Greetings UCC Families!!

Fall is here!! The new school year transitions went smoothly and it appears that students, teachers, and parents have adjusted well to their new classroom routines. We appreciate all of the support and feedback throughout this process. Below are a few center-wide reminders.

With the fall and winter seasons approaching be sure to bring weather-appropriate changes of clothes for your child(ren) and bundle them up as the cold weather creeps in. Regardless of the weather forecast please send a jacket or coat with your child each day since the weather tends to be cooler in the mornings.

This past week, faculty and students from the UGA Speech and Hearing clinic facilitated speech screenings for all of our students ages 3 and up. For those of you who missed the speech screenings and are interested in receiving one for your child, the Speech and Hearing clinic will hold free onsite screenings on November 7th. You must have an appointment so please call 706-542-4598 for more information.

Cold and flu season is on its way, so please be sure to help us combat the spread of any illness throughout the center. We are thoroughly hand washing and disinfecting daily, but anything that our families can do beyond the classroom is greatly appreciated. If your child shows any symptoms of a communicable illness / disease, 101 degree or higher oral temperature, diarrhea, rash, sore throat and/or any other symptom while in our care, we will remove them from the group and notify the parent or authorized adult by phone to pick up the child. Parents have one hour from time of notification to pick up the child. The child may return to the Center after they have been symptom free for 24 hours. Although we know this can be an inconvenience we appreciate your attention to this matter.

Thank you for your continued support and participation as we continue to grow and learn together.

Reminders:

- Please be sure to keep up with your key cards... For the safety and security of the children and our building please use your key card when entering the building.
- **October 24th** Fall Tailgate-Picnic for all UCC families!
- **November 2nd**— turn your clocks back 1 hour for Daylight Savings
- **November 26th** is a HALF DAY (pick-up by noon) for a PL Day.
- **November 27/28th** NO SCHOOL for Thanksgiving Holiday.
- **December 25th—January 1st** NO SCHOOL for Winter Break.

Please see the Professional Learning and Holiday schedule posted on our website (under the “About” section) for future dates.
**UCC 3rd Annual Tailgate-Picnic**

On October 24th from 5:00pm-7:00pm UCC will be hosting its 3rd Annual Family Tailgate-Picnic! This is a pot-luck, *optional*, drop-by style event for all of our families and staff to mingle and enjoy some great food.

At the Tailgate-Picnic we will have a costume parade for all of the children to show off their look. Be sure to bring your child’s costume so they can change just before the parade; which will start shortly after 6:00pm.

Also, this week all of our classrooms have been decorating a PUMPKIN! All pumpkins will be displayed at the Tailgate-Picnic for everyone to vote on a winner.

We have had a great turn-out the past two years and look forward to another successful event.

**Professional Learning Days**

Professional Learning Days are required by Bright From the Start licensing, and are a way to strengthening our knowledge base, thus ensuring quality care and education for your children. As always, we will continue to provide you a general overview of the information covered on our Professional Learning Days.

In September all of our administration and full-time teachers attended the Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC) Conference in Duluth, Georgia. Training topics included:

- Creating Classroom Community Through Music, Movement, and Group Singing
- Intentional Planning with the GELDS (Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards)
- 5 More Minutes! Wait! Hurry Up! The Dos and Don’ts of Transitions
- The Arts and Nature

This Monday, October 20th, marked another Professional Learning Day for UCC. Staff participated in a 3-hour CPR/First-Aid training, worked in their classrooms, and had a tour of Sanford Stadium from a former UCC parent for a **great** team-building activity!

Please refer our website for the Professional Learning & Holiday schedule for future closings.
**We are Quality Rated! 3 Stars! ★ ★ ★**

We are so excited to announce that we completed our Quality Rated assessment and received a **3-star rating**; the highest rating possible! Our teachers did an amazing job during their assessments! Teacher/child interactions scored the highest above all else!

We started the Quality Rated Improvement System in March 2013, were assessed in May 2014, and received our rating in August 2014. It was a very long process, but well worth the result. We cannot thank our families, teachers, and support staff enough for their patience and effort during this process. If you would like more detail about QR go to: https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/

**2014 Hunger Bowl!**

The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia is hosting their 3rd Annual Hunger Bowl and the UCC is doing our part to help out!

The Hunger Bowl is a community wide competition to see who can collect the most food (per pound) to help the Food Bank reach their goal of collecting 125,000 pounds of food in the 2 weeks prior to Thanksgiving. Last year they surpassed their goal and collected 127,000 pounds of food which equates to 97,000 meals.

UCC hopes to help them surpass their goal again this year by collecting cans of food or money donations. You will see bins for collection at the following two locations:

- **The Family Tailgate-Picnic on October 24th**
- **In the center lobby from October 31st-November 13th**

The Food Bank provided more than 11.9 million pounds (9.5 million meals) last year to northeast Georgia residents. Please help us become part of this impactful program by collecting as many pounds of food as possible to help the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia serve northeast Georgian families and children.

**Policy Highlight: Center Parties**

UCC loves classroom parties!! We think birthdays, seasons, or any special occasions are wonderful things to celebrate! These are some things to keep in mind when having these celebrations at UCC:

- Healthier food option examples: cheese, fruit (no grapes), muffins, mini-cupcakes, cake-pops, crackers, veggies (no carrots), etc.
- Please, **no candy** or soft drinks.
- Also, please be aware that childcare centers cannot have any balloons present in the center at any time. The rubber balloons are a choking hazard and a licensing violation. Thank you for your understanding, support, and attention to each of these matters.
Hello UCC Families!

Since we sent out our last newsletter a lot has happened around UCC! Our new school year has started, the Parent Council has had its first official meeting, and classrooms are functioning wonderfully. Ashley B., Robyn, and I have been doing more and more observations in each classroom and we love the activities, interactions, and lessons we are seeing. We are very proud of our teaching team and the strides they take to make sure UCC is one of the best childcare centers in the Athens and surrounding areas.

Also, most of you probably do not know that I am expecting and am scheduled to have the baby in the beginning of January 2015. I will return mid to late March 2015. Both Ashley B. and Robyn will continue the normal day-to-day duties as they already do in addition to my responsibilities. We may have one additional employee assist us during transitional times of the day. Although it sounds like a lot to take on for two Administrators this will be the 3rd maternity leave we have experienced with our Administrative team. With our experience in handling maternity leaves we all work collaboratively as a close team to ensure classrooms are continuing to provide quality care and safe environments for all students throughout the center. We are well prepared and know how to make the temporary adjustment as smooth and seamless as possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns with anything, anytime. My door is always open!

Thank you!

Ashley Gunter

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**Picture Days**

ZoomWorks Photography will be at UCC on October 28th (Tuesday) & 29th (Wednesday) for fall pictures. You will be able to access images for purchase at their online gallery: http://www.pictage.com/1629000. This gallery will be available Nov 7th—Dec 31st, 2014. You should have received a flyer via email with pricing options as well as other information regarding order-by dates and contact information for the company. Please let any of the UCC Administrators know if you have any questions.