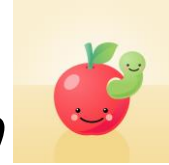




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Heather Harris, Director



**SEPTEMBER 2020**



**Themes:** My Friends & Myself, My New Classroom

**Topics:** Following Rules and Expectations, Making Friends, Keys to Friendship, Talking with Friends

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

**Shapes:** Circle

## Welcome to Wee Care

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 2020-2021 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 by phone or email any time, for any reason.

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

Heather Harris

Director

858-560-0985

[heather@weecarepreschools.com](mailto:heather@weecarepreschools.com)

office hours: 8am – 5pm



*\* Thank you for all of your support and understanding with wearing masks when picking up or dropping off your child/ren. Also, thank you for keeping your child/ren home if they, or anyone in your family, are displaying any COVID19 symptoms or are sick. We cannot be too careful during these crazy times! This helps us protect everyone here at Wee Care so we can remain open!*

~ During pick up and drop off please give us a few minutes to retrieve your child/ren. At times we have to grab multiple children at the same time, which can take a few extra minutes. Thank you for your patience!

### Gentle Reminders for a Great New School Year:

- Label Everything! Bedding, jackets, extra clothing, and masks. Even just first and last initials will help!
- 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.
- Please keep all extra items (pillows, toys, stuffed animals, etc.) at home as these items are not permitted.

**We ask all students arriving in the later part of the morning be in attendance no later than our scheduled lunch time. Please do not drop off during nap. If you need to drop off in the later afternoon this may take place at the end of nap at 2:30pm. Thank you for understanding!! 😊**

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

\* Natalie K. \* Melody L. \* Madelyn M. \* Nikolas G. \* Kruz B. \* Charlie P. \* Xander L. \* Jackson L. \* Joshua M. \* Elsie H. \* Alexander C. \* Ryan S. \* Ms. Monica \* Ms. Isela \* Ms. Celina \*

### Dates for September 2020

7 Labor Day **School Closed**  
8 First Day of New School Year  
13 Grandparent's Day



## TOP 3 BENEFITS OF LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

*By Tanya Thibodeau*

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 that 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!