THE NEW MRS. LANGFORD!
Some of you know that Ms. McElroy, our morning Room 1 teacher, was planning to be married this summer. The wedding of Ms. Carrie McElroy and Mr. Robbie Langford took place on the 4th of July in Flower Mound, Texas and the couple are presently spending their honeymoon in Hawaii. Many of our CDL staff attended the celebration and wished the couple a lifetime of happiness. We will share more pictures with you when they are available.

PLAYGROUND UPGRADES
We have made some additions to our playground this summer, to improve the environment for our children. Our grounds department added grass in a couple of areas, and we are awaiting a new tree to replace one that died. Several umbrellas and canopies are helping to protect the children from the fierce summer sun. We also have a new play kitchen and other play materials, and more are on the way.

Summer Sun
We want to remind you that we apply sun screen and bug spray to those children who stay the full day after lunch. Children who arrive in the morning or after 12 noon should be treated by their parents. Remember, if you forget to apply this at home, you are welcome to use what we have at school.

LOOKING AHEAD:
- Summer Session 2 begins on Monday, July 13. The final payment for this session is due on that same day, July 13.
CDL Working Toward NAC Accreditation

Our center has decided to seek accreditation with the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs. We are giving thoughtful consideration to our strengths, but especially to possible areas that we could improve. This is a self study process on the part of our staff, and your input is essential to this effort. We ask you to let us know the ways that you think we could improve, as well as those things you think we do well. We are assessing our selves across all areas of programming and will review these with you periodically. In this issue of the newsletter, we will again focus on specific areas of parent and center interaction and will seek to explain policies already in place that match the NAC Accreditation Standards (printed in bold).

1. My child and I were provided an orientation to the center before enrollment.

   Before children attend our program, we ask that parents bring them to visit at least 2 or 3 times so that they can become acclimated. There is an open house at the center before school begins in the fall.

2. I have been provided written policies explaining the operation of the program.

   Every family is provided with a program handbook for parents. Parents are required to submit a form verifying that they have received and read the handbook. The handbook is available on the program web page (www.coe.unt.edu/cdl) should parents wish to print another copy.

3. I am permitted access to the CDL during all hours of operation and am made to feel welcome.

   Parents are encouraged to stay with their child in the classroom as the initial transition into preschool takes place and until everyone is comfortable. Families are welcome in the center during all hours of operation. An observation booth is available for those who want to observe unseen.

4. Teachers provide interested parents with opportunities for classroom involvement.

   Families are always welcome to sing along at assembly time or join us for lunch. They may also want to discuss with teachers other ways they would like to be involved, bringing items to share, planning birthday snacks, etc. The program has a large number of student volunteers who provide additional activities, but parents are also welcome to become involved as they have time.
5. I receive important information about the program on a regular basis.

Families are provided with regular newsletters and frequent flyers giving details about the activities that are taking place in the program and the classrooms. Signs and second notices are provided as additional reminders to parents.

6. Staff members receive and consider my ideas and suggestions.

Staff members talk with parents during pickup and drop-off times, and schedule time for longer conversations as parents request them. They listen carefully and act on parents’ ideas and suggestions.

7. When I pick up my child, I am able to learn about my child’s day.

Families talk with staff both at pickup and drop off time. Parents are called during the day when there is information the staff feels warrants sharing immediately, and written notice is also provided.

8. My child’s teacher works cooperatively with me to promote my child’s successful experience in group care.

Staff members are concerned about all aspects of each child’s development—social, emotional, intellectual, and physical. Family concerns and opinions are solicited and accepted to ensure that each child’s experiences support optimal development.

9. Parent/staff conferences are held at least annually. My opinions are invited and considered when discussing my child’s progress and overall development.

Parent and teacher conferences are held in the fall and spring of each year. It is expected that families and teachers will need to share information at many other times throughout the child’s enrollment, sometimes in impromptu ways and also in scheduled meetings.

We hope you will share with us your thoughts and opinions about the accreditation process and these standards in particular. Thank you for your support.

Carol Hagen, Director