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Diane Martine, Director



## SEPTEMBER 2019

Social Development: My Friends & Myself, My New Classroom

Writing Skills: *Letters: Aa, Yy, & Qq Numbers: 0, 1 & 2 Colors: Yellow Shapes: Circle*

Science: Fall Apples ~ seed to fruit

Social Studies: Following Rules and Expectations, Making Friends, Keys to Friendship, Talking with Friends

Seasonal: Labor Day, First Day of School, & Grandparent's Day



### Welcome to Wee Care

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 2019-2020 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 a great year at Wee Care!

Diane Martine  
Director  
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### 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 mailbox for notices, touch reports, 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

- \* Penelope \* Ian \* Mida \*  
\* Scarlett \* Parker \* Lyle \* Zoe \*  
\* Lucas \* Creed \* Roman \*  
\* Ms. Elizabeth \* Ms. Cindy \*

# \*School Calendar 2019-2020\*



## September 2019

2 Labor Day **School Closed**  
3 First Day of New School Year  
8 Grandparent's Day

## October 2019

25 Halloween Carnival at 6:30pm  
31 Halloween Activity Day – Please NO COSTUMES

## November 2019

Pre-K Progress Reports  
3 Daylight Savings ends (Fall Back)  
11 Veteran's Day **School Open**  
28 Thanksgiving Day **School Closed**  
29 Day after Thanksgiving **School Closes at 12 NOON**

## December 2019

7 Breakfast with Santa   
24 Christmas Eve **School Closes at NOON**  
25 Christmas Day **School Closed**  
31 New Year's Eve **School Closes at NOON**

## January 2020

1 New Year's Day **School Closed**  
20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day **School Open**

## February 2020

14 Valentine's Day Activities   
17 President's Day **School Open**  
20 Picture Day  
21 Picture Day

## March 2020

8 Daylight Savings Begins (Spring Forward)  
17 "Green Day" for St Patrick's Day

## April 2020

8 Graduation Photos  
9 Egg Hunt  
22 Earth Day

## May 2020

Pre-K Progress Reports  
8 Muffins with Mom  
10 Mother's Day  
25 Memorial Day **School Closed**

## June 2020

TBD Pre-K Graduation   
19 Donuts with Dad  
21 Father's Day

## July & August 2020

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](http://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](http://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.

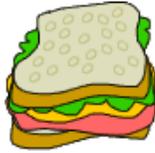


Dear Families,

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](http://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](http://scholastic.com/readingclub)

**One-Time Class Activation Code:** TY4JF



## FOOD FROM HOME...

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

We encourage our students throughout the day to eat only while seated. Please help reinforce this and 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 from home**. 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 8:30am.

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 the bin on the front counter.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



gg59682912 GoGraph ©

We ask that all students arriving in the morning be in attendance **no later than our scheduled lunch time**. Please do not drop off during nap. Afternoon drop offs may take place at the end of nap at 2:30. Thank you for your cooperation!!

~ Wee Care Staff ~