Hello to all, and let me introduce myself. My name is Lori Do. I am filling in as the Interim Assistant Director while Alyson Williams and Kellie Holmes, our Director and Assistant Director respectively, are at home with their baby bundles of joy, who both arrived at the end of May. We wish them well and all of the best during this precious time; we also look forward to their return at the end of the summer/early fall.

To tell you about myself, I have worked at the VCU CDC for 22 years. I have taught all age groups (toddlers, young preschoolers, and older preschoolers) and was the Interim Administrative Assistant for 6 months in the beginning of 2015. Given my background as a teacher, I have a unique advantage to see not only the perspective as a staff member, but also as a member of the administrative team. This distinctive perspective allows me to better serve our staff, families, and most importantly, the children. I am also enjoying seeing new faces on my morning walk through the Center.

I want everyone to know that I am here for families, staff, and most importantly the children. I know that with all of us working toward the common goal of creating a positive, loving and nurturing learning experience here at the Center can only lead to success. I believe that the key to us successfully reaching our goal is for all families and staff to be on the same page; once we are all on the same page, only great things are to come. Please join us as we work towards excellence!

We are off to a great start this summer with water play day every other Friday. The teaching staff are using their creative thinking with all the fun activities to promote growth and learning in all of the children’s developmental areas as we are moving forward with lessons on the season of summer as well as the children helping decide what they want to learn about. Oh how they get so much from learning topics that are from their interest. We are so lucky to have teachers that keep topics interesting while learning through play.

If you have any questions, concerns, or feel like talking please stop by my office. My door is always open at any time.

Sincerely,

Lori Do
Hello all and happy summer! As Center Coordinator, part of my job is knowing what’s going on in /at the Center at all times (to the best of my ability!). So, if you ever have any questions, please do not be shy and stop by my desk. I am short, so be sure to peek around the side if you don’t see my ninja knot above the monitor. I’m always here with a smile, stickers and, hopefully, the answers that you’re looking for!

Karen Turner, Family Liaison -

s2klturn@vcu.edu (804)828-1542

We have just experienced the Summer Solstice, the longest daylight hours of the year, reminding us that summer vacations are right around the corner. With this in mind, please be sure to make your child’s teachers aware when you will be away on holiday, or when you may have a delay in arriving in the morning. In this way, an accurate lunch count can be provided to the kitchen to ensure enough food is prepared or that no food is wasted.

Sadly, some of our future kindergartners have left Rooms 201 and 202 to join their summer programs in order to become acclimated to their after school programs in the fall. On a more positive note, this is allowing for children in the younger classrooms to transition up to more challenging environments to further stimulate their growth and development. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest families: The Ly Family, whose daughter, Theresa, has joined G-1’s classroom, and the Brooks Family, whose daughter, Abigail, will be joining Room 101.

Later in the summer, the CDC is hoping to partner with the Children’s Museum of Richmond to collect books for their Traveling Book Bank. These books are distributed to children who otherwise would not be able to purchase their own books. Be on the lookout in late July or early August for collection bins which will be placed on each floor.
Movin’ on Up!

Information on Enrollment, Transitions, and Tuition

2015-16 Tuition Rates

To continue to increase our revenue to meet operational and programmatic needs, the CDC will announce new tuition rates annually. Our last increase, in March 2014, was 12% across the board for all families. We recognize the benefit of being able to plan ahead for your family’s finances; therefore, we are instituting a “stairstep” tuition structure on September 1, 2016. Families will lock in their tuition rates on 9/1/16 and thereafter at enrollment. We will likely continue to see tuition increases each year, so with this model, families will not have increases on any individual child’s tuition. Although we will no longer discount tuition when a child turns 3, the 10% discount on the oldest child remains in effect.

Classroom Ages & Enrollment

Each classroom at the CDC meets or exceeds the ratio suggestions and staffing requirements established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Each classroom has an age span of 1.5-2 years, and children will spend 9-24 months in a classroom on each floor, depending upon their age at admission and the annual transition schedule.

There is some overlapping of age groups on each floor to recognize that development happens on a continuum at the child’s own pace and not necessarily at a certain age.

