It has been fun to start the month of May with a celebration of our teachers at the CCD. Our teachers are very dedicated and do an outstanding job. I hope that you participated in some way by either dropping a “thank you” note, baking some cookies, or giving some type of gift. If you didn’t, please do so. Sharing our appreciation for the teaching staff doesn’t have to be reserved to one week per year!

I would like to update you on the program director transition. We have now received feedback from the ad hoc committee and focus group meetings that we conducted and have decided to proceed with hiring a new program director for the CCD. That position will be posted soon and we hope to have that person in place before summer so I may spend the summer months training this person for the job. Dr. Herring will serve as chair of the search committee. We will keep you updated as that process moves forward.

This is also a bittersweet time of year at the CCD. We will have a graduation ceremony on May 26th at 6 P.M. in the Trent Lott Center for our kiddos who will be going on to kindergarten next year. We are very proud of this group of kids and they will be greatly missed as they move on to the next season of life in “big school.” I want to thank all of the families that will be leaving us for the opportunity to serve you. Please stay in touch!

As children transition out of Ms. Rachel’s class, we will begin the process of promoting children across the classrooms at the CCD. Your teacher will be in contact with you when this process will start for your child. We plan to have all of the classrooms transitioned by the start of the next school year in August. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns during this process.

**From Ms. Stephanie’s Class…**

For the month of May, the infants will start out by studying animals! We will have a focus week on zoo animals, and follow it up with a focus week on farm animals. We will then move into book collection themes. The third week of the month will be about Pete the Cat books and the fourth week will be the Llama Llama collection. We are going to have a very busy month full of intentional teaching activities!
Check out these fun titles for Infants and Toddlers

Recommended Reading...

3 books for birth to 12 months:
- Peek-a-whoo, Nina Laden
- Guess how much I love you, Sam McBratney
- Blue hat, green hat, Sandra Boynton

3 books for 12-18 months:
- I love you through and through, Bernadette Rossetti Shostak
- On the night you were born, Nancy Tillman
- 10 Kisses, Karen Katz

The 4 E’s: TAKE A BOOK TOUR...

- Explore the parts of a book with your child, including the title page, the dedication and table of contents, page numbers and index.
- Explain what the author does and what an illustrator does for the book.
- Experience it! Allow them to feel the cover, smell the pages, listen the crinkle of turning pages and explore the pictures before reading it.
- Estimate it! Ask your child what they think/predict about the story based on what they’ve seen and share your ideas.

Look for these at your public library!

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think”
-Margeret Meade

3 Books for 18 months to 2 years:
- Bear’s loose tooth, Karma Wilson
- LMNO Peas, Keith Baker
- Whoever you are, Mem Fox

3 Books for 2 years to 2-1/2 years:
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Bill Martin Jr.
- Sleep Big Bear, Sleep, Maureen Wright
- Slugs in love, Susan Pearson

3 Books for 3-4 years:
- Love is..., Heidi Pross Gray
- I love you forever, Robert Munsch
- The Giving Tree, Shel Silverstein

3 Books for 4-5 years:
- We are all born free: The universal declaration of human rights in pictures, Amnesty International
- I have a right to be a child, Alain Serres
- Child of the Civil Rights Movement, Paula Young Shelton

3 Books for 5 years and up:
- Sister Anne’s Hands, Marybeth Lorbiecki
- Where the Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak
May 1st—Mother Goose Day

- Read nursery rhymes
- Use counters while reciting “One, Two Buckle My Show.”
- Clap to the rhythm of “Pease Porridge Hot.”
- Waddle like Mother Goose.
- Flap your wings like Mother Goose.
- Make star puppets and sing “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”
- Make sequence cards for Nursery Rhymes that tell a story.

A few of our favorite childhood websites...

Mississippi Early Childhood Association (MECA): http://www.msearlychildhood.org/
Mississippi Early Childhood Association is a chartered, non-profit, educational organization with affiliates in many local areas.
(Membership in the Mississippi Early Childhood Association also provides membership in the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA).

Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA): http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/
The Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) is committed to improving the quality of care and education for young children and their families through advocacy and professional development.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): Advocacy for children from birth to age eight http://www.naeyc.org/
NAEYC’s mission is to serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights and well-being of all young children with primary focus on the provision of educational and developmental services and resources (NAEYC Bylaws, Article I., Section 1.1)

ZERO TO THREE: http://www.zerotothree.org/
ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers.

Our mission is to ensure that all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life.

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of children.”
-Fred Rogers
From Ms. Sherrie’s class...

