

★ Bunnell House News ★

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

Lab School Calendar

- May 27: Closed**
Me mo ri al Day
- June 3-August 15**
Su m m e r P r o g r a m
- July 4 & 5: Closed**
I n d e p e n d e n c e D a y
- August 19-23: Closed**
F a l l S e m e s t e r P r e p
- August 26**
F a l l P r o g r a m B e g i n s
- September 2: Closed**
L a b o r D a y
- October 11: Closed**
N I A A E Y C C o n f e r e n c e
- November 28 & 29: Closed**
T h a n k s g i v i n g
- December 18 (at noon)-**
January 3: Closed
W i n t e r B r e a k

From Paige

May, more than any other month of the year,
wants us to feel most alive.

~Fennel Hudson

We're loving the warmth, sun, green leaves, and extended amounts of time outdoors, but this is always a bittersweet time of year at Bunnell House. As we greet warmer weather and, soon, summertime friends, we also bid farewell to friends—some for the summer and others who will leave Bunnell House. We'll miss each and every friend who is leaving and we hope they'll stop in to say hi in the future.

Summer at Bunnell House is delightfully fun and educational! The program mostly moves outside to the garden, sand box, playground, dirt pile, tree shade, playhouse, steps, lilac bush, patio, and fairy garden. Keep us in mind as you plan and plant your own gardens—soon we'll have a list of plants we need donated for the children's garden.



Enjoy the warmer weather!

~Paige

Need to Reach Us?

Call 907-474-6393

- ♥ **Director**
Paige Vonderhaar
pmvonderhaar@alaska.edu
- ♥ **Upstairs Teachers**
Lead: Chasity Ewanow
crewanow@alaska.edu
Assist: Shannon Harvey
skharvey@alaska.edu
- ♥ **Downstairs Teachers**
Lead: Pammy Fowler
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Assist: Jenny Taylor
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- ♥ **Floating Assistant Teachers**
Alicia Finley
Connie Slater
Emily Soen



Quote to Note

Play is often talked about
as if it were a relief
from serious learning. But
for children play is
serious learning. Play is
really the work of
childhood.

~Fred Rogers



Phone In Absent Children: 474-6393

The best way to get a message to your child's teacher is by phone.
A voice message may be left at any time. ♦

C'mon, Let's Get to Play!

Remember when?

Think back to your childhood—what are your best memories? Sitting still? Setting the table? Making your bed? Well, maybe making your bed...into a *fort*! Typically, when adults are asked to really think back to their most fun childhood memories, they relate stories of forts and hiding places, catching bugs, roller skating, pretend play, and exploration. Very often, nature is involved—making a fort out of tumble weeds or snow, a set of dishes out of clamshells or trying to whistle using a blade of grass.

What did you gain?

Besides skinned knees, you gained important knowledge and problem solving skills that created a foundation for future learning. You learned to cooperate with others in order to get that fort built. The bugs...well, you learned to have gentle hands if you didn't want them squished. You gained balance and coordination as you learned to skate and patience as you scoured the grass for the perfect blade. You worked hard! Remember how hungry you'd get, how dirty and tired you'd be?

Was it hard?

No way! It was fun! It was satisfying work that you did. But the grownups never said, "Go work." They said, "Go play—outside!" If they'd called it work, you would've thought they were silly. That is what play is, though—the work of childhood.

Unstructured

Notice that I've been referring to play that is unstructured in that it is created by the children. Involvement in sports, dance or other activities with a particular set of rules or movements is valuable, but it's important that children have many opportunities to play freely without the constraints of imposed rules or requirements—just their wonderful curiosity and imagination...and maybe a cardboard box or two.

Materials

Nature is an awesome resource, but so are boxes, blankets, dress up clothes (Value Village, here we come!), the nook under your stairs, magnets, magnifying glasses. I knew someone who made a doll using a rock for the head and an old bit of sheet for the body. She loved that doll!

Examples

Watch SpongeBob—that sponge knows how to play! He and his best friend, Patrick Star, can have a blast using only a cardboard box and their *Imagination!* Also, an excellent book to read (to yourself or your children) is *Roxaboxen* by Alice McLerran.

And if you won't take my word for it...

The American Academy of Pediatrics position is that "play is essential to development because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth." Now go play!♥





When Do Children Move Downstairs?

Children who will be 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2019 will move to Pammy's classroom after our August closure.

Your child may talk about "visiting downstairs." This is one way we prepare children for their move downstairs. Pammy also offers a home visit in August.

Please talk to us if you have any questions or concerns. We want children and their families to be happy and comfortable. ♦



Happy Mother's Day!



Have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day!



Family Friendly Workplace Awards

Bunnell House was recently nominated as a Family Friendly Workplace. Although we didn't win in our category, it is an honor to have been nominated. The annual Family Friendly Workplace Awards are sponsored by the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Early Childhood Development Commission. ♥

As the season changes...

Children need appropriate gear for the weather— whatever that may be...sunny, sprinkly, gray, hot, buggy, or cool. If it's pouring rain, lightening or smoky, we will reluctantly retreat indoors, but beginning June 3 most of our day is spent outside. ♦



It was an exciting day at Lab School...

- ★ We held fluffy chicks!
- ★ We frolicked in the snow...again!
- ★ We learned about taking care of the earth!
- ★ We performed a music concert for our friends and families!
- ★ We enjoyed puppet plays by ED/PSY 245 students!
- ★ We shared our block structure with Kevin!
- ★ We caught Spring Fever and were antsy to get outside!



Late Pick Up Fees

Bunnell House hours: 7:30-5:30

Late pick up fees are \$5 per minute. Fees will be added to your account based on the time recorded when you check out your child on Procare. ♦



Questions or Concerns

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

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

Thank you! ♦

Cell Phones

Please end cell phone conversations prior to entering Bunnell House or the playground. Your child deserves your undivided attention and teachers may need to speak with you. ♦

Monthly Fees

MTWRF \$985
 MWF \$615 (summer only)
 TR \$410 (summer only)
 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. ♦

Fee Payment

Fees may be paid by credit card, check, or money order. A new credit card authorization form must be completed each month. Forms are located at the check-in station at the back of the gray payment box. Payments go into the locked box which is checked daily until all payments for the month are received. ♦