Greetings!!!

The year is quickly coming to an end and our one year anniversary is soon approaching! Thanks to all of our UCC families for their support and commitment to us. We are ever so grateful!

As we move into the New Year, it is a perfect opportunity to start fresh and touch base with your child’s teachers. Thus, January will bring a month of parent/teacher conferences. You will be provided a 20 minute time slot to meet with the Lead Teacher of your child’s class, during which time you will preview and discuss your child’s developmental portfolio. Your child’s portfolio includes a brief informational memo, a developmental checklist and a few work samples depending on your child’s age. A sign-up sheet will be available outside of your child’s classroom after the New Year. Please make an effort to be available on the given date and time. Teachers have worked to arrange staffing as well as prepare for this time and your support is appreciated. More information to come.

January also brings the start of a new commitment to quality care and education as UCC has elected to apply for the new Quality Rated System (QRS) for the state of Georgia. “Quality Rated is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs.” The QRS is a time commitment currently ranging from 12-18 months. Since we are considered a larger sized center, we anticipate completing the QRS within the 18 month range.

UCC will kick off its participation in the QRS on January 18 with a presentation from Laura Johns, PhD, Quality Initiatives Director for Bright from the Start. She will provide a detailed orientation for all UCC staff in order to better prepare them for the QRS project. We look forward to participating in the Quality Rated process and, as always, working on continued growth and improvement. For more information on the QRS, visit their website at http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/QualityImprovementProgram.aspx.

Once again, many thanks to our families and staff for all of their support. Everyone has worked together to make this first year a highly successful one! We look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationships and striving for quality care and education for young children.

Professional Learning Day

This Friday marks another Professional Learning Day for UCC. Staff will participate in a program wide meeting followed by recertification of CPR and First Aid as administered by First Response Emergency Training. To kick off the afternoon, staff will participate in team building exercises followed by individual team planning time. Planning time will be primarily dedicated to completed child portfolios and developmental checklists.

Please remember that our next Professional Learning Day is scheduled for January 18th. Different from previous PLDs, January 18th is our first scheduled early dismissal for UCC. With a slightly different look, UCC was hoping to offer a more convenient approach to PLDs for parents. There are four scheduled early dismissal days in the 2013 calendar year. On those particular days, children are to be picked up no later than 12:00PM. Late pick up fees will be strictly enforced! UCC will have scheduled trainings to attend immediately following dismissal, therefore it is vital you respect the given pick up time restriction. Your support is appreciated.

Professional Learning Days for 2013 have been scheduled and sent to you through email. You can also find them now on our website at www.universitychildcarecenter.uga.edu. Additionally, they will be posted on our parent board throughout the year and also located in the updated parent handbook soon to be available in January 2013.
Dear Families,

It is with a heavy heart that, together, we are feeling the emotional aftermath of a national tragedy. The loss of the many children in the Sandy Hook shootings has touched close to home as we all share a bond of parenthood in its early years. I can only imagine that many of you must feel the same as myself. There are hesitations, fears and far too many unanswered questions to consider. The unfortunateness of this situation has left nothing as sacred and forces us to expect the unthinkable.

As a result, UCC Administration took immediate action and has begun to work with the Department of Emergency Preparedness at UGA in order to develop a plan of action in the event of such a situation. Additionally, UGA Police, while already frequenting our grounds, has increased their patrolling and we continue to monitor and report for any suspicious activity. We have no reason to believe that UCC is at risk; however, emotions are at high alert and we want to assure you that our Administration and staff are taking this situation to heart.

Unfortunately, this is now a harsh reality for educational institutions and educators across the nation and is something that our staff certainly keeps in the back of their minds. Though the chances of UCC being a victim of attack are slim, I have every bit of confidence in the UCC staff and Administration that they would do everything in their power to protect the safety of our children against the harms of danger.

Thank you for your continued trust in us. We appreciate your support as we continue to strive to provide the best quality care and education for your children and look forward to growing and learning together!

Sincerely,

Nadia Perez — Director

Baby Boom!

Many of the UCC children are expecting younger siblings in the months to come. If you are an expectant mom and plan to have your child attend UCC, please touch base with Ashley Gunter, Parent Resource Coordinator, to discuss our enrollment availability now.

Did you know that one of our expectants moms is Nadia Perez, Director of UCC?! Nadia is expecting her third child the beginning of March and will continue to work up until the arrival of her baby girl. Her maternity leave is scheduled for twelve weeks with possibility of early return to start upon the birth of her baby. Systems are in place so that in her absence, Ashley Bryant and Ashley Gunter will resume all operational responsibility and are happy to assist your needs. We will keep you posted if this plan is changed for any reason.

Congrats to all “new again” and “soon to be new again” moms!!!!