

### **Smucker Child Development Center**

The Smucker Child Development Center has been a great support to the Career Center's Early Childhood Education & Care program. They serve Orrville and the surrounding area for children from infants through school age. They operate a preschool and focus on keeping children engaged to instill a love of learning in their lives.

Early Childhood Instructor Debra McDonald said, "When the center was being built, the director, Dina (DEEN-a) reached out to me to let me know she would like to partner with us. Since then, she has served on the advisory board, offered tours of their center, and partnered with the head chef at Smucker's to provide a nutritional program for the ECE students when we saw them struggling with that on their webxam. Dina has also participated in mock interviews with students in person and via Zoom, and offered judges from the Columbus area to help with competitions."

During the pandemic, the center was temporarily closed but opened again this fall. With the reopening, many of the Career Center's 2020 and 2021 graduates were hired as teachers in the center. These job placements are so appreciated as the center offers many opportunities for their teachers including a competitive wage and tuition payment for college courses in Early Childhood Education.

Thank you to the Smucker Child Development Center for all you do for our community and the Career Center alike.