



# UNO Child Care Center Chronicle

## December 2024

Dawn Hove-Casart - Director

Monica Dey - Assistant Director

**Wishing everyone a Very Happy Holiday Season!**

### Happenings: Mark Your Calendars

#### The UNO Child Care Center CLOSSES promptly at 5:30 P.M.

Please make sure you are here by 5:30 P.M. to pick up your child. Your account will be charged \$1.00 late pick-up fee for every minute you are late picking up your child past 5:31 PM and you will be responsible for paying this fee. If you are unable to be here by 5:30 P.M., please make other arrangements to have someone else pick up your child. You need to call the Child Care Center and let us know. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

#### UNO Child Care Center Annual Holiday Program, Saturday, December 14, 2024

The UNO Child Care Center Annual Holiday/Winter Program is on Saturday, December 14, 2024. It will be in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom beginning at 10 A.M. Please have your child there no later than 9:40 A.M. We hope to see you there.

#### UNO Child Care Center Closed for Winter Shutdown

The UNO Child Care Center will be closed from Saturday, December 21, 2024 through Wednesday, January 1, 2025 for the Winter Shutdown. The UNO Child Care Center will re-open on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 6:30 A.M.

#### Holiday Attendance

With the holidays fast approaching, please remember to let us know if your child will not be here on certain days. We have several teacher assistants who will be traveling home for the holidays and we need to plan ahead. As a reminder you will be responsible for paying for your child's regular tuition even if they are not in attendance.

#### Change in Schedule

If you need to change your child's schedule for the spring semester, please see Dawn or Monica to fill out updated paperwork and contracts. Otherwise, your child's schedule will stay the same for the spring semester. All parents who are UNO students, need to turn in an updated spring semester schedule for your child's file. These are due now.

#### Winter Reading Challenge

On the last page of the newsletter is a Winter Reading Challenge that you can do with your child during the winter shutdown. Your child can color in the pictures once they complete the challenge. Happy Reading!

#### Winter Weather

The children do play outside and will go for walks on campus. With the weather getting cooler, please make sure your child has a jacket/coat, hat and/or gloves for outdoor play. As long as the temperature, including wind chill, is above 32 degrees, the children will be able to play outdoor.

#### Illness Reminder

As wintertime approaches, so do illnesses. Remember that if your child is experiencing any illness type symptoms, to please keep them at home. If your child develops a fever of 100.4 or above, your child must be fever free without the aid of Tylenol or Ibuprofen before they can return. If your child has vomited or had diarrhea 2 or more times in a 24 hour period, and/or develop additional symptoms, they must be out for 24 hours, symptoms improving before returning. The UNO Child Care Center continues to follow all COVID guidelines from the Douglas County Health Department. If your child has been diagnosed with an illness, please let us know.

#### UNO Diaper Drive

In collaboration with UNO Spirit and Tradition Events, we are collecting Diapers for the UNO Diaper Drive. The classroom that brings in the most diapers will win a prize from UNO Spirit and Tradition. Please help us support this event. A box is located in the multi-purpose room for you to place your diapers. Please make sure to label your diapers so we know which group to credit. Thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dawn at 402-554-4936 or by email at [dhove@unomaha.edu](mailto:dhove@unomaha.edu).

# Happy Birthday!

- 2 - Miss Jessica
- 10 - Miss Jacqueline
- 12 - Mr. Thuram
- 12 - Jovanni M.
- 16 - Miss Alice
- 24 - Mr. Fred
- 24 - Miss Sophia
- 24 - Ms. Alecia
- 28 - Vera O.
- 28 - Teacher Wynn



# December



## Safe toys and Gifts Month Month of Giving

- 3 - Giving Tuesday
- 4 - National Cookie Day
- 14 - UNO CCC Annual Winter Program; MBSC 10AM
- 14-20 - Final exams for UNO students
- 21 - Winter Solstice
- 23 - January 1 - University Winter shut down, CCC closed
- 25 - Christmas
- 25 - Hanukkah begins



# January

## National Blood Donor Month

- 1 - New Years Day, CCC closed
- 2 - Child Care Center Re-opens
- 2 - UNO J Term begins
- 15 - National Hat Day
- 18 - Winnie the Pooh Day
- 20 - Martin Luther King Day, CCC closed
- 21 - UNO Spring Semester begins
- 29 - Chinese New Year

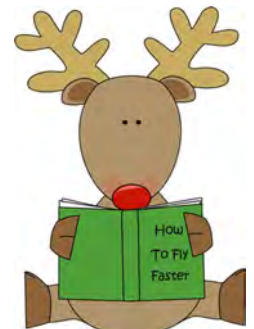


## Recommended Books for the Month



December is a great month to read with your child! With the weather being colder, children don't have as many opportunities to spend a lot of time outdoors. Here are some great, seasonably appropriate books to cuddle up and read together!