G1: Toddlers, age 16-32 months in September
G2: Toddlers, age 16-32 months in September
101: Ages 2.5-4 in September
102: Ages 2.5-4 in September
201: Ages 3.5-5 in September
202: Ages 3.5-5 in September

When Will My Child Move Up?

Classroom transitions are dependent upon both a child’s developmental readiness across all domains (social-emotional, cognitive, and motor skills) and having space available in a classroom that will be an appropriate placement.

In general, most transitions will happen between late spring and early fall, as older children move out to Kindergarten and make space for younger children to move into the next classroom. Not all children will transition each year.

Teachers will work with families and administration to assist children with the transition from one room to the next.

If you have additional questions, please let us know!

If your child will be withdrawing from the Center to transition to Kindergarten, please submit a Withdrawal Form to the office as soon as possible, at least two weeks before your withdrawal date. Thank you!
Objectives for Development & Learning

**Social–Emotional**

1. Regulates own emotions and behaviors
   a. Manages feelings  
   b. Follows limits and expectations  
   c. Takes care of own needs appropriately
2. Establishes and sustains positive relationships
   a. Forms relationships with adults  
   b. Responds to emotional cues  
   c. Interacts with peers  
   d. Makes friends
3. Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations
   a. Balances needs and rights of self and others  
   b. Solves social problems

**Physical**

4. Demonstrates traveling skills
5. Demonstrates balancing skills
6. Demonstrates gross-motor manipulative skills
7. Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination
   a. Uses fingers and hands  
   b. Uses writing and drawing tools

**Language**

8. Listens to and understands increasingly complex language
   a. Comprehends language  
   b. Follows directions
9. Uses language to express thoughts and needs
   a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary  
   b. Speaks clearly  
   c. Uses conventional grammar  
   d. Tells about another time or place
10. Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills
    a. Engages in conversations  
    b. Uses social rules of language

**Cognitive**

11. Demonstrates positive approaches to learning
    a. Attends and engages  
    b. Persists  
    c. Solves problems  
    d. Shows curiosity and motivation  
    e. Shows flexibility and inventiveness in thinking
12. Remembers and connects experiences
    a. Recognizes and recalls  
    b. Makes connections
13. Uses classification skills
14. Uses symbols and images to represent something not present
    a. Thinks symbolically  
    b. Engages in sociodramatic play

**Literacy**

15. Demonstrates phonological awareness
    a. Notices and discriminates rhyme  
    b. Notices and discriminates alliteration  
    c. Notices and discriminates smaller and smaller units of sound
16. Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet
    a. Identifies and names letters  
    b. Uses letter–sound knowledge
17. Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses
    a. Uses and appreciates books  
    b. Uses print concepts
18. Comprehends and responds to books and other texts
    a. Interacts during read-alouds and book conversations  
    b. Uses emergent reading skills  
    c. Retells stories
19. Demonstrates emergent writing skills
    a. Writes name  
    b. Writes to convey meaning
Objectives for Development & Learning Continued

Mathematics

20. Uses number concepts and operations a. Counts b. Quantifies c. Connects numerals with their quantities
21. Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes a. Understands spatial relationships b. Understands shapes
22. Compares and measures
23. Demonstrates knowledge of patterns

Science and Technology

24. Uses scientific inquiry skills
25. Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics of living things
26. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials
27. Demonstrates knowledge of Earth’s environment
28. Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks

Social Studies

29. Demonstrates knowledge about self
30. Shows basic understanding of people and how they live
31. Explores change related to familiar people or places
32. Demonstrates simple geographic knowledge

The Arts

33. Explores the visual arts
34. Explores musical concepts and expression
35. Explores dance and movement concepts
36. Explores drama through actions and language

English Language Acquisition

37. Demonstrates progress in listening to and understanding English
38. Demonstrates progress in speaking English
Thank you Student Workers!

One thing that makes us different from many early childhood programs is our mission to serve as a learning lab for VCU students. Over the past year, the CDC has hosted over 200 VCU students in our learning lab. These students come to the CDC for pre-service experiences in Early / Elementary Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Counselor Education, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, and more. Students participate in observations, practicum and student teaching placements, and observations and internships. It is our mission to provide a learning lab for these students to experience what high-quality early childhood education looks like in practice. Many of these students go on to become valuable student workers at the CDC.

