office clerk and gave her a hug with the instruction to pass it on to the sorting clerk. The hug was then passed on to the driver, who passed it on to another driver, who passed it on to a pilot, and on and on. It seems that everyone in the story could use a good hug. It even helped two young people in love to finally find the courage to talk to each other honestly.

Verdi- Janell Cannon



Celebrate the first day of fall with this beautiful book by the talented artist [Kenard Pak](#). In the fall, cool winds come, branches sway in the sun, and animals are busy saving food for winter. The art is infused with the warm shades of autumn, and this book makes us want to run outside. It's also a great inspiration for creating a fall bucket list.

Dear Families,

We are pleased that you have enrolled your child in the UIC Children's Center. We want you to feel welcomed and a part of the center.

We understand that there are many times where you may have questions and need immediate answers or you would like to speak with a teacher. Below are the procedures and policies for communication based on the UIC Children's Center Parent Handbook.

Reporting Absences and Changes in Your Child's Schedule:

We ask parents to inform teachers of changes in their child's normal routine, particularly if it affects their day at the Center. This may include planned or unexpected absences and earlier or later arrival or pick-up times. A brief call to the teachers, or an email to an administrator, will help us prepare your child for the change, make adequate staffing plans, and/or inform other children that your child will be absent. It is especially important that you let us know if your child will have a longer day at the Center. A child anticipates his/her parent's arrival and can become worried or anxious if not picked up at the usual time.

DAILY CONTACT:

We strongly believe in maintaining open lines of communication, and your child's teachers want to hear from you. Please inform us of any events in your child's life that may affect his or her behavior.

Unfortunately, arrival and departure times may not be adequate for lengthy and/or private conversations with your child's teachers. Parents who wish to speak with their child's teachers during the day should keep in mind that teachers are in their classrooms with the children most of the day. The optimal time to reach the teachers by telephone is between **1:30** and **2:45**, during the children's nap/rest time. Teachers are able to speak briefly by telephone at other times. Parents may communicate with teaching staff via email, please allow 24 hours for classroom teachers to respond.

Staff may also phone or email parents to let them know about happenings throughout your child's day.

Ways to Communicate

Below is important contact information:

Kim Kull- UIC Children's Center Director
312-413-5328 kkull@uic.edu

Samantha Jones- UIC Children's Center Assistant Director
312-413-5326 skjones8@uic.edu

Teachers' Line- For all 3 classrooms- 312-413-5327 (someone should always answer this line)

Fax Number- 312-413-5329
