

September, 2011



# Tidbits

Early Childhood Education Newsletter of the Nebraska District LCMS

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**From  
Eunice's  
Desk:**



I pray that everyone is off to a great start of a new school term. It is always exciting to see the joy on the new faces as they explore the classroom and learn new things each and every day.

We are thrilled to announce that two new preschools are opening this fall.

†Christ Lutheran in St. Paul, Nebraska

†St. Paul Lutheran in Chambers, Nebraska

We pray God's blessings on their new ministry, the teachers, students and families.

## Developmentally Appropriate

How many times have you used that term with parents, co-workers, or acquaintances? People nod their heads and say "Yes," but do they really know what that means? This year's Tidbits is going to focus on what those words mean in various areas of the early childhood classroom.

First of all, it means that the teachers and staff think about the developmental needs of the children entrusted to them, then plan the curriculum and environment to meet the needs of those children. Such a program is planned to fit the needs of children rather than fitting the children to the needs of a pre-planned program. Developmentally appropriate programs provide children with time and experiences to help them grow according to their individual timetable—much like a plant.

A seed is planted in good dirt, watered, and given just the right amount of fertilizer so that it will grow and bloom into a beautiful flower. If given too much water or fertilizer, the plant will grow too fast, becoming tall and gangly or not grow at all.

It is the same with children. They need to bloom and grow naturally and in their own time. Pushing young children to learn beyond their developmental abilities produces the same results as the plant. As adults, we need to encourage and respect young children as they grow, develop, learn, discover, and experience God's world, His people, and His love.

### **In a Developmentally Appropriate program you will see. . .**

- ☺ Children initiating their own work and play.
- ☺ Children who are physically and mentally active.
- ☺ Children working in small groups.
- ☺ Children manipulating – touching and feeling – materials.
- ☺ Children exhibiting divergent thinking – solving their own problems.
- ☺ Children discovering, inventing, and experiencing.
- ☺ Teachers asking interesting questions, supplying materials, providing a supportive and interesting environment, and encouraging children to grow and learn.

*\* Take time to evaluate your current program and classroom to see how developmentally appropriate it really is.*



**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, help me to consider my children as entrusted to me by You. Forgive me when I expect too much from them or let my ego become too involved in their success. Help me to realize this and to encourage them to grow and learn in their own time. Amen.

Portions of this article have been adapted from "FYI to Parents" by Marti Beuschlein.

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## **Ministry Visits**

Glenda Dobberstein, Jane Varner, and Eunice McCarty will again be contacting all the free-standing Early Childhood Centers to set up a time during this school term to come and visit. These visits are designed to see what wonderful things are happening in ministry throughout our state and to build positive relationships with the district office as we are here to serve you – both in your ministry and personal needs.

## **Teacher Directory**

Candi Menze and Don Weber are working to create a directory of all the teachers in our district. It is important that the most current information is listed for each school. If you have not already done so, please contact Candi at 402-643-2961, ext. 1010 or [candim@ndlcms.org](mailto:candim@ndlcms.org) or with the **name of all your teachers and grade or subject they are teaching**. Please also provide a current email address for your preschool or director and a website if your school has one. Thanks for your assistance!

## **Reminder**

You should have received a **Lutheran Annual Form** from Synod's Office of Rosters and Statistics for your school or center. Please also watch for a **School Statistics Form** in the next couple weeks. It is **VERY important** that these forms are completed and returned. Please return the form to the Office of Rosters and Statistics in St. Louis and send a copy to the District Office. This information is used in reporting and without 100% participation, the reports are not accurate. Call the District Office if you have any questions. Thanks for your cooperation and assistance!



- The Fall Educator’s Conference, “*Rooted and Growing In Christ,*” will be held at Christ Lutheran in Lincoln on October 20-21. This is a great opportunity to worship with other Lutheran educators, network with early childhood educators from across the state, and attend awesome sectionals (Project Approach, Ministering to Military Families, Ministry Partners, Staff Relations, Science for Early Childhood, Teaching the Faith to the Very Young and more). Make arrangements for a sub now so you can attend this uplifting, inspirational conference. **Registration information was sent by email last week and is available on the district website, [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org).** If you have not received the registration information, contact Candi Menze at the district office, [candim@ndlcms.org](mailto:candim@ndlcms.org) or 402-643-2961, ext. 1010.



**Please share!**

My Idea/Question: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

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