Many Thanks to This Year’s Student and Part Time Workers:
Chanell Hudson, Tierra Hardin, Maria Foy, Lyly Lieu, Gretchen Buis, Ron Cardwell, Tyler Withrow, Daniel Dillon, Jin Kim, Ally Dickerson, Abbey Brown, Lisa Burnham,
Greetings from rooms G1 and G2!

G1 and G2 are more than ready for the warm weather of summer and extremely happy for the fun and exciting activities that we will be doing. Firstly we would like to express our gratitude for our CDC families’ support and understanding during all of the staffing changes at the CDC. This spring we had to say good-bye and best wishes to our beloved Stacey Farr, who is starting a new chapter in her life.

G1 and G2 had been doing some fun activities together this spring and will continue planning together more fun activities for the summer. For our lesson plans we take into consideration the interest of the children and the things that create curiosity and trigger exploration such as things that they observe, hear, and smell. Our lesson plans will reflect each child’s interest by allowing opportunities for open-ended exploration and spontaneous discovery.
G1 and G2 started this spring by learning about trains. We all made trains with different materials and worked as a team to create our class train, which we had a blast playing with. To make spring and summer relevant to the children we will take our seeds, pots, and trowels and we will learn how to plant flowers. The children will learn that water is like food for the plants, because it helps the plants grow like us. We will also take advantage of this beautiful weather and take walks around our back playground and buggy rides around VCU campus to observe the beautiful flowers and diverse plants growing around us.

In future lesson plans we will be exploring ocean life, kites, and all the fun activities associated with the summer season. Thanks to the warm weather, G1 and G2 will continue enjoying water play days. We always welcome parents to come and participate in any activities we may have.

Below are some pictures of children being engaged in various activities in the classroom that encompasses their social emotional development, language literacy, gross motor, fine motor, art cognitive development, and art sensory development.
Classroom News

101: Ms. Benita Thompson and Ms. Ally Dickerson

The spring weather has almost gone, and now the summer heat is ON! We just finished up a wonderful two weeks on “Construction” and will be moving on to explore some exciting new themes including, but not limited to, camping, science, bugs/insects, and dinosaurs.

The children of 101 will dive down deep into the Deep Blue Sea to study life under the sea and take a stroll down the beach to see what we can discover. In addition, we do not want to forget about our water play days here at school. We will be utilizing water toys and spray bottles as well as observing a variety of insects.
Classroom News

Many of the themes the children will be exploring over the summer were at their request when queried about what piqued their interest. When themes or interests are child led, it is much more meaningful for them, and the teachers truly enjoy these interactive moments. We are looking forward to summer as we participate in a range of activities that encourage the development and overall growth of the children.
It has been a fun, busy spring in 102! In March, we really enjoyed a unit on Music. We had visits from several musicians from the VCU community, took a field trip to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart to experience the pipe organ, played ukuleles at Fan Guitar and Ukulele, made videos of ourselves singing on a classroom stage, and MUCH more! We spent the month of April learning about spring: weather, plants, and animals. We planted seeds, tended the CDC garden, watched the metamorphosis of our classroom caterpillars into butterflies, played with earthworms, and used a baseball bat to help "hatch" a papier-mâché egg. We then learned about Mexico and Cinco de Mayo (mmmm, homemade corn tortillas!), fed grass to the animals from the Teeny Tiny Farm, and had a great time at the Metro Richmond Zoo! I think one of the kids' favorite units so far has been Favorite Books, during which we spent one day reading and doing activities related to the favorite book of each student and teacher. We made blueberry pizza and "bluurf", decorated princess crowns, danced and took photos of each other with teddy bears, did lots of train activities, and built beanstalks! During our following Down on the Farm unit, we learned about several different crops and animals, and we even got to pet a couple of live chickens that came to visit!

We are thrilled to have Ms. Meghan Joyce with us this summer as an intern. She has been assisting up to this point, and has now transitioned into a lead teacher role. She is leading the second week of our current Summer theme, and will then begin a Carnival unit. Other themes for the remainder of the summer include Fourth of July/USA, Transportation, Beach and Ocean, and Forest and Camping. We have also really enjoyed having Mr. Daniel Dillon in our class most days!
Today at the lunch table, I mentioned that I was going to go do some work on the computer. When a couple of the kids asked why, I explained to them about the CDC newsletter and how I needed to write about the things we’ve been doing in Room 102. I asked them if they had anything they wanted to add. Flint would like to report that "Norma and Flint are moving upstairs!", and Antonio requested that we also tell you that he now has a baby sister, Bianca!
Greetings from the children in Room 201!  We are so excited to "Show Off" all of our hard work, and the things that are keeping us busy in our class!

