Greetings!!!

Now that we have survived the harsh Georgia winter, we can look forward to the quickly approaching spring season. As many families are thinking ahead, there have been inquiries about changing schedules, classroom transitions and fall enrollment as it pertains to individual needs.

While for some, summer time means vacations and a more leisurely schedule, for UCC it remains busy gearing up for the fall while still providing daily quality care and education for all children. Unfortunately, this means that we are not able to always accommodate those who are interested in changing their enrollment status from full to part time status for the summer months. Not only does this require a partnering family, UCC cannot guarantee the possibility of switching back to your previous schedule for the fall; thus, leaving you to find alternate care for your child.

Another question that parents continue to have is in regards to classroom transitions. UCC offers a single program wide transition per year for several reasons. Continuity of care is the most important reason. This is an effort to maintain consistency in providers and classroom dynamics as much as possible. If UCC were to continue with rolling individualized transitions, classrooms would experience constant change. Thus, compromising the quality of programming offered. Additionally, a program wide transition aligns with the public school system in order to best support children in preparing them for Georgia Pre-K or Kindergarten. The next program wide transition will take place at the start of the new academic year this August.

Lastly, for those of you who have children that will transition from UCC to either the local school system or Georgia Pre-K, we can still assist you if needed. Georgia Pre-K registration has already started, and Kindergarten registration is quickly approaching for local and surrounding school districts. For additional information or support, please contact Ashley Gunter.

As always, thank you for your continued support as we learn and grow together!

Reminders:

- PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!! Many parents have expressed concern about the speed at which others are entering the parking lot and turning into spots. Please make an effort to be conscious of your speed and attentiveness when in the UCC parking lot.
- Please take a moment to read all emails sent to you from Ashley Gunter. Her emails contain important information regarding happenings at UCC. If you are not receiving her emails, please contact her ASAP with your contact information. guntera@uga.edu
- No school on March 14th for Professional Learning Day.
- Please remember that tuition is due Monday of each week. If payment is not received by Wednesday, you will be charged a $15 late fee. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Attention Parents!!

It has come to our attention that there are several parents, including UCC Administration, concerned about the rate of speed that UCC guests are pulling into and out of our parking lot. While our children are always attended by their parents when entering and exiting the facility, I still cannot stress to you enough the importance of slowing the speed of vehicles and paying close attention to the pedestrians in our parking lot. There are children walking independently who are at a height that makes it difficult to see, often until the last second. Additionally, as parents, we all know that children this age have not necessarily developed their impulse control and have a tendency to “bolt” away from parents. Please, please, please be more conscious of your speed, remind others you see speeding to slow down and be on high alert for pedestrians in the UCC parking lot at all times. Let’s work together to ensure the safety of the UCC children and families!!
Hello UCC parents –
I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and let you know about the UCC Parent Council. My husband and I chose UCC for our son, Henry, before he was born, almost as soon as UCC opened. He started at 14 weeks old in August of 2012, and he continues to thrive in this great place. Last year, I began having conversations with Ashley and Nadia about developing a Parent Council – what that might look like; what it would and wouldn’t do; and how it could be structured. I’m a facilitator by trade and design participatory processes for decision-making and consensus building, so my role here is to work with UCC staff and parents who are interested in serving on the Council to shape and launch it, and then help keep it moving forward. This isn’t an overnight process, and not something that we want to rush in to forming for several reasons: first, we want to make sure it is being established in the correct way for the correct reasons; second, we want to ensure that its purpose is timeless; and finally, we want to ensure that anyone interested in providing feedback on what they’d like to see the Parent Council do has that opportunity.

The UCC Parent Council will ideally be comprised of 13 parent representatives with each classroom represented, or at least each age group. We have initially discussed the following goals for the council: to support the mission and values of UCC; to support the administration and staff of UCC; to provide meaningful communication between and among UCC parents, staff, and administration; and to build community among UCC families. As we continue to work to establish the goals of the Parent Council, we certainly would like to hear from as many folks as possible, and to simplify that, we have established an email address: uccparentcouncil@gmail.com.

Let us hear from you, and if you have any questions, concerns or just comments about the Council, please let us know!
- Leigh Elkins
(Parent Council Minutes from the Feb. 10th meeting will be available soon!)

**UCC Launching Parent Council**

**Employee of the Month**

In the past, UCC has implemented a variation of internal staff recognition activities. Something new that we will begin this month is “Employee of the Month.” The selected staff member will have their photo posted along with a brief narrative of why they were chosen to be highlighted, to be located on the parent board upon entry of the second security door at UCC. Additionally, we will include in this portion of our upcoming newsletters a debrief of the past few employees of the month in order to ensure their recognition to parents. We value our staff and are proud to share their accomplishments with you.
Curriculum Corner: Quality Rated Update

UCC has spent well over a year participating in the Quality Rated Improvement System and preparing for a long awaited final assessment. The past 13 months have included hours of training, building an electronic portfolio and working closely with a Technical Assistant (TA) in each of our 13 classrooms on an individual basis with each of our teachers. Both staff and the Administration have put forth a great deal of effort into making certain UCC is best prepared for submission and the final rating assessment. That said, we anticipate March 28th to be our submission date. After submission, Quality Rated has 30 days to respond to UCC and 60 days from their response to facilitate an unannounced assessment visit.

