

Falls City Public Schools



Sixpence

EARLY LEARNING FUND



1707 STONE STREET FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA 68355
402-245-3276

STAFF

Susan Johnson—
Director/Family Educator

Amber Ramer—
Family Educator

Sandra McNeely—
Family Educator

MacKenzie Cunningham—
Family Educator

Susan Witt—
Childcare Partnership
Step-Up to Quality
Coach

Sixpence Count

Home Visiting

Number of families: 30

Number of children: 37

Unborn babies: 4

Childcare Partnership

Serves 8 daycares and
1 center.

2019-2020

NOVEMBER EVENTS

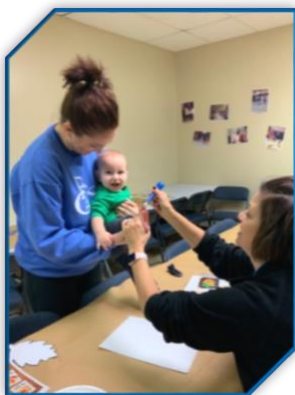
Stress Management

Sixpence & Child Care Partnership held their monthly parent meeting. Jamie Jacobs—Falls City Public Schools Mental Health Therapist, came and spoke to the families and providers about stress management. Everyone in attendance left with great relaxation tips!



Arts and Crafts

Sixpence held 🧠🍁 Fall Arts and Crafts 🧠🍁 on two different days! Happy Fall!



DECEMBER EVENTS

Breakfast with Santa

Sixpence held their monthly parent meeting on Saturday, December 7th at Falls City Elks Lodge.

All families in attendance enjoyed a breakfast buffet. Children enjoyed seeing Santa and receiving presents! Family pictures were taken. Thank you, Elks Lodge, for all you do for the Sixpence program. Thank you, to our special visitor, who got ready at the Joe Froeschl residence.

Thank you, Vicky Zoeller, for capturing these special moments!



Christmas Crafts

Spreading Christmas **J—O—Y** with Sixpence families and Childcare Partnership!



Christmas Donations

Mrs. Hogue, teacher at the Falls City Middle School and sponsor of FCA group, donated 48 Christmas stockings full of gifts for children in the Sixpence and Child Care Partnership Program!



JANUARY EVENTS

Mom's Night Out

Sixpence held Mom's Night Out! Sara Rue from Community Medical Center spoke to the moms about the importance of women's health! Afterwards they enjoyed socializing, playing bingo and eating pizza! Thank you, Eva Stark, for being our bingo caller and Sara Ruiz for letting us use your bingo set.



Sixpence Receives a Donation

Thank you to the Falls City Elks Club for your donation to our Program. These types of donations help us provide activities during the summer time for all of the youth in our community. Pictured below is the Elks Club Exalted Ruler Michael Rolfe and Susan Witt CCP Coach.



National Conference

Susan Johnson, Sandra McNeely and MacKenzie Cunningham attended the "National Home Visiting Summit in Washington DC" January 29th – 31st. They were able to meet with Senator Ben Sasse's Legislative Correspondent Meredith Jones. They discussed the importance of Home Visiting and Family Child Care in a Rural Community, along with the importance of Early Childhood Education. They were also given a private tour of the Capitol Building, that was FANTASTIC! The training sessions that they attended were also very informative.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

**SIXPENCE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME
DAWSON WAYNE RAMER
BORN FEBRUARY 4TH TO AMBER AND TOBY RAMER
HE WEIGHED IN AT 8LBS 4OZ AND 20 ¾ INCHES**

**DAWSON IS WELCOMED HOME BY HIS BIG BROTHERS TATUM &
SAWYER & BIG SISTER LAUREN!**



TRAINING

Susan Johnson attended DOULA training in Olatha, KS February 7,8,9. It was 3 days of intensive training. Susan received certificates for instruction in:

- *Birth Doula Work Shop
- *Introduction to Childbirth for Doulas
- *Labor Support Professional
- *Breastfeeding Education Workshop

Susan is working to complete her certification, this can take up to four years to complete.

What is a Birth Doula? A trained professional who provides continuous physical, emotional and informational support to a mother before, during and shortly after childbirth to help her achieve the healthiest, most satisfying experience possible.



