

GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring 2008

Dear CSDC Family,

Welcome to our community! We hope that this will be the beginning of a significant and supportive relationship between your family and the staff at CSDC. This handbook contains important information regarding CSDC policies and I hope that you will take the time to read through and refer to the booklet as needed. Many of the policies have been developed in collaboration with families, while others are required by our National Accreditation and NH State Licensing.

In addition, your child's classroom teaching team will provide you with a Family Packet that will give you more specific information regarding the program, schedule, and culture of the classroom. Please do not hesitate to contact your classroom teachers or the CSDC office if you have any questions about the policies or would like to offer some feedback or suggestions.

CSDC has an *"open door policy"* for our families; we encourage you to visit at any time to observe or participate in the program. Your teachers can provide you with daily schedule information including naptimes. As a University Laboratory School, our teachers are used to being observed by some 300 visitors and 500 UNH student observers every year! Each classroom is equipped with an observation booth that you are welcome to use. If your child is experiencing transition difficulties or you would like to become more involved in the curriculum, please make sure to talk with one of the teachers in advance. Your teachers are more than happy to organize a time to meet when they are not in the classroom.

We also have an open door policy with regard to family feedback on our programs. Each spring you will have the opportunity to complete a Parent Survey and our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meets monthly during the academic year. You are welcome to join the PAC as a classroom representative or to simply attend a meeting. Throughout the year, keep your eyes open for a variety of events planned for parents/guardians, including center-wide events such as the Harvest Festival, Fall Curriculum night, Literacy Week and other celebrations. We value your participation at CSDC and recognize that our work can only be effective if we establish a trusting and respectful relationship with you – your child's first and most important teacher! As a UNH academic program engaged in teacher development, research, and public outreach, we are fortunate to receive support from the College of Health and Human Services in order to create an excellent and inclusive program for all our children.

Once again, welcome to the CSDC adventure and do not hesitate to send me (jnimmo@unh.edu) or Laurie Conrad (laurie.conrad@unh.edu) an email or visit us in the office.

Warm regards,

John Nimmo, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Associate Professor, Department of Family Studies.