

Preschool News!

Great things are coming our way!

Intergenerational Time

This week we had an amazing start to building our intergenerational relationships. Our first encounter was just a brief introduction to both classes and some free play with blocks. The students had a wonderful time interacting with the residents, and the children brought smiles to the faces of our residents. The next day with the large room kids we read *The Mitten*, and the students chose different animals that they wanted to find in their mittens. They shared those with the residents and colored mittens together. On Friday the kids from the small room came up and we read *1,2,3, to the Zoo*, then played with animals and blocks to build a zoo for our animal. The kids and residents counted together and enjoyed sharing their creations.

Important Information

With all of the amazing opportunities that have come our way, it has not been without a little controversy, so I would like to clarify a few things about the Robotics study through IU. The forms that are ready for you to sign for participation were given out prematurely. It was my understanding that the study was beginning with PBS next week. The robots will be here, but they will not be starting the study until their research program has been fully approved. This will not happen for a few weeks. I was originally going to pull the plug on this all together, but then realized that it is a great opportunity and the researchers will not begin until that approval has been achieved. I have spoken to the representative at IU School of Informatics and they helped to clarify things. They are pending approval which they expect to achieve soon, but if they do not receive approval, then they will not be able to do the study. Please do not boycott this opportunity without speaking to me first. Thanks!

PBS will be here next week and Tuesday and Wednesday they will be recording our intergenerational time upstairs. We are not their primary focus, but they do love what our program brings to the lives of people living with dementia. Please make sure to sign that form as well if you approve of your child being included in the program. Those forms can be found on top of the cubbies.



Important Announcements

- Please keep your eye on the school closings and delays.
- Please make sure to read through your handbook so you understand our policies and procedures. Let me know if you have any questions.
- We have had a lot of sick kiddos. Please have your students come right in and wash their hands upon entering. This is a good habit for us to get into to avoid the spread of germs.
- Please make sure that your child is 24 hours fever free WITHOUT tylenol or advil before returning to school. Thanks!! 😊

Parents Resource

Sharing is a tough topic. We all want our kids to be kind and to share their toys. Forced sharing is not something that we practice at Jill's House. If a student is enjoying a toy, we will not make them give that up to share with another student. We will instead ask the student who also wants the toy to ask their friend if they can use that toy when they are finished. We explain that they may not be finished that day, but that they will be able to get a chance to play with that toy another time. We then help the child make a different choice while waiting. This respects all children involved.

The last thing that I would like to share is a change in our meal program. Since many of our students are not arriving until after 8:15, we have decided to wait to serve our breakfast meal until 9:00. This will mean that we will not have a morning snack, but all students will receive a hot breakfast in it's place. This will help our kitchen, cut down on food waste and bring a healthy morning meal for everyone. If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

My hours will be changing. I have been working from 7 am to almost 7 pm each day. I intended to work those hours to help transition our students and new staff. I feel that things are now running fairly smoothly so I will be working 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. I will be adding a mailbox at the office door for you to submit forms, checks etc., so things will not be lost in the shuffle. Please know that I am still always here for you, and if we do not cross paths each day, you can always call or email, and I will also be available to meet for conferences if necessary.

The students who are in the small room after 4:30 will move into the large room with the other class until their parents come for pick up. We will still always remain in ratio during these times of the day with two staff members present. You may pick up your child in the large room and we will have their backpacks and coats waiting for you in the large room by the cubbies.