First of all, we play a lot, build a lot. And let our imaginations go "wild"!

Spring time was great! We went to the Zoo, had several visits from pet friends, built a farm with all the farm animals, and explored the world of ocean animals and dinosaurs! Now we can say we are "experts" on animal life.

Our Cinco de Mayo unit was a huge success! We learned a lot about the Mexican culture and the food, and we are now confident enough to say some words in Spanish too!

We have begun working on our summer unit, and making sure it will be as much fun as the last exploration!! This summer we will engage in lots of water play, walk to the Cary Street Gym, and take advantage of the sunshine and explore our community!

Our first lesson plan will be on "Summertime," and all the fun things we can do during the season, with most being based on the children’s interest.

We are looking forward to a lot more fun in the upcoming season!
What an exciting Spring we have had here in Room 202! As we look forward to Summer at the VCU-CDC, we have some friends leaving and new friends coming. Waterplay will be every other Friday through August. We are excited to walk to the Cary Street Gym fields every other Tuesday for fun relays and games that a larger area allows. We plan to take advantage of all that the campus has to offer, including the library. With nicer weather, our class will take impromptu walks to check out what is in our “neighborhood.”

As far as our units of study, we are learning about the 7 continents, one continent at a time. This helps the children gain an understanding that all over the world some things are the same as right here in Richmond, but MANY things are different. We will focus on the animals, customs, cultures and foods found on each continent.

Summer is sure to be an exciting time in 202!
Fundraising

The CDC is funded primarily through tuition payments; however, those payments do not cover the entire cost of operating the program. We seek your help with our fundraising efforts, including those listed here and on our website.

Since 1997, schools, charities, churches, community groups, and clubs in the continental United States have collectively earned more than **$26 million in cash and rewards** through FundingFactory's 100% free fundraising-thru-recycling program. Together, FundingFactory and the CDC are making an impact on the environment by keeping cartridges and small electronics out of landfills.

The CDC will collect, pack, and ship used inkjet and toner cartridges, cell phones, MP3 players, digital cameras, and GPS devices to FundingFactory. The CDC can then choose to accumulate points and spend them in the rewards catalog.

Scholastic Corporation is the world’s largest publisher and distributor of children’s books and a leader in educational technology and children’s media. Scholastic creates quality educational and entertaining materials and products for use in school and at home, including children's books, magazines, technology-based products, teacher materials, television programming, film, videos and toys.

The VCU Child Development Center earns a FREE $3 book coupon every time a parent places an order (of any value), and points are awarded towards additional books based on the total amount spent by CDC families. Orders are all online, using code HLZ46 (Teacher: Dr. Williams). Orders are due the 15th of each month and will be distributed by Karen Turner on arrival.
Fundraising Continued

The CDC is funded primarily through tuition payments; however, those payments do not cover the entire cost of operating the program. We seek your help with our fundraising efforts, including those listed here and on our website.

Tax-deductible donations may be made to the CDC through the VCU Foundation. Our account number is 040577. Your donation ensures that the Center continues to provide high-quality care and education to the VCU community.

Campbell's Labels for Education™ is a school support program whereby registered schools or institutions collect labels from Campbell product labels and redeem them for educational resources ranging from sports equipment and musical instruments to video equipment and computers.
Are you ready for a change? We sure are! PAC wants you to join us for an action-packed school year.

What’s new

- Standing monthly meetings – 2nd Tuesdays of the month at 4:30
- Six annual key PAC activities
- PAC dues are waived for new families starting between May 1-Aug. 31
- Room Parents
- Committee based activities

What’s still great

- PAC officers to keep everything organized
- PAC Birthday gift cards for teachers
- PAC Teacher Appreciation week
- PAC sponsored staff development lunch

Stay tuned for more details during Back to School Night or join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:30!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns: Melanie Goodman,

mmgoodma@vcu.edu
If you haven’t visited the back playground recently, we encourage you to do so! Our beloved climber/slide has undergone a “facelift” as of late. Mr. Chaf LeLong, grandfather of Sybil (G2) and Lora Cropp (202) had donated not only his time and energy to this project, but also the materials needed. Our Center runs on the kindness and support of our families; we could not do this without you!

