

★ Bunnell House News ★

UAF Community and Technical College Early Childhood Lab School
~ We nurture children and support families in a university lab setting.

From Paige

My office is stifling and I'm often told I should have an air conditioner. Honestly, I prefer to swelter. An air conditioner would block out the whole reason I'm here. Looking out my office window, I see each adult with a small group of children—guiding, facilitating, and challenging them. The children are engaged and happy. From my office window, I can hear the children's excited discoveries, their singsongs, and their conversations. My window fan spins, barely making a hum. I'm still a little wilted, but I can hear the reason I have the best office on campus.

Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Stay cool,

~Paige



Quote to Note

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscove ring with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.

~Ra chel Carson

Absent Children

The best way to get a message to your child's teacher is by phone. A voice message may be left at any time and the teacher will receive it promptly:

474-6393

Thank you! ♦



Henry with his "worm."

Monthly Fees Effective July 1, 2017

MTWRF	\$985
MWF	\$615
TR	\$410
Late Pick up—	\$5/minute

Fees are due by the 10th of each month. A **late fee of 10% of the account balance will be added after the 10th.** ♦

Lab School Dates to Remember

Last Day of Summer Program	August 18
August Closure	August 21-25
First Day of Fall Program	August 28
Labor Day	September 4
Open House	September 21, 4-5:30p



It was an exciting day at Lab School...

- ★ We rode trikes!
- ★ We tie dyed handkerchiefs!
- ★ We fed Kevin greens!
- ★ We splashed in our pool!
- ★ We slid down our water slide!
- ★ We found many interesting insects!
- ★ We ate popsicles!
- ★ We read books in our pop-up tent!
- ★ We celebrated Kevin's 5th birthday!



Kevin raises his paw on June 21, indicating that he is 5 years old.



Wulfric

Water play every day, weather permitting!
Needed:
swimsuit,
towel, water shoes



Mae



Eye Contact

Please be sure you at least make acknowledged eye contact with your child's teacher before leaving your child or taking your child away from Bunnell House. Ideally, you will have a brief moment to exchange a few words, even if only a greeting or other pleasantry. There are several reasons why this is important:

Safety!

Teachers need to know that a child has arrived or left. If a child is left at Bunnell House without the staff knowing, the child may not be safe. If a child is picked up without a teacher seeing, I assure you the teachers will be looking everywhere and making phone calls until the child is located. In both cases the teachers will be extremely distressed and may feel the effects for a long time.

Relationships

We (parents and staff) all want the best for the children. By taking time to communicate and exchange information, we build relationships. This is important for the children's emotional development and well-being.

Role model

The children learn how to greet and take leave when they observe (and participate in) the rituals adults engage in. It's part of the children's social development.

We have a small staff and you will see the same familiar faces pretty much at the same time each day. Be sure you are leaving your child with a teacher and not some other adult such as another parent, a student, or a Facilities Services employee. If you aren't sure, look for the blue name tag with the Bunnell House logo and the teacher's name and position on it.

If you have other adults designated to drop off or pick up your child, please share this information with them. Thank you! ♦

“Just” Playing at Lab School

Occasionally a comment from an adult not familiar with our program—and even sometimes from a parent—provides us with that slightly stunned moment when we realize what we forgot about the meaningful, engaged, vital work children are doing each day at Bunnell House.

As a team, we continually strive to provide quality and variety, to support and to challenge, and to respect the needs of the individual child while balancing the needs of the larger group. Materials and activities are specifically chosen that can be extended and built upon as children gain knowledge and confidence. It may not seem exciting to an adult to learn and play in the same space every day, but our rich environment offers a variety of activities to enhance children’s physical, cognitive and social-emotional development. Some materials are a staple, such as blocks or other building materials, while others are rotated in and out, such as themed books and puzzles, depending on the needs and interests of the children.

Field trips are an excellent supplement to our program, and are chosen with care. Preschoolers typically prefer to do more and watch less so we strive for field trips that meet the criteria of being 1) relevant—how does it relate to the children’s lives?, 2) meaningful—what positive impact will it have on the children?, 3) developmentally appropriate—is it appropriate for the ages and stages of the children?, and 4) worthwhile—is it worthy of the children’s time? Sometimes a field trip may meet all four criteria, but not be ideal for a group. An excursion that is fun for a family may not go really well for a group of preschoolers.

So back to our stunned moment—what do we forget about what’s happening at Bunnell House? We forget that not everyone knows that what looks like children “just” playing to many adults is actually construction of knowledge, honing of skills, developing of confidence, and learning how to be and who they are in the world outside the family.

Although our goal is not simply to keep children busy and tire them out, that’s often the affect of their active days at lab school. The real goal for the children is to help them be the best, most prepared self they can be, and we achieve that through the rich experiences we prepare and facilitate at Bunnell House.

A great deal of planning and care goes into sustaining a model program for university students that, by it’s very nature, provides excellent early care and education for young children. It’s so engrained in us as professionals, that we forget not everybody knows, as we do, that children’s play represents valuable learning happening in our little house and on our playground, helping prepare children for their lives ahead. ♥



Building a “model of our city.”



Dylan with the bird he made.



Dino’s driving gets the big truck unstuck.



Ella and Wulfric read together.

Gates & Gates

Please be mindful of the gates for both kitchens and the playground. Gates must remain closed, even if the children are not in the area. Also, please always open and walk through kitchen gates—do not step over them. Thank you for helping keep your children safe! ♦



Waterway collaboration.



Kynlee enjoys reading in the tent.



Best friends.



Griffin climbs sans shoes.



Austin takes a reading break on a sunny day.



Refreshing popsicles on a hot day.

Questions or Concerns

About your child or the classroom: *Your child's teacher*

About the program, billing, or vacation notification: *Paige VH*

Thank you! ♦

 **Parking Lot**

Please enter and exit our parking area with extreme care. Children should be closely supervised—we suggest holding hands—and not allowed to exit vehicles on their own or to stand beside or behind vehicles if an adult is not by their side. Thank you! ♦

Lab School Staff

Director	Paige Vonder Haar
Upstairs Lead Teacher	Chasity Evanow
Upstairs Assistant Teacher	Shannon Harvey
Downstairs Lead Teacher	Pammy Fowler
Downstairs Assistant Teacher	Emily Soen
Floating Assistant Teacher	Paige Best
Substitute Assistant Teacher	Connie Slater
Office	474-6393