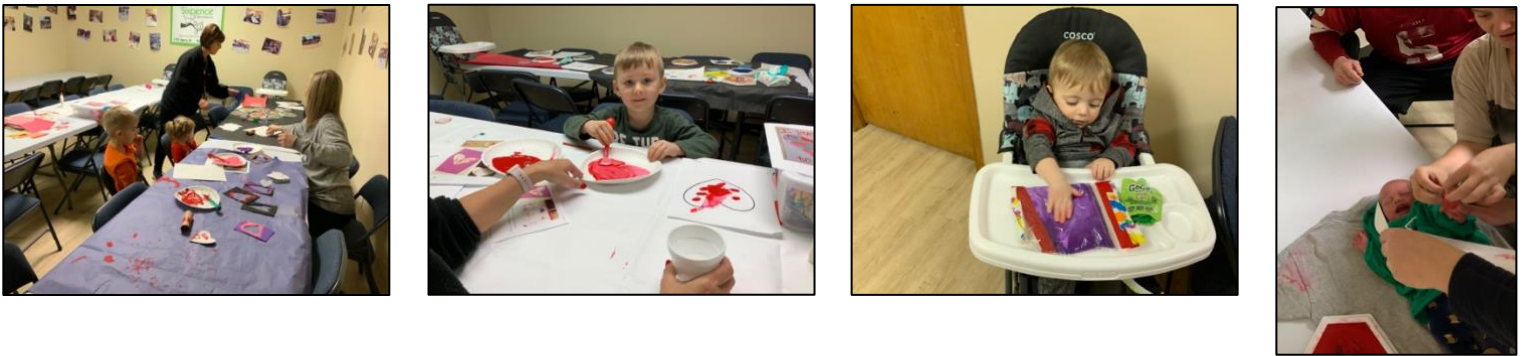
Social Emotional Group Connections

Sixpence hosted social emotional play. Parents and children danced along to music and used a variety of instruments. Fun was had by all!



Valentine **Arts and Crafts**

Sixpence and CCP hosted arts and crafts. Parents and children worked together to create several different Valentine masterpieces.



PARENT MEETING

On February 12th, Abby Merz from Kobza dental came and spoke to the Sixpence families about dental hygiene. Kobza dental provided toothbrush kits to all the families! Stacey Vitosh from Parent Child Center shared information to the Sixpence families about the PCC program and their requirements. She also talked to the Sixpence families about Brain Development. Supper was provided and door prizes were given!



CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP NEWS

On December 12th, Santa and his Elf visited the Child Care Partnership Daycares. Santa and his Elf handed out a Christmas book and treats to all of the kids. They even had time for a story with Santa and a photo shoot. Santa arrived from the Rich Witt house and his Elf arrived from the Erik McNeely home.



WHY CHILDREN SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS

Play is important for everyone, no matter their age --- and when grandparents, parents and children play together, that's where the real benefits of unstructured fun are discovered.

"Play time with adults of different ages is not just a chance for families to bond, these interactions with positive role models can help children develop a range of important social, language and problem-solving skills," says Dr. Amanda Gummer, child psychologist and an expert contributor to TheGeniusofPlay.org.

Adults benefit from play time too. As one grows older, the free unstructured fun enjoyed in childhood is often replaced with structured activities like sports, card games and solving crosswords. Time spent with youngsters can keep adults young and give them a chance to relive more carefree days.

According to The Genius of Play, a national initiative whose mission is to raise awareness about the importance of play and help parents make play a critical part of raising their kids, here are three reasons why intergeneration play is good for young children:

- Unstructured play tends to be collaborative, encouraging cooperation and honesty.
- Spending time with older adults helps children understand how aging works and later accept their own aging.
- Grandparents are storytellers and their wisdom and experience can open children's horizons further, as well as ignite imagination and creativity.

When it comes to adults, intergenerational play is beneficial in the following ways:

- Children bring innocence, joy and laughter to any situation, helping adults reduce stress.
- Active, busy play time can keep an older adult vital and healthy. Indeed, those that play with children burn more calories, experience fewer falls and become less reliant on walking aids, according to studies.
- Play time is good for an aging adult's mental and emotional health. Games can help seniors maintain cognitive skills and retain memory, and the quality time with children can prevent feelings of loneliness and boost positivity.

Whether you're young, old or somewhere in between, these three tips from The Genius of Play can help you make the most of the time together:

- Share your favorite games with your grandchildren. From hide-and-seek to hula-hoops, introducing them to the games you played years ago is a great way to connect and make new memories.
- Give children an opportunity to express themselves by letting them share their ideas for what they want to play with you. They'll be more enthusiastic about participating if they get to call the shots sometimes. In today's tech-savvy world, grand-children might want to play with a toy that uses augmented reality or teaches coding skills. This can be a great way to engage with them on their level and learn more about their favorite activities. Plus, you'll be learning something new!
- Let your grandchildren win and lose the game sometimes. This is a great chance to boost self-esteem while learning about good sportsmanship.

For more play ideas, expert advice and resources for families, visit TheGeniusOfPlay.org.

There's no doubt about it, intergenerational play is beneficial to everyone along for the fun. Be sure to carve out play time for your family, particularly when visiting with older relatives.