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Diane Martine, Director



SEPTEMBER 2017



Social Development: My Friends & Myself, My New Classroom

Writing Skills: *Letters:* Aa, Qq, Ll, Nn, Cc *Numbers:* 0 & 1 *Colors:* Red & Yellow

Shapes: Circle, Square, Triangle & Oval

Science: Fall Apples ~ seed to fruit

Social Studies: Following rules, Responsibility for my actions



Welcome to Wee Care

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 2017-2018 school year. Your child will enjoy many new experiences under the supervision of trained childcare professionals. The care and supervision of your child will always be our top priority.

While we strive to offer the very best care possible, we do realize that problems may arise from time to time. I am always available to hear your concerns and will take appropriate action when needed. Please do not hesitate to contact me in person, by phone, or email any time, for any reason.

I am looking forward to another great year at Wee Care!

Diane Martine
Director
858-560-0985
diane@weecarepreschools.com
office hours: 8am – 5pm

Gentle Reminders for a Great New School Year:

- Label Everything! Bedding, jackets, extra clothing...all items from home. Even just first and last initials will help!
- Check your Parent Pocket for notices, newsletters, etc. Read these notices and the information posted on the Parent Board to ensure that you do not miss out on any special activities or information.
- Every child, regardless of age, must have at least one full set of clothing for emergencies. This clothing should be in a clear bag (like a Ziplock) with the child's name on the outside.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- * Guillian K * Noam C * Chloe R *
Adryanna T * Reef S * Aria P
* Jacoby W * Ryleigh S *
* Giselle B * Edgar H * Laurel D *
* Madelyn K * Lorenzo L *

*School Calendar

2017-2018

September 2017

9/04/17 Labor Day **School Closed**
9/05/17 First Day of New School Year
9/10/17 Grandparent's Day

October 2017

10/27/17 Halloween Carnival at 6:30pm
10/31/17 Halloween Activity Day – Please
NO COSTUMES

November 2017

11/05/17 Daylight Savings ends (Fall Back)
11/11/17 Veteran's Day **School**
Open on Friday 11/10
Pre-K Progress Reports go home in
November
11/23/17 Thanksgiving Day **School Closed**
11/24/17 Day after Thanksgiving **School**
Closes at 12 NOON

December 2017

12/09/17 Breakfast with Santa



12/25/17 **School Closed** Christmas Day

January 2018

01/01/18 **School Closed** New Year's Day
01/15/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
School
Open

February 2018

02/14/18 Valentine's Day Activities



02/19/18 President's Day **School Open**
02/22/18 Picture Day
02/23/18 Picture Day

March 2018

03/11/18 Daylight Savings Begins
03/16/18 "Green Day" for St Patrick's
03/29/18 Egg Hunt

April 2018

04/11/18 Graduation Photos
04/22/18 Earth Day

May 2018

05/11/18 Muffins with Mom
05/13/18 Mother's Day
Pre-K Progress Reports go home in May
05/28/18 Memorial Day **School Closed**

June 2018

TBD Pre-K Graduation
06/15/18 Donuts with Dad
06/17/18 Father's Day



July & August 2018

Summer Fun Activities!

* Event dates are subject to change. Please check out our newsletter each month for updates. Newsletters are posted in each of our classrooms and on our website www.weecarepreschools.com.

Updates and reminders can also be found on Facebook:



See latest photos and posts!



TOP 3 BENEFITS OF LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

By Tanya Thibodeau

seemeandliz.com, a site dedicated to teaching parents how to best interact with their babies and young children in order to enhance language development and learning
tanya@seemeandliz.com

I am a strong supporter of children learning through play, therefore I want to share with you what I feel are the Top 3 Benefits of Pretend Play. Who doesn't want to play "grocery store" or "rocket to the moon"? These were some of the pretend play scenarios I loved playing as a child and now I get to watch my kids do the same. There are many stages that a child goes through with regards to pretend play.

For example, an 18 month old will pretend to feed a doll or cover a teddy bear with a blanket so the bear can go to sleep. However, a 5 year old might come up with an elaborate scenario involving setting up chairs and pretending it is an airplane.

My kids love turning the dining room into an airport and the kitchen into the plane. They even make tickets which each passenger has to hand in at the gate (aka, the kitchen counter).

Each stage of play children go through will aid in their development.

