

Dear Families,

I wanted to take this time and welcome you again to Jefferson Preschool! The team and I are excited to have your child start!

I also wanted to fill you in on some information to help make the first couple of days a smooth and fun transition for your child.

There are many members of your child's educational team. Miss Rose and Miss Nancy are our wonderful teaching assistants. We are looking forward to working together again this year! As soon as the speech pathologist, occupational therapist and physical therapist are assigned, I will share that information with you.

Marlene Byron's class will be our buddy class again this year. Miss Marlene teaches a larger inclusion classroom with 17 children. Several times each week we will join our two classes for "Together Time". This is a great way of blending the two classes to partake in a variety of activities. Our teams plan small and large group activities pertaining to the theme of the week. This has been a fun and exciting way to have fun with new friends. The children always look forward to our times together.

Our day will be divided among structured and non-structured activities. When the children first arrive, we will have centers such as toys, dramatic play, feeling table, art, easel, game table, play dough, listening center, computer or one-on-one time with various teachers or therapists. Next will be circle. This is a time that is heavily language based and such skills as attending, following directions and pre-academic concepts are worked on. After circle is snack. This time of the day is great to work on social skills. The children love to sit and talk about what they do outside of school! Recess follows snack. Depending on the weather, we either go outside to the playground or to the gym everyday. We will finish up the day with a structured time depending on the day (library, cooking or Together Time). Through out the day language skills, social skills, play skills, independence skills and pre-readiness skills will be continually emphasized. For safety reasons, please have your child wear or bring sneakers to school each day. Boots, sandals and flip-flops are very slippery and they do not grip well on the climbing equipment. If you prefer, your child may leave a pair of gym shoes here for the year. Please label them with their name.

Jefferson Preschool follows the Creative Curriculum. This curriculum emphasizes interest areas that include but are not limited to dramatic play, blocks, art, feeling table, circle times and motor. Language, social skills, plays skills, pre-readiness, gross/fine motor and independence skills are also embedded through out our entire program. Developmentally appropriate lesson plans and activities will be developed to enhance these skills through out all themes. Your child's individual needs will be addressed according to their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) using the Creative Curriculum as a framework.

Every Friday a newsletter and lesson plan will be shared via e-mail for the following week. This is a nice way to talk with your child about upcoming events and to ask them what they did a particular day. This is a great way to ask your child where they played, what they did and who they played with. I find the best and quickest way to communicate with parents and families is via e-mail. I check e-mail frequently through out the day. I will keep you up to date on your child's progress, share any ups and downs, ask any questions or simply let you know how things are going. I ask that you do the same. Please let us know how things are going or if there is any important information we need to know on a particular day. However, please feel free to call at anytime if that is easier for you.

Each day your child needs to bring a small snack from home. Please send in a favorite healthy snack and juice box that does not need to be refrigerated. Please make sure your child's snack is labeled each day. Occasionally we make do a cooking project that will correspond to our theme. More information will be send home at a later time.

Tuesday is our library day. Each Tuesday, the children will have a story read to them pertaining to our theme. Different staff members or parent volunteers take turns reading to the children. The children then get a chance to look at books and check out one for the week. We ask that the book is returned each Tuesday, or your child will not be able to check out a book until it is returned. If you are interested in helping out in the library, or reading on Tuesday's, please let me know.

Please plan to join us on Tuesday, August 19th for an open house. This is a great time to meet the classroom team and see friends. If your child will attend the morning session, please come from 9:30-10:30. If your child will attend the afternoon session, please come from 11:00-12:00. This is a great time to drop off your school supplies as well. There will be a bus from First Student Bus Company out front for the children to sit in and explore too!

I hope that this has answered a few of your questions before the first day of school (which is August 20th). For those of you returning, welcome back. To our new friends, we are so glad you are with us! I encourage and love parent volunteers in the classroom. Volunteering opportunities will be available once the school year is under way. Please don't hesitate to call, write or e-mail with any questions or concerns. The team and I are looking forward to getting to know you and your child!

Here's to a GREAT year!

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