- “Little Dreidel Learns to Spin! By Rebecca Gardyn Levington
- “The Mitten” Adapted by Jan Brett
- “Jingle Bells” by Iza Trappani
- “My First Kwanzaa” by Brittany House
- “Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Sleigh” by Mo Willems
- “Five Busy Elves” by Patricia Hegarty
- “The Night Before Hanukkah” by Natasha Wing
- “My Family Celebrates Kwanzaa” by Lisa Bullard
- “How to Catch Santa Claus” by Alice Walstead
- “Sneezy the Snowman” by Maureen Wright
- “The Snowy Day” by Ezra Jack Keats
- “The First 12 Days of Winter” by Nancy Atkins
- “Ten on the Sled” by Kim Norman



## Reading Fun!

Book Orders for this month will be due on Friday, December 6, 2024.

Books are an important part of a child's development and can help your child gain pre-literacy skills. When you order your child's books through Scholastic Book Orders, the center earns points to use towards free books and educational materials we can use in the classrooms!

Please visit [scholastic.com/bookclubs](https://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs) to order.

If this is your first time ordering online, you will need to create an account using our center's code GKXFX. This is the center's account under "Dawn Hove". Please make sure you are using this account, or your order may not be processed. You will be able to pay online and the books will be delivered to the center. Happy Reading!



## Talk With Toddlers

Happy December Toddler Parents!!

First and foremost, I would like to thank all the families that donated to Together Inc.'s Food Drive. I know that Together Inc. appreciates our donation to help families fight food insecurity and your toddlers will appreciate their pizza or ice cream party.

With winter right around the corner our friends will be spending more time indoors. The Toddler staff and Mr. Fred have planned a variety of fun indoor activities.

Here is a sampling of a few of the activities:

- Exploring Snow (if we get any)
- Carpet Ice Skating
- Ice Cube Painting
- Cotton Snowball Toss

The toddlers will still try to schedule some outdoor play when the weather allows it, so please continue to bring in toddlers in warmer clothes for outdoor play.

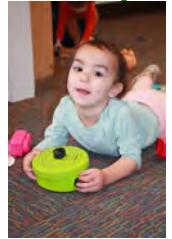
The theme for December is Winter Wonderland. The Letters for the month are J, K, and L. The numbers are 8 & 9; the color is blue and the shape this month is the star.

Reminders:

- December 14 is the Winter Program at the Milo Bail Student Center. Please have your children at the Student Center no later than 9:40 AM.
- Please bring in a refill package of diaper wipes for the month of December.

Congratulations to our Toddler 2 friends that will be moving up to the Transition room! Toddler 2 parents, if you have any questions, please ask either Mr. Fred, Ms. Monica, or Ms. Dawn.

We would like to wish all our families a safe and happy Holiday Season.  
Mr. Fred and the Assistant Toddler Teachers



## Time With Transition

Welcome Winter!

The Transition class is already in the holiday spirit! We are excited to spend the month talking about family, traditions, and the spirit of giving. We have been practicing our songs for the Winter Program on Saturday, December 14' and hope to see you there. Children will need to be at the Milo Bail Student Center by 9:40 AM

Soon we will have some new faces in the Transition class. Also, we must see some of our friends off to Preschool. If your child is transitioning to Preschool, be on the lookout next week for some information regarding that change in their mailbox. If you have any questions, please reach out to me. You can reach me at my email, [aleciakeller@unomaha.edu](mailto:aleciakeller@unomaha.edu), or you can call the center when I have desk duty from 1 to 2 PM.

During the week of December 16, we are asking for parents, grandparents, other family members, or friends to read stories to the Transition Class. You may sign up anytime between 9:00-10:30 AM or 3:00-4:00 PM. If you are interested let Ms. Alecia know what day and time you are available!

December Themes:

December – World Culture, Traditions, and Holidays

Color: Green

Shape: Triangle

Numbers: 10, 11

Letters: J, K

Giving and Sharing

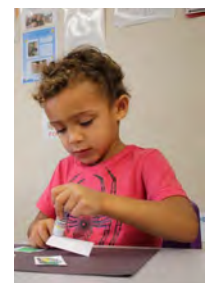
Different Holidays

Children around the World

Similarities & Differences

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

Ms. Alecia and Transition Assistant Teachers



## Preschool Perspective

It is already December!

We have a lot of fun activities planned for the children with the year coming to a close. This month we are learning about Holidays Around the World, and How We Celebrate. The letters we will be learning about are D, E, and F. Our shape of the month is a square and the numbers are 7 and 8. We will be gathering information on how each family celebrates the holidays so be on the lookout for a holiday handout to fill out and return. We will also be making a Family Cookbook with Pre-K out of all the holiday recipes we receive.

We have a Winter Program coming up on December 14. The kiddos have been practicing all semester, so it is going to be amazing!

Please remember the winter break is coming soon and that the center will be closed from December 21, 2024, to January 1, 2025. The center will re-open on January 2, 2025.

On December 20, we will be having a pajama party and movie day. Please remember to have your children wear their regular shoes, no slippers please!

Have a wonderful rest of the year!

Ms. Erin and Preschool Staff.



## Pre-K Press Release

Pre-K Parents,

Wow it is hard to believe that December here already!!!