Top 3 benefits of learning through play

1. **Play Encourages Communication**

Play allows children the opportunity to develop speech and language skills as well listening skills. Children talk and listen while they play. Whether this be during solitary play which typically involves self-talk and narration (e.g. "now my car is driving up the hill and then it goes down, wee, wee, wee") or play with a companion, children communicate to add purpose to their play. The more vocabulary a child is exposed to on a day-to-day basis, the greater the variety of words a child will incorporate into play.

I love seeing and hearing some of the scenarios my children come up with. For example, they love playing restaurant. They have to decide who will be the cook and who will be the server. My daughter is the older one so she gets to write out the menu, but they both decide what will be included on the menu (usually milk, juice, coffee, hot dogs, sushi, spaghetti and ice cream – quite the combination). And they always make sure that we pay for our food. Sometimes there are disagreements about who gets to play which role or what will be included on the menu, but I try to teach them how to work through these issues and we also talk about compromising.

2. **Play Improves Cognitive Development**

Children who engage in pretend play tend to have more sophisticated levels of interaction with others. Bergen, D (2002) found that more and more evidence supports the connections between cognitive ability and high quality pretend play. Moreover, if children are deprived of play, their long-term capabilities related to problem solving, social skills and academic areas (e.g. literacy, math and science) could be lessened. The complexity of these skills demonstrate that many areas of the brain are most likely involved. For more information please see the complete [study by Bergen](#).

Additional research about the benefits of learning through play shows that:

- Children whose fathers played with them had greater levels of imagination and cognitive ability than those whose dads did not play with them.
- Children who played with their parents also participated in other activities, had positive mental health, stronger friendships and experienced a stronger family bond when compared to those whose parents did not play with their children as much.
- Children whose mothers played with them showed a greater level of attachment to their moms and enjoyed more positive development compared to children whose mothers did not play with them regularly.

3. **Play Encourages Relationship Building**

Play helps to promote the development of social skills. Children who play with their parents and peers learn how relationships work through their play experiences. As play becomes more important in a child's life, an increase in the number and quality of friendships has been seen.

Many people don't realize that social skills are a vital part of language development. Language is so much more than simply spoken words!

These are my top 3 benefits of learning through play. There are definitely many more than these and I am sure I could go on and on about this topic.

If you are interested in reading about the role of play in normal emotional development, please read the article "[Free Play Is Essential for Normal Emotional Development](#)" found in Psychology Today.

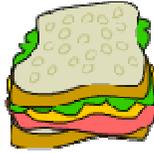


Dear Families,

Good news! This month's Scholastic Reading Club fliers are ready for you to explore with your child. Children read more when they choose their own books, so I encourage you to look at the flyers together. Each flier is filled with grade-specific, affordable titles and Storia® eBooks. Place your order online at scholastic.com/readingclub or return the order form and payment to me. Flyers are available on our front desk so pick one up today! If you do not pick up a flier you can still place an order online.

Shop Online: scholastic.com/readingclub

One-Time Class Activation Code: GRVFZ



FOOD FROM HOME...

Please keep in mind a few things if you choose to send food from home to school with your child:

We only eat while seated at the tables in our kitchens so please do not allow your child to walk into school with food in hand.

Breakfast is served until 7:30am. After this time we will be either playing on the playground or having activities in our classrooms **where we do not allow food**. Breakfast foods brought in after 7:30 should be dropped off in the kitchen where it will be saved until morning snack which begins shortly after 8:00am.

We do not include “desserts” or junk food items on our menus so we ask that you not send these types of items with your child. ***Chips, cookies, donuts, candy, etc., are all foods that need to be saved for home and will not be served to your child if you send them.***

Food may not be kept in cubbies, as we do not wish to have problems with bugs in our classrooms. All food from home must be clearly labeled with your child’s name and dropped off in our kitchen.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

CONVENIENCE FEES



Currently all tuition paid with a credit card receives a 3% convenience fee to help offset credit card charges that the school has to pay for accepting these cards. Debit cards were excluded from this fee because we mistakenly thought that we would not be charged fees since debit cards are linked to checking accounts. From this point forward **only debit cards previously approved by the school office and checking account payments (ACH) will be fee free.**

Please be advised that if you change your current debit card to another debit card these fees will apply to you.

Thank you!