

# Mini-News from Early Childhood Care & Education Services March 2012

## a note from the director



*Dear Families,*

Welcome to the end of the Quarter and the beginning of Spring! We are looking forward to sunny, fun and busy next months and are happy to be looking ahead to our new gardens and upcoming projects.

Looking back we are feeling a sense of accomplishment (and no small sense of relief!). We just completed the final phase of our accreditation renewal process marked by a three day visit from the 'assessor'. Accredited since 1990 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the system has evolved over time to now include over 400 criteria in 10 Standards ranging from Relationships and Curriculum to Assessment and Leadership and Management. We have spent over a year engaged in active self-study, assessment and documentation. Families have played an integral role in the process by identifying areas for improvement early in the self-study. We will receive the accreditation decision -denied, deferred or accredited- within 90 days and then on to next steps. Regardless of the decision, the accreditation process is but one of many effective tools we use to guide our reflection and assessment of program quality. Questioning and addressing how well we are fulfilling our mission and how well we are meeting the needs of the children and families is a dynamic and never-ending process!

Along those lines we continue to seek family involvement and input. *The annual Family Survey from the California Department of Education is attached for your completion on 'Survey Monkey'.* In addition hard copies are available in the front office of each Center if you prefer. Please include additional comments for anything not covered in the survey or about which you would like us to know more. The survey is anonymous. *The deadline for survey completion is Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>.*

Link to Survey (English): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FamilySurvey2011-12>

(Español): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FamilySurvey2011-12sp>

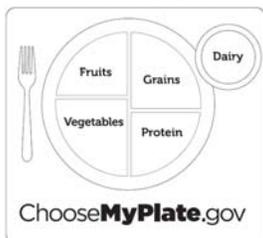
Thank you for taking a few minutes to participate. Watch the ECCES newsletter, Parent Boards and Parent Council meetings for the results of the survey and our annual action plan, as well as for opportunities to participate in planning improvements as needed.

*Warm regards,*

*Leslie*

*Director, ECCES*

## Health, Wellness & Nutrition



If you are looking for ideas and information regarding health and wellness for young children, the 'Let's Move' site established by First Lady Michelle Obama is a helpful resource. Topics range from physical fitness activities to gardening and nutrition. The following article addresses that perennial topic of children not wanting to eat all of their food!

<http://www.letsmove.gov/blog/2012/03/22/packing-lunch-your-preschooler-portion-size-matters>

and from the USDA: Nutrition information for 2-5 year olds:

<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/preschoolers.html>

<p><b>Resources</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Family Education Workshops</b></p> <p>The second in a series of 3 'Parenting with Love and Logic' workshops is scheduled for Tuesday May 1st at 6:00 p.m. Dinner &amp; Child care (currently enrolled children ages 2 &amp; up) sign-ups and further details will be available in the front office a few weeks prior to the workshop.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Unload at Lunch" ~ a support group by parents for parents</b></p> <p>Join other parents for lunch and an informal chance to share the joys and challenges of parenting! Trade stories, tips and tribulations in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open to all. First Friday of every month. Noon. Upstairs UCEN dining.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next meeting: Friday April 6th.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Free Income Tax Preparation Assistance</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For Families earning less than \$49,000./yr</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> - 3:30 p.m - 6:30 p.m 'Walk-ins' only</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">At the Isla Vista Youth Projects – Family Resource Center (the bungalow across the field from the OFCC parking lot; next to Isla Vista Elementary School)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Community events</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Announcing the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual UCSB Children's Center Silent Auction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open to the public April 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> the Mosher Alumni House</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i><b>ECCES Family Preview &amp; Early Bidding April 4<sup>th</sup> 4:30 - 6:30 p.m</b></i></p> <p>The Parent Council would like to invite you to Family Preview Night: Wednesday, April 4th between 4:30pm and 6:30pm. Stop by after school/work for a Sneak Peek early bidding opportunity JUST for UCSB Children's Center families and staff! Then encourage friends, family and co-workers to come by Thursday 11:30 – 1:30 for lunch and bidding and Friday 10:00 – 7:00 (Final Bidding will close Friday 4/6 at 6:00pm).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Family Fun Series - UCSB Arts &amp; Lectures</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://artsandlectures.sa.ucsb.edu/EventSeriesFamilyFun.aspx">https://artsandlectures.sa.ucsb.edu/EventSeriesFamilyFun.aspx</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Imago Theatre's ZooZoo</b></u> • Sun, Apr 15 / 3 PM / Campbell Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Santa Barbara Public Library</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Check out the Community Calendar for family friendly events and story hours at our local Public Libraries. Events are listed from Carpinteria to Santa Ynez.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://sbplibrary.org/eventsprograms/index.html">http://sbplibrary.org/eventsprograms/index.html</a></p>
<p><b>ECCES Calendar</b></p>	<p><b>March</b></p> <p>3 days during March 5<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>    Accreditation Assessor visit (3 days)</p> <p>March 17 - 23                                UCSB Final Exams</p> <p>Thursday March 29                        Family-Teacher Conferences (Centers Closed; Child care available during conference only)</p> <p>Friday March 30                            CENTERS CLOSED Cesar Chavez Holiday</p>

	<p><b>April</b> April 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> UCSB -ECCES Parent Council Silent Auction Mosher Alumni House</p> <p><b>May</b> Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup> Family Education workshop: Love &amp; Logic Parenting Choices &amp; Decision Making</p> <p>Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> ECCES End of Year Potluck Monday May 28<sup>th</sup> CENTERS CLOSED for Memorial Day Observance</p> <p><b>June</b> June 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> UCSB Final Exams Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup> CENTERS CLOSED Professional Development Day</p>
<p><b>Gratitude</b></p>	<p>A special thank you to the Parent Council Enrichment Committee for continuing to bring the children opportunities that are vibrant and varied; recent examples include: Music with Reiko, UCSB Women's Basketball Clinic, Visit to our West Campus 'Neigh'-bors at the Stables and Ballet.</p> <p>Please join me in showing your appreciation and support for the amazing Parent Council Board and Room Reps who have been working so hard to create and promote the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction event to ensure exciting enrichment activities continue to be available to all of our families. Whatever role you take... bringing items for classroom baskets, set-up, being a vocal and enthusiastic promoter to friends and co-workers... all can contribute to an event that benefits all of the children at ECCES.</p> <p>Thank you also to all of the families who sponsored books for our children's libraries. It is an amazing collection and we are looking forward to getting them into the classrooms for all to enjoy. <i>Anytime you'd like to linger or drop in and read with your child and their friends... you are always welcome.</i></p>
	<p><i>Warm regards,</i></p> <p>UCSB Early Childhood Care &amp; Education Services Orfaea Family Children's Center University Children's Center University of California at Santa Barbara Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1060 Ph (805) 893-4904 Fax (805) 893-4907</p>