From the Director:

You may have noticed quality early childhood education is being discussed everywhere from the local newspaper to the White House. The importance of early childhood programs has long been established and widely discussed, but what is new in this conversation is the word “quality.” This is exciting for me to hear, as it has been the missing piece in the dialogue over the past decade. I have visited many programs while teaching early childhood students or supervising future teachers. These programs often look good to an unknowing eye, but would not meet this quality standard. While this new push is long overdue, it creates hope that every child should have access to an excellent beginning to their education. So, what constitutes quality in early childhood education?

1. **Good teacher to child ratios.** Research consistently points to the benefits of small classrooms where teachers can work individually with children.

   *Our ratio is 10:2 (or often better when we have OWU students volunteering).*

2. **Highly qualified teaching staff.**

   *Our lead teachers have at least a Bachelor’s degree or Master’s degree in early childhood/elementary education.*

3. **Developmentally appropriate practices.**

   The activities of an appropriate program should challenge children, but not frustrate them.

   - a balance of small/ large group activities and teacher directed/child-initiated activities

   - curriculum that is intentional and accounts for both early learning standards, and children’s interests

   *Our teachers meet weekly during their lunch to plan guided exploration choices which provide rich opportunities for learning in all developmental areas (small/large motor, language / literacy, cognitive, creative and social /emotional). While these activities may include some rote skills, they most importantly encourage children to think and question. There is very little in the future that children will need to memorize (they will “google” it and are encouraged to do so, but they will need to possess critical thinking skills to utilize the knowledge). This is why instead of investing too much time on rote counting beyond 10, we would rather have children ask questions, investigate and research, make their own discoveries, or solve a social problem with a classmate. These activities can be easily witnessed by the documentation in our hallways and on our facebook page. The parent testimonies on our website also offer further evidence of the effectiveness of our curriculum.*

4. **Meaningful parent involvement.**
You are welcome in our classrooms, can join a committee, and can provide input for our program through face-to-face conversations, and program evaluations.

I look forward to the upcoming spring activities at the ECC. The center will literally be alive (butterflies, worms, ants, plants) with exciting hands-on opportunities which will spark the natural curiosity that lives within your child.

Kellie

**IMPORTANT DATES**

3/17 & 3/18 **OWU/ECC CLASSES RESUME**

3/19-3/20 **CLASS PICTURES**

3/24-3/25 **NO SCHOOL (PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES)**

4/2 **SCIENCE NIGHT (FOR MWF AND M-F CLASSES ONLY)**

Class Picture Day

Each year we offer families a 5 x 7 class picture for the purchase price of $7.00. The profit from the picture sale helps to purchase learning materials for the center.
CLASS PICTURES ARE COMING!

MWF and M-F classes: Wednesday March 19th
TR classes: Thursday, March 20th

Child’s Name: _______________________________________

Class:  (circle one)  T/R  M/W/F  M-F

Class Time:  9-11:30  12:30-3:00

Teacher’ Name:______________________________________

Class Picture  (5x7)  Qty _____  X $ 7.00=___________

-Checks/cash only please! Due by Friday March 21st.
-Make checks payable to OWU PAB and return to your child’s teacher.

Sponsored by OWU Parent Advisory Board

**Payments due in full by March 21st. No refunds or exchanges. Returned checks are subject to fee**
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY!

Parent-Child Conversations
About Positive and Negative Events
conducted through the OWU Child Development Lab

The OWU Child Development Lab is conducting a study to examine the way parents talk to their children (aged 3-7 years) about positive and negative events.

Your participation will help increase our understanding of how parents and their children remember events together.

WHAT: One session lasting about 60 minutes with you and your child

WHEN: Scheduling is flexible, including evenings and weekends

WHERE: Phillips Hall on OWU's campus in The OWU Child Memory Lab

**By participating, you will be part of a drawing for a $50 Visa gift card.**

If you and your child would like to participate,
please contact Jackie Amanna, Principle Investigator, to arrange your appointment.
You can contact Jackie:

jramanna@owu.edu or by phone 919-451-1736

Thank you!
FREE Golf Clinic for ECC Students
Ohio Wesleyan Golf will be conducting a FREE Lesson Clinic for all ECC students on APRIL 19th, 11:00-12:00 at Oakhaven Golf Club
Will feature:
11:00-11:30 Full Swing and Putting Sessions
11:30-12:00 Play Two Hole Kids Course-(each hole is 30 yards)
~OWU Golf Favor for all participants, prizes and lots of FUN !!
~If you have clubs bring them, if not clubs will be provided
~To Pre-Register or for questions- email Coach Ian Miller, itmiller@owu.edu

Parent Teacher Conferences
Conferences are a time to discuss your child’s accomplishments and a time to have meaningful dialogue with your child’s teacher. Please make arrangements for your ECC child. It is not appropriate to discuss your child in the presence of them without including them into the conversation.
If you need child care, we suggest you sign up back/back with another parent in the same class and take turns providing child care for each other.
Please join your ECC Family in a fun, social, fundraising event. This year we have decided to take a stand and join in the fight against cancer by participating in OWU’s Relay for Life.

Relay For Life is an incredible and inspiring opportunity to unite in support of our community. We gather for those currently undergoing treatment for cancer, survivors, caregivers, to remember those we have lost to the disease, and for those who will be diagnosed.

Relay for Life is a not a race. People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to gather and walk. Relay for Life is an event in support of The American Cancer Society.

We hope to see you there!

To sign up go to www.relayforlife.org and search for Ohio Wesleyan University’s event. Our Team name is OWU Early Childhood Center.

Contact Angel Meadows with questions – meadowsanw6@gmail.com or 740-363-6855
Science Night

Wednesday, April 2nd
At the ECC from 6:00-7:00pm
For MWF and M-F Classes only

Please plan to join us as our OWU junior methods education students plan exciting science activities for you and your ECC child.

No siblings please. (materials used may not be toddler-friendly). This is a great time to spend one-on-one time with your ECC child.

The Garden Project

Do you enjoy gardening? Would you like to learn more about gardening?

Our garden project is collaboration between teachers, children, parents, and Delaware Master Gardeners.

Each class will plant items into their own garden box. These boxes and other plants/vegetables are taken care of by ECC families during the summer.

Look for information about our first garden committee meeting soon.