This month will be exciting as we will be learning about holidays around the world and how our families celebrate.

Our letters for December are J, K, L. The numbers are 10, 11, and 12. Yellow is the color we are focusing on and our shapes are triangle and star.

There will be the return of our classroom elf, to help us focus on kindness and being good friends. Who knows where the elf will be hiding each day!

We would like to create a fun holiday cookbook this month! **We are asking all Pre-K families to share 1-2 holiday cookie or sweet treat recipes to include in our cookbook.** You can email your recipes to me at [pattyjohnson@unomaha.com](mailto:pattyjohnson@unomaha.com) no later than December 16. The teachers will be adding our own recipes also!

The winter program will be on Saturday, December 14, 2024, we will be starting the program at 10:00 AM, please have your child at the Milo Bail Student Center by 9:40 AM.

**We will be having a pajama party on December 20, 2024!** Everyone is invited to wear their favorite pajamas, but we ask that you have your child wear regular shoes.

Please note the center will be closed for winter break December 23, 2024 - January 1, 2025. We will open on January 2, 2025.

Mrs. Patty and the Pre-K Staff



## BABY NEWS!

Congratulations to the Sudduth Family; Kristin, Cornell & big sisters Elizabeth & McKinley

On the birth of

Cornell Charles Sudduth III (C3)

Born on Monday, December 2, 2024; 6lbs 7oz



## Parent Corner

### Tips for Spending Quality Time With Your Child

By Jessica Alvarado

Let's face it—life is busy! Between work and life responsibilities, the days pass us by in the blink of an eye. Many parents worry that they don't spend enough time with their children, wondering if this will lead to developmental delays. Some parents feel guilty about working full time, or experience anxiety about choosing to work out at the gym or go to dinner with friends. Social media posts from stay-at-home parents who are able to take their children to the local zoo or work on colors and the alphabet with them only add to this anxiety.

But have no despair! A recent study in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* questions the impact the amount of time mothers spend with their children has on the academic achievement, behavior, and emotional well-being of their children. This is not to negate the importance of time spent with children, but rather, to reinforce the point that quality of time is much more important than quantity of time. Children need high-quality time with parents and caregivers—that is what is most beneficial to children and what can have a positive effect on them as they grow. It isn't about endless hours of time—it's about how you choose to spend that time that truly matters.

As parents and caregivers, we can make choices to ensure time spent with our children is high-quality. Here are nine tips for busy families:

1. Have a daily "connect" time with your child. Do this face-to-face, if possible; but if this isn't an option, create a routine for doing so in other ways, such as leaving a note in your child's lunch bag, posting a note by his toothbrush, or writing an encouraging saying on a shared whiteboard in the house.
2. Create a special ritual for you and your child—something that can be done every day. For example, let your child choose and read one book with you at bedtime.
3. Tell your child you love her every day. And tell her how important she is to you and how she makes you feel.
4. Reinforce positive behavior. For example, if your child completes his chores without your asking, acknowledge it with words of appreciation—even if you don't have the chance do so until the next day.
5. Make and eat meals with your children whenever possible. If time is limited, look for simple meals that require very little preparation, or grab a healthy snack such as an apple and sit for a few minutes and chat with your child.
6. Schedule time for doing an activity of your child's choosing. Be sure to follow through and complete the activity without any distractions.
7. Play with your child, even if it's during bath time or outside before you drop her off at preschool. Every little bit of time makes a positive impact!
8. Laugh and be silly with your child.
9. Turn off technology when you spend time with your child. Try not to text, answer calls, scroll through social media, or watch television.

Meaningful connections are about quality of time, not quantity of time. Keep it simple and connect with your child in ways that make sense for your lifestyle and relationship. Each connection has a lasting impact and provides the support and reassurance that your child needs.

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/spending-quality-time-with-your-child>



# Winter Reading Challenge

Embark on a magical reading adventure this season! Color your way to a winter wonderland as you complete all 25 reading challenges.



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|--|---|--|
| 1. Read a book set in the snow.              | 10. Read a book with a snowman on the cover.      | 19. Read the first book of a new-to-you series.              |
| 2. Read a book about a winter holiday.       | 11. Read a book that became a movie or TV series. | 20. Read a book while snuggled up in a blanket.              |
| 3. Reread your favorite book from this year. | 12. Read a book that makes you laugh.             | 21. Read a book aloud to a friend or family member.          |
| 4. Read a classic seasonal story.            | 13. Read a book about kindness.                   | 22. Read a book in your coziest pajamas.                     |
| 5. Read a book about family.                 | 14. Read a book about a winter activity.          | 23. Read a book inside a homemade fort.                      |
| 6. Read a book with winter animals.          | 15. Read an award-winning book.                   | 24. Read a book before bed.                                  |
| 7. Read a book about gratitude.              | 16. Read a book from a new-to-you genre.          | 25. Read a seasonal story featuring your favorite character. |
| 8. Read a book about new beginnings.         | 17. Read a book that was published this year.     |  |
| 9. Read a nonfiction book.                   | 18. Read a book while drinking hot cocoa.         |  |