



Dear Families,

Welcome to Tańca Çińcada room! This is the year for some of our youngest learners to shine brightly in our classroom. It will be a year filled with magical wonder and amazing growth for your little one.

We are all very excited to begin working with you and your child as we teach them to reach for the stars.

There will be a family advocate and three teachers from the Tańca Çińcada classroom that families will be working with. Laverne Goodthunder is one of the teachers; she is originally from Arizona and Dakota is the third language she is learning; she also has 15-years' experience working with youth. Belva Phillips is another teacher in the classroom; she has worked with youth through the Dakota Wicohan program for 5 years and with CWOO since opening. Sandy Wade will be the float teacher; she is an enrolled member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe where she has had the opportunity of being enrolled in a Dakota Immersion program from age 2 through middle school. Winona Goodthunder and Bridget Nez will be the family advocates for the classroom. Family Advocates will be working to build partnerships with families to assist them in identifying their own individual family goals, strengths, needed services, and support systems.

The teacher's will be using evidence-based curriculum to ensure children under our care are reaching the milestones in all 5 domains of child development as well as making sure they are ready for the next step of their education when they leave our classroom. The children will be starting with an hour of Dakota language a day.

We believe that communication is a very important key to your child's success and to a positive parent/teacher relationship. We encourage families to contact one of the teachers or your family advocate with any questions or concerns. We will do our part by sending home a daily report to inform families what time their child took a nap, when he/she was changed, and when they ate. At the beginning of each month there will be a newsletter sent home that will include what your child will be learning as well as any upcoming events and reminders. We will be offering online communications via emails for the families to keep in contact with the teachers and family advocates. There will also be two parent/teacher meetings during the school year along with two home meetings where your child's teacher and family advocate will attend. We also encourage families to come join us and participate in the fun activities we have planned throughout the year.

You can contact the teachers and family advocates on the school phone line during school hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Families can also contact us through our school emails with any concerns or questions, we will reply as soon as possible.

We are all excited and looking forward to starting our Early Head Start adventure with your child and family!

To Many Happy Days,





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