We would like to thank you for the support you have provided to UCC through this process, as well as working with us to make UCC the wonderful program it is today. We continue to strive for better quality care and education through ongoing professional development and involvement in programs such as Quality Rated. It has been a challenging, yet rewarding experience.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress as we wrap up the last month of our Quality Rated participation.

UCC Newsletter

UCC offers a variety of methods when it comes to parent communication. One of the methods is weekly emails. Since UCC is offering more frequent electronic messaging, we have decided that our newsletter will now be offered on a quarterly basis. Newsletters are always sent as an attachment via email, and are archived on our website for you to refer to if and when necessary.

Professional Learning Days

The March Professional Learning Day will be held on March 14th as a full day. During that time, UCC staff will participate in several online and face to face trainings. Training topics will include Cultural Competence, Strengthening Families, CPR/First Aid, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Inclusion. Additionally, despite cancelation of our last scheduled Professional Learning Day, staff still completed online trainings through ChildCare Education Institute (CCEI). Lastly, UCC staff will be provided some time in the afternoon of the March 14th Professional Learning Day in order to better prepare classrooms for our anticipated Quality Rated assessment.

Policy Highlights: Help Us Respond to Unexpected Medical Needs

Parents will soon receive information about the UCC Insurance policy. UCC does not carry insurance to cover a child’s injuries that occur while at the University Childcare Center. Children must be covered on their parent or guardian’s personal medical coverage/policy. In the event that a child’s injury requires medical attention and their parent cannot be contacted, UCC will need the appropriate documentation in order to tend to the needs of the child. Necessary items will include a signature allowing permission to contact the appropriate medical response units, as well as a copy of the parent or guardian’s most recently updated insurance card to provide to the responding company. Please look for further information to be provided by Ashley Gunter and return the required materials as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.
Dear Families,

While we thought we were beyond the cold and flu season, it seems as though many of our children and classrooms are still experiencing lingering illnesses. UCC has been, as always, diligent about taking the necessary measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases; primarily in the form of hand washing and disinfecting/cleaning. In other efforts, we encourage any staff who are feeling under the weather to stay home from work and return when they are healthy. Our staff are sure to inform parents at the first sign of a communicable illness/diseases in their classrooms. Additionally, the Administration posts any diagnosed or confirmed illnesses outside of each classroom and on the parent board.

UCC needs your support in providing a healthy work and learning environment for our children and staff. In several of our past newsletters and emails, we have stressed the importance of complying with the UCC and Bright From the Start rules and regulations regarding the “sick child policy.” I cannot overemphasize the importance of keeping children with illness home from school until they are healthy enough to return. Not only does this put UCC in an uncomfortable situation, but it affects those beyond the classroom. Ill children can potentially infect children and teachers in other classrooms, parents and siblings of other children, and so on. It truly can turn into a vicious cycle.

Coming from a dual income family, I understand the pressures that come with staying home from work or the stress of trying to find alternative childcare. I can also appreciate the frustration of others that could arise if my child were to cause others illness, as well as the stress on staffing and overall function of the program that occurs for UCC.

Below is an excerpt of the UCC sick child policy for your reference. Thank you for working with us to minimize the spread of infectious diseases. If you have questions regarding symptoms or are unsure of our “sick child policy,” please be sure to ask UCC administration and/or familiarize yourself with our Parent Handbook that has been provided to you.

Best Regards,

Nadia Perez

---

**A Letter from the Director**

If your child shows any of the symptoms of a communicable illness / disease, e.g., 101 degree or higher oral temperature, diarrhea, rash, sore throat and/or any other symptom while in our care, we will remove him/her from the group and notify the parent or authorized adult by phone to pick up the child immediately. Parents have one hour from time of notification to pick up the child. If the child develops these symptoms during the day the child will be removed from the classroom, the parents notified and the child sent home. Parents will be provided an “I'm not feeling well” form, indicating when the child is permitted to return to UCC according to Bright From the Start and UCC illness policy. **Please note: a 24-hour exclusion period includes a full day of childcare.** (Ex: If a child is sent home at 10:00 am on Tuesday, s/he will be able to return on Thursday.) Thus, children must be symptom free for at least 24 hours, without support of Tylenol or ibuprofen.

For the full length Sick Child Policy, please refer to pages 10 and 11 of the University Childcare Center Parent Handbook. If you have misplaced your handbook, please contact Ashley Gunter for an electronic copy.