This month Ms. Sherrie’s class will be learning about farm and wild animals. We will be discussing farms around the globe and discovering what it takes to be a zookeeper. We will be learning animal sounds and feeling fake fur and animal skins. We will be growing our own corn and learning about the types of food farm animals eat. We will be inviting the local zoo to introduce the children to some live animals. We will continue to do our lap time and floor time activities.

From Mrs. Sharla’s class...

Our themes for May are farm animals, zoo animals, Pete the Cat, and Llama Llama. We have the mobile zoo coming for zoo week. Pete the Cat week will be all about shoes. We will have pajama day during Llama Llama week.

From Ms. Samantha’s Class

For the month of May, we are looking forward to exciting learning themes as we enter into the spring season. We will begin the month by focusing on farm and zoo animals. After, we will enjoy some familiar books as we explore Pete the Cat and Llama Llama themes. The children love listening to these stories and I’m truly excited to create activities that will engage their learning experience around these fun books. To finish off May, we will get lost in the deep blue sea as we focus on the Under the Sea theme. If you have any of the Llama Llama or Pete the Cat books, please feel free to bring them and even participate in story time with us. We love guest!

From Ms. Myrna’s class...

We will be saying farewell to Ms. Gertha this month as she walks across stage to receive her diploma in Child Development. She has grown on us and we will be supporting her on her big day. She will be missed. We will continue throughout the month talking about animals, their habitats, animal babies, and the types of food they eat. During the third week of May we will start our Pete the Cat series. We will do activities from I Love My White Shoes, Four Groovy Buttons and Rocking in My Red Shoes. The following week we will begin Llama, Llama. Llama, Llama Red Pajama will be our favorite book this week (wearing of pajamas). Thanks to each of you for supporting us on ‘Working Together’ for Week of the Young Child.

“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That’s why we call it ‘The present’.”

-Eleanor Roosevelt
From Mrs. Zkela’s class...

This month, we will learn about zoo animals and ocean life. The letters for the month are B, C, D, and E. Also, the children will listen to stories; explore; play games; create art; continue to learn how to work together; write; recognize numbers; shapes; and etc. We are going to have so much fun learning about these units.

On May 16, 2016, we will welcome our new student teacher in our classroom Ms. Savannah Belk. A photo will be posted outside on the white board of the student teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

From Mrs. Bridgitte’s class...

What a great time of fun and learning we have had over the last few weeks. We have watched our classroom tadpoles change into frogs, watched our sweet potato grow roots, and now we have a turtle to care for in our classroom! We have been leaned all about spring, flowers, and how plants grow. We even planted beautiful flowers in the pots at the front entrance of the center, and will continue to water and care for them. The month of May is going to be filled with even more fun and excitement as we explore zoo and ocean animals! We will spend about two weeks on each of these themes. We will even create our own little "zoo" in our classroom by bringing our favorite small zoo stuffed animals to hang out in our room. Later we will create our own little ocean with our sand and water tables. We just can’t stop having fun! I want to share this poem with you all... it touched my heart when I found it. I hope it does yours as well.

Hold them a little longer,
Rock them a little more.
Tell them another story
(you have only told them 4)
Let them sleep on your shoulder
Rejoice, in their happy smile.
They are only little,
For such a little while!!

From Mrs. Carmen’s class...

I am pleased to announce we have a new student teacher, Ms. Ainsley. Ms. Ainsley will be here for the summer semester and the kids have already enjoyed spending time and getting to know her. In addition to Ms. Ainsley, we have a new assistant in our class, Ms. Kimmy. She has worked with children for several years and is excited to come back into a classroom setting fulltime. Please also remember to either bring or email me family pictures so we can create a family wall in our classroom. My email is carmen.stilwell@usm.edu.

“Education the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”
-Nelson Mandela
Warm weather has finally arrived and I do believe it is here to stay! This means it is time to switch out the winter clothes in your child’s cubby for warmer weather gear! Also, if your child is fair skinned or prone to bug bites, please put sunscreen and/or bug spray on them before bringing them to school. We will spend the first two weeks in May learning about zoo animals. Keep an eye out for the dates that the mobile zoo will visit our school! The last two weeks in May will focus on ocean animals. Graduation is May 26th at the Trent Lott Center starting at 6:00 p.m. This is a bittersweet moment for me. I’ll miss all my children’s smiling faces but I know they’ll be moving forward in their education. May is going to be a busy, but fulfilling and fun month!

Create a pool noodle water wall and get active outside...