Thank you, Mr. LeLong and the Cropp Family for your assistance on this project!
Family Reminders and Information

Did you know that children are required to be within our SIGHT and SOUND at all times? When your children are with you, please help us keep them safe by holding their hands and keeping them within your own sight and sound at all times.

Shutterfly Photos: We hope you are enjoying all the photos of your child’s day at school. The site is members only. If you would like to visit the site, please go to: https://vcuchilddevelopmentcenter.shutterfly.com/ and complete the registration / request to join.

NEW! Online Credit Card Payments! We are excited to be accepting online payments through our website. We are no longer accepting credit card payments in person.

To pay online: https://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/cdc/myPayment.aspx

Why are the halls so empty? We recently got a visit from the fire marshal, and were instructed that the artwork displayed in our hallways and stairwells was a violation of fire code. While we know our hallways look a little naked right now, we are glad to know that we are following the fire safety regulations that will allow us to stay as safe as possible in the case of emergency. We are so glad to have gotten some long-overdue painting to update and clean our walls, and we look forward to adding our own personal touches soon. Please feel free to visit your child’s classroom to peek at the current artwork on display!

CDC classrooms are cell-free zones. We believe the children deserve our full attention while at the CDC. Please assist us in keeping everyone’s attention on the children by leaving your phones off or outside the classroom while visiting. Thank you!
### CDC Classroom Directory

**G1:** 828-1769  
Ms. Nakita Battle

**G2:** 828-1781  
Ms. Miriam Ortiz

**101:** 828-2082  
Ms. Lori Do  
Ms. Benita Thompson

**102:** 828-2083  
Ms. Emily Eaton

**201:** 828-4967  
Ms. Cintia Valz  
Ms. Kim Phillips

**202:** 828-2113  
Ms. Kerri Ann Plaster  
Ms. Brittany Dix

### CDC Office Directory

**Dr. Alyson Williams, Director / Assistant Professor**  
*Leadership for policy, program planning, professional development, community outreach and oversight*  
828-5892  
aewilliams@vcu.edu

**Ms. Kellie Holmes, Assistant Director**  
*Leadership for daily operations, building management, curriculum, staff supervision, tuition and administration*  
828-7377  
khholmes@vcu.edu

**Ms. Lori Do, Interim Assistant Director**  
*Transitional assistance with tuition, administration & reception*  
828-7377  
lbsneden@vcu.edu

**Ms. Cati Howard, Center Coordinator**  
*Leadership for scheduling, classroom coverage, and reception*  
828-1541  
cehoward@vcu.edu

**Ms. Karen Turner, Family Liaison**  
*Leadership for family programs, classroom transitions, tours, new family orientation, child files and recordkeeping*  
828-1542  
s2klturn@vcu.edu
VCU CDC follows the University calendar (http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu/) and is closed on the holidays and professional development days listed below. In addition to the dates below, the Center may be closed on other dates for further professional development.

8/17—19.16: CDC CLOSED for Professional Development
9.5.16: CDC CLOSED for Labor Day
10.21.16: *CDC Field Trip to Pumpkin Path (VCU Reading Day)
10.28.16: Costume Parade at Trani Courtyard @ 10am
11.23.16: CDC CLOSES AT NOON for Thanksgiving Break
11.24-25.16: CDC CLOSED for Thanksgiving Break
12.16.16: CDC CLOSES AT NOON for Family-Teacher Conferences
12.24.16-1.1.17: CDC CLOSED for Winter Break
1.16.17: CDC CLOSED for Martin Luther King Day
3.9-10.17: CDC CLOSED for Professional Development
5.3.17: *CDC Field Trip to Zoo (VCU Reading Day)
5.19.17: CDC CLOSES AT NOON for Family-Teacher Conferences
5.29.17: CDC CLOSED for Memorial Day
7.4.17: CDC CLOSED for Independence Day
8.10-11.17: CDC CLOSED for Professional Development