

Dear Family Member(s),

I wanted to take a brief moment to welcome you to Jefferson Preschool. The team and I are very excited to be part of your child's day! Below is some information to help make the first couple of days a smooth and fun transition for your child.

Our day will be divided among structured play and non-structured play. When the children first arrive we will take every opportunity to encourage and guide them to be self sufficient in putting their backpack, snack, and coats away all by themselves. We will also work on greeting our peers with proper eye contact. The departure routine will be the same. The team and I will always be available to provide the necessary assistance. Your child will enter the classroom, wash their hands and then pick a table toy bin to play with as we wait for all of our friends to arrive. We will go outside (weather permitting 40 degrees and above) or to the gym. 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 when climbing on equipment. If you prefer, your child may leave a pair of gym shoes here for the year. Please label them with their first and last name. When we come back from recess the class will have circle time. This is a time that is primarily language based and such skills as attending, following directions and pre-academic concepts are the focus. Answering "Wh" or yes and no questions, following verbal directions, articulating new vocabulary, spatial concepts, pronouns, prepositions, patterning, quantitative concepts, sound or letter recognition, and sequencing steps in stories. After circle time is snack. We will try and use the restroom as a class at this time. Please send in an extra change of weather appropriate clothes, diapers and wipes if needed. Again we will try and promote independence in the restroom too. Snack time is a great way to practice social skills. The children love to sit and talk about what they do outside of school. After snack the children will read books while we get the tables ready for centers or work time such as toys, dramatic play, feeling table, art, easel, games, table toys, play dough, listening center, computer, or one on one time with various teachers or therapists. We will finish our day with music and movement. Through out the day language skills, social skills, play skills, independence skills and pre-readiness skills will be continually emphasized.

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 time. Language, social skills, play 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 of our themes. Your child's individual needs will be addressed according to their Individualized Education Plan (IEP's) using the Creative Curriculum framework. For more information on the Creative Curriculum feel free to visit their website at <http://www.teachingstrategies.com/>.

Every Friday a newsletter and lesson plans 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. I will also communicate via e-mail on a daily basis about

your child's day. This has proven to be the quickest and most effective way to communicate with parents and families. Please talk to your child about where they played, what they did and who they played with. I will check my e-mail frequently through out the day if you would like to communicate with me during 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. It is just as important for me to know what you see at home as I let you know what is going on at school. Please feel free to let us know how things are going or if there is any important information we need to know on a particular day. However, do not hesitate to call at anytime if this is easier for you.

Each day your child will need 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 do not send sugar snacks such as candy or cookies. Please make sure your child's snack is labeled each day. We are a peanut free school so please refrain from sending snacks with nuts, or peanut butter.

Tuesday is our library day. Each Tuesday, the children will have a story read to them pertaining to our current theme. Different staff members or parent volunteers take turns reading to the children during this time. 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 another book until the previous book is returned. If you are interested in helping out in the classroom or library please let me know. You are welcome in the classroom any time.

I hope this has answered a few of your questions before the first day of school. Again welcome to Jefferson Preschool. My e-mail address is kpetrill@cusd200.org. The team and I are looking forward to getting to know you, your child and family.

Have a fantastic year

Krista Petrilli