

CHICKADEE NEWSLETTER October 2011

The Chickadee classroom has been a hubbub of activity during September. For many children this is a first experience in a preschool setting, so there is much excitement, stimulation and even a little hesitation. Our focus during this time has been "getting acquainted" with our school community. This has involved getting to know classmates and families in our room, the teachers, routines and rules of school, plus the outdoor environment.

Along with getting acquainted comes the territory of increasing independence. We have been promoting bathroom skills, pouring from a pitcher, using words to make needs known, learning to share and separating from parents for extended periods. Jobs have been introduced in late September as part of the class routine and with lots of enthusiasm; the children have tackled them head on.

Our "circle times", while short in length, work on long term skills. Conversation and listening skills are practiced along with "following directions". We work on these areas through music and song, movement, story telling and group discussion. The Chickadees love to listen to stories and songs. Some of their favorites are "The Bear Hunt", "Sticky Bubblegum" & "Tiny Tim."

In art we have colored with markers, crayons and dabber dots and have glued and painted with different tools. All these activities strengthen fine motor skills and stimulate creativity.

Our lunchtime experience is very social. A strong emphasis is placed on sitting appropriately along with polite social behavior and conversation at the lunch table, while we have a terrific time learning about one another. Name cards are now being introduced at snack and lunch times to initiate name recognition.

The Chickadees are quite interested in dramatic & free play, as well. One of our present goals, as teachers, is to spend time in play with the children. We are able to become more familiar with the children during this activity, as well as, model positive behaviors such as sharing, taking turns, treating others and property with respect and cleaning up.

We also learned about the life cycle of a butterfly. We learned that a caterpillar starts as a tiny egg on a leaf. Then it eats and eats until it is a fat caterpillar and goes to sleep in a chrysalis. When it wakes up it is a beautiful butterfly that goes to Mexico where the cycle begins all over again. We were able to observe our own caterpillar go through the process of metamorphosis! During the final week of September the Chickadees are learning about fire safety with the help of Delafield's finest firefighters. We will discuss "stop, drop & roll"; go low under the smoke and firefighters are friends.

OCTOBER CONCEPTS & TOPIC

Colors: black & orange **Shape:** circle **Numbers:** 1 & 2 **Letters:** A, B, C, D

- **Broad theme...season of autumn:** observe seasonal changes on boardwalk, explore apples & pumpkins, pick own pumpkins on field trip, decorate for Halloween, celebrate "FALL" with a party!
- **Continue Learning Fire Safety Tips...**in honor of National Fire Prevention Week. Please discuss a family meeting spot with your child in case of a home fire.

Important October Dates to Remember

October 12 – Fundraiser Ends: Please turn in forms to school office.

October 13 - Book orders due. Make one check payable to "Wee Know" school.

October 14 – Ebert's Green House Field Trip:

- First field trip from 9:30 am. – 12:30 pm. Children must be at school by 9:00 am. Wear your Wee Know T-shirt.
- **We encourage LOTS of parents and relatives to chaperone.**
- If this is not your child's regularly scheduled day, they may add or trade a day for this event.
- **A completely disposable lunch & drink will be needed, and wear your Wee Know T-shirt!**

Monday, Oct.31st – Chickadee Fall Fun Fest: Our class party will be held during preschool time.

- Pizza lunch will be provided- cost per child is \$3.00.
- Wear costumes that are simple and easy to remove for bathroom use. ***Please, no masks or make-up.***
- Children staying for nap will need a change of clothes to wear after the party.
- If your child is not regularly scheduled on Monday, you may add or trade the day by notifying the **School Office.**
- Look for a sign up sheet to volunteer or to donate for the event on Monday, October 3rd.



Thank You

A hearty thanks to all our families for making our Chickadee "Look-A-Like" projects so successful. The children enjoyed talking about the figures & learning about friends. We've had lots of positive feedback about this activity.

Clothing

Fall is here and so is cooler weather. Please be sure to replace your child's extra summer clothes with warmer items in their cubby. **Label everything!** We try to get outside multiple times daily (as early as 9:00 am.), please make certain your child has a jacket or sweatshirt. **Tennis shoes or close-toed footwear** are perfect for school activity. **Crocs, party/dress shoes and sandals are not good running and climbing footwear & lead to accidents.** Finally, if your child has a bathroom incident at school, remember to bring in replacement clothes.

Classroom Volunteers

Many parents have expressed interest to volunteer in the Chickadee classroom. Your first opportunity is on the October 14th field trip to Ebert's. Another October volunteer opportunity is for our Fall Fun Fest on the 31st. Beginning in November, we welcome parents & relatives to join us any day in our room. You may come any time in the morning until 12:45 pm. You can do something as easy as read a book during our first circle (8:45 – 9:00) or share a hobby, talk about your job, cook your favorite snack or just spend time with us. Just notify a teacher if you are interested in helping out.

October Happy Birthdays

Kayla Kruger on 10/10

Charlie Schulenburg on 10/16

Looking Ahead to November

Turkey feather Project...In early November each family will be given a poster board feather to decorate for our class "tom turkey".

Parent Tip...Encourage Independence In Your Preschooler

Updated: April 24, 2007 by Debby Golonka, MPH. Provided by Healthwise

Preschool-age children develop a sense of independence by practicing skills and doing things for themselves, such as getting dressed or brushing their teeth. Children who are not allowed to perform tasks on their own get the message that they are not capable. Children may then learn to always expect help and remain dependent. Although it is often easier and faster to do things for children, take time to allow them the satisfaction of taking care of their own needs as appropriate. For example, allow your child to work on getting dressed with elastic pants and pull-on shirts. Or encourage your child to brush his or her teeth. Since it takes practice to become good at these and other daily tasks, a good compromise is to let a child start the project, then finish the job together. Praise efforts rather than outcomes. Avoid criticism and keep your expectations realistic.

Independence sometimes can be frightening for children. Be understanding if they have a sudden need for your help or presence.

It is an honor that you trust us with the care of your children. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child, please let us know. We are happy to discuss any issues that may arise.

The Chickadee Teachers

Amanda Meyer

Pam Semler

Rikki Callison



“Man does not cease to play because he grows old; man grows old because he ceases to play.”
George Bernard Shaw