

FISHER EARLY LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER



Save the Date

Fri. 8/21 9-11am
Volunteer Breakfast

Thurs. 9/3 5:15pm
Kindergarten Info Session

Mon. 9/7 Closed
No School Labor Day

Fri. 9/11 8:00-9:30am
FAB Coffee Hour

Thurs. 9/24 6-7:30pm
Back-to-School Night

Fri. 9/25 Closed
Staff Prof Dev Day

Message from the Interim Director

Dear Fisher Families & Staff,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful summer break. It has been wonderful to have everyone come back to school and see the children so excited to see their teachers and friends. It is hard to believe September is only a few weeks away!

I am delighted to announce that Fisher recently received notification that we successfully completed our NAEYC Accreditation+ Site Visit and have now achieved the highest standard of NAEYC Accreditation. This accomplishment is the result of the hard work and dedication of all our Fisher teachers and staff and will allow us to continue our commitment to quality and continuous improvement within our early learning program in the years to come. Fisher's professional development days provide opportunities throughout the school year for staff to complete the required annual trainings, lesson planning, documentation, collaboration and classroom preparations that support the high quality of care we are committed to providing for your children.

We appreciate your patience as the long-term plans for Fisher leadership are decided and communicated with Fisher families. Until then, I will continue in my role as Interim Director and hope you will reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued trust and support!

-Sharon



DU Community Connection



As a part of the DU community, Fisher provides opportunities for university students to gain valuable experience working with teachers and students in our classrooms. This month we are excited to welcome back many of our DU student employees and part-time teachers as they return to campus for the start of the Fall Quarter. We are also in the process of hiring several new student employees to join our teaching teams for the upcoming school year. Please help us welcome these students back for another year of learning and fun at Fisher!

Curriculum Update

We have returned from our summer break and are looking towards fall! Some classrooms saw most of their students in attendance in July, while others are welcoming students for their first days in August! Through August, teachers will continue to work on routines, build relationships, and engage in play. Still, you will begin to see emerging interests of the children guiding the play, the planning, and the learning as the classroom starts to feel safer and more familiar to the children and the teachers learn more about what excites and engages the children in learning.

Assessment is a big part of quality learning. At Fisher, we engage in informal observations, documentation, and inquiries to guide our understanding of which interests are emerging in an individual, a small group, or a class. Are teachers noticing a trend in pirates? Firefighters? Conversations about travel? For younger children, are teachers noticing a trend in certain schemas, such as dump-and-fill, transporting, or stacking? These observations will help guide how they will build opportunities, materials, conversations, and play over the next weeks. Formally, teachers will engage in ongoing assessment through TSG. This formal documentation is taken weekly and informs how teachers plan more detailed learning in specific skills in learning domains for individual children.

PreK classrooms will also conduct a kindergarten readiness preassessment aligned with the Colorado Learning and Development Standards. This preassessment will help PreK teachers assess their class's needs and individualize instruction as appropriate, ensuring children are prepared for Kindergarten by the end of the year. PreK classes will begin Handwriting Without Tears workbooks by the end of August as well.

ASQs: Fisher completes a developmental screener annually for all children ages 0-3 and for any new-to-Fisher students over age 3. This screener helps us notice any child who might need additional evaluation to ensure we are providing every child with the tools and care appropriate for them. Families and teachers will complete these screeners between Aug 24 and Sept 4.

Communication is a huge part of our curriculum, primarily because it builds relationships, and relationships are at the core of our curricular philosophy. We appreciate that so many of you have taken the time to let your teachers know what is working for you, what you love, and to share about your family and home so that we can continue the conversation at school. We also appreciate knowing how we can improve and what you need more of. Thank you for your patience as we, as a community, learn together how to make the FACTS communication method work for us. This is new for teachers and families. We want to ensure families receive information in multiple modalities to increase inclusivity, as required by NAEYC, and that we meet licensing standards on the type of information we track and communicate. We know there are a lot of options to choose from for apps, and for now, FACTS meets DU's security vetting for HIPAA and FERPA. We will keep smoothing it out!

Professional Development

On Aug 11th and 12th, Fisher staff came together for Professional Development before we welcomed families and children back to school. Our nurse consultant, Amy, provided Medication Administration Delegation Training for the staff, an annual training required by licensing to administer medications to students. We also engaged in 2 days of STEAM activities, learning, lesson planning, and, most importantly, PLAY! On day 1, our teachers were prompted to play with many of the math and literacy games we have in the building to become familiar with them and/or revitalize their thinking about how they can use them in the classroom to support all learning domains. On day 2, representatives from KODO Kids came to show our teachers how to use the amazing KODO Kids materials we have at Fisher and how these materials support STEAM learning for all ages! Teachers played, created, planned lessons, and also participated in important community-building and fun that helps sustain their work with children. Teachers were also given time as teams to plan, complete annual trainings, develop lesson plans, and prepare the classroom environment. Campus Safety officer, Jeff Simpson, also stopped by to brief us on safety drills and updates and we tested our emergency intercom system. We know that having school closed for professional development is inconvenient, and we are grateful to our parent community for their support of us as professionals. It means so much to work in a community that recognizes the importance of high-quality early learning and commits to that goal with your time, resources, and understanding!





Fisher is continuing to integrate FACTS Management into our school community. From the sign in/sign out kiosks to tuition payment plans and communicating with teachers using the childcare app, we encourage you to share your feedback about what is working for you, and what isn't so we can continue to develop ways to utilize FACTS to best support our school community.

FACTS Financial Management

Monthly tuition payments are processed by FACTS on the first of each month. If you need any assistance with your payment plan or your FACTS Financial account, please reach out to Janet Constantino (303-871-2723) or the FACTS Parent Helpline at : **866-441-4637**

<https://factsmgt.com/login/>

FACTS Childcare App

Don't forget to download the app!

If you need any assistance with the FACTS childcare app please contact: Meaghan Burns at 303-871-7986 or Meaghan.Burns@du.edu.

99% of issues are solved by downloading the correct app.

Please check to be sure you have the correct app!

Login Reminder: District code: RC-CO



With the FACTS Childcare Parent App, you can:

- Stay connected with your child's teachers!
 - Activity updates are meals and nap for all children and diapering/ toileting information for all children who have not yet mastered potty training.
 - Classroom "dailys" are sent which include updates about the learning of the day, classroom reminders, photos, videos, and google photo link to document your child's learning journey.
 - Weekly messages are sent which include the classroom lesson plan and other curriculum or developmentally appropriate information for families.
 - Individual messages are sent as needed for family communication
- Send and receive messages and push notifications.
 - Too many notifications? In the app, Click on the three lines in the bottom right corner>Click on settings>Toggle the attendance notifications off here. This may help!

Enrollment Updates

As we continue to maintain and regularly update our student files, you may receive requests for new paperwork (i.e. General Health Appraisals, Allergy Care Plans, etc.) Please note that all forms must be updated each new school year, and any changes must be updated in your child's file (i.e. changes to emergency contacts, authorized pick-up persons, new medications). Immunization and General Health Appraisals requirements follow state guidelines based on age of the child and must be updated each time your child receives new immunizations or has a regularly scheduled well-child check-up.

Currently, we have openings in our toddler, preschool, and prekindergarten classrooms and invite you to share our enrollment contact information with friends and neighbors who might be looking to join our early learning community.:

felc.enrollment@du.edu, and 303.871.2723.

And get ready! Re-enrollment information for the 2027-2028 school year will be rolling out soon!

Here is the link for Fisher forms: <https://morgridge.du.edu/fisher/fisher-forms>



Download the FACTS Childcare Parent App

Stay connected to your child's day with messages, photos, attendance, and activity updates.

How to Download the App

1. Locate your device below (iPhone or Android).
2. Scan the QR code using your phone's camera.
3. Download the app and log in using your FACTS username and password.



iPhone Users

Scan this QR code to download the FACTS Childcare Parent App from the Apple App Store. Or search "FACTS Childcare Parent" in the App Store.



Android Users

Scan this QR code to download the FACTS Childcare Parent App from Google Play. Or search "FACTS Childcare Parent" in Google Play.

How do I log in?

FACTS Childcare Management, FACTS Family Portal, and FACTS SIS all use the same login system. You can use the same username and password you use for your other FACTS products.

I'm having trouble logging in. What should I do?

Use the same troubleshooting steps as you would for FACTS SIS login issues.

Click "Forgot Password" on the login screen. Follow the prompts to reset your password.

A Warm Welcome from the Fisher Advisory Board!

Welcome to all of our new Fisher families and welcome back to all of our returning community members! We're so glad you're part of our community.

If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete the New Family Survey—your feedback helps us understand how we can best support and connect with our families.



New Family Survey

A reminder, too, that our Suggestion Box is confidential and is always open for questions, praise, ideas, or concerns. The Advisory Board reviews submissions and shares them with Sharon so we can help make sure family voices are heard. And please know you can always reach out to us directly; we're happy to listen and help!



Suggestion Box

Join us this Friday for our **Volunteer Breakfast!** Everyone is welcome. Stop by for breakfast, meet other Fisher caregivers, hear from Sharon, and learn more about the many ways you can get involved - from event planning and fundraising to being a room parent, helping with the cookie drive, and more.

We're also happy to continue hosting **Coffee Hours on the second Friday of each month.** We hope you'll join us, grab a cup of coffee, and connect with other Fisher families. We look forward to seeing you!

Lindsay & Caitlin

Health & Safety



Fisher regularly checks for recent recalls of baby or kids products at this website:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>

You can check it out too!

Please encourage children to always use “walking feet” in the hallways and classrooms at Fisher. We hope the new gates added to the main hallway at Fisher will help adults and children stay together in the main hallway and prevent children from rounding the corner and reaching the main doors of the building without adult supervision.



Fisher participates in the Colorado Food Program and teachers completed their annual CACFP (Colorado Adult & Child Food Program) trainings during our Professional Development days this month. Sodexo provides nutritious daily meals (breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack) for all children at Fisher. Teachers follow CACFP guidelines for providing family-style meals, serving sizes based on ages and provide all required meal components at each meal. Did you know that CACFP requirements include that a whole grain is served every day and processed meat are not served more than one time per week? Weekly menus can be found [at the Family Resources tab on the Fisher website.](#)

More information about the Colorado Food Program can be found [here.](#)

Staffing Update

Please join us in welcoming two new teachers to Fisher! Karissa Urbanek is a new Associate Teacher in the Moon Bears Classroom and **Cait Kelley** is a new Associate Teacher in the Cowboy Bunnies Classroom. We are delighted that they will be bringing their experience, skills and talents to our Fisher community!



Karissa Urbanek



Cait Kelley

Upcoming Events

Picture Days are coming up at the end of September!

They will take place on:

- Tuesday, September 29
- Wednesday, September 30
- Thursday, October 1
- Friday, October 2



Classroom teachers will send out more information about your child's specific portrait date.



Please Join Us

VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST

This Friday!



Join FAB & Sharon to learn about how to volunteer throughout the year. Meet other parents and mingle!

**Garden Room
Chambers Center
(Northeast Corner of
High St. & Asbury Ave.)**
*1901 E Asbury Ave
Denver, CO 80210*



**FRIDAY
AUGUST 21
9AM - 11AM**

**Meet the Board, Hear from Sharon, Learn About How to
Get Involved, Give Us Feedback!**



Questions? Email Us : FisherAdvisoryBoard@gmail.com

Kindergarten Info Session

Everyone
is
Welcome!

Join the Fisher Community for an info session with public and private elementary representatives to learn more about the Kindergarten admission process and what your Pre-K kiddo is learning this year in preparation for their next big steps!



Hear from:

- ✓ Littleton Public Schools
- ✓ Englewood Schools
- ✓ Graland Country Day School
- ✓ International School of Denver
- ✓ Stanley British Primary
- ✓ Aspen Academy
- ✓ The Logan School
- ✓ Colorado Academy
- ✓ St. Anne's
- ✓ And More....

Thursday, Sept 3rd

5:15PM – 6:15PM

**Motor Room
Fisher